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 Hills’ 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.

continued on page 4

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 Andreadis, 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 aquatic 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.
Editor’s note: Visit umich.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’ Monson-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 key to student orientation

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 Breakfast 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.

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.

Brinham, 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.

Education’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, won a newly established honor from the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry. Joyce received the Coating and Graphic Arts Division’s Education and 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, was named a TAPPI PaperCon 2013 best student paper award.

The NEA has awarded $1,100 people the NEA’s Art Works funding program.

Student wins coveted NEA fellowship

Traci D. Brinham, 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.

Brinham, 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.

Campus to bid goodbye to two residence halls

Around campus and beyond

Student wins coveted NEA fellowship

Traci D. Brinham, 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.

Brinham, 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.

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 community will come together Friday, June 7, to mark the end of the line for two longtime community will come together Friday, June 7, to mark the end of the line for two longtime community will come together Friday, June 7, to mark the end of the line for two longtime...
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 Orhan 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.

Sateev 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 and friendly institutional rivalries. The event fosters sportsmanship and camaraderie among the participating Malaysian student teams, in addition to promoting school pride and friendly institutional rivalries. The games have grown tremendously in popularity over the years," he says.

"Now, this is a much-anticipated event that draws students from states as far away as Texas and California, as well as Canada and the United Kingdom."

Third, a senior majoring in industrial and entrepreneurial engineering from the Malaysian state of Perak, says this year's event is expected to draw some 1,500 Malaysian students.

Participants will compete 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 Auditorium.

The 2012 games offered thrilling action. (Photo courtesy of Malaysian Midwest Games International)

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 California, as well as Canada and the United Kingdom.

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 Auditorium.

The 2012 games offered thrilling action. (Photo courtesy of Malaysian Midwest Games International)

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 student'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.

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, Ron Cowell from Kalamazoo 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 night. Accepting the educational partner award on behalf of the University were: Robert Landeros, management chair; Sime Curkovic (picted), ISM program director; and ISM students Ashley Moyle, Victoria Taylor and Brendan Mukhry. (Photo courtesy of the Haworth College of Business)
On Campus with Sarah Curry

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 Sincereuse 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.

Board of Trustees authorizes new programs, name changes

Three new programs were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees during its April 15 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.
• The M.A. in Educational Leadership—Curriculum and Instructional Leadership concentration is now the M.A. in Educational Leadership—K-12 Teacher Leadership concentration.
• The M.A. in the Practice of Teaching is now the M.A. in the Practice of Teaching—Early Childhood Education concentration.

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 serve only to allow the slow erosion of all the structures, including the jewel in the crown, East Hall.”

Renovation steps outlined

The East Campus hilltop revitalization project kicked off May 20 with the installation of a sign along Oakland Drive that shows an artist’s rendering of what East Hall could look like once the building is renovated.

But the overall project will be a lengthy one. Before any significant work can be done, all the buildings involved need to be surveyed for contaminated material and evaluated by a historical architecture expert. Then, bid specifications must be prepared and contractors selected.

Also, after legally required notice periods in which no work can be performed, it will take time to do all of the required abatement work. The last step in the process will be to remove the buildings slated for demolition.

The expected timetable is as follows:
• Announcing the project architect by the end of May;
• scheduling sessions to gather campus and community input in the design process, most likely in June and July;
• reviewing architectural elements from the affected hilltop buildings so they may be incorporated into the new alumni center;
• beginning phase I of the demolition process, with West Hall and the Speech and Hearing Center being taken down by early in September;
• beginning phase II of the demolition process, with North Hall, along with any of East Hall that will be impacted, being taken down after University Archives and Regional History Collections move into its new home in the Zhang Legacy Collections Center this fall;
• constructing the alumni center, starting in 2014; and
• opening the refurbished East Hall in mid-2015.