Time to apply for tuition remission

It’s time for eligible employees and retirees to apply for tuition remission for dependent children, spouses and designated eligible individuals for summer II 2013 through summer I 2014. Submit completed applications by May 17 to Human Resources. Instructions and necessary forms are available on the Human Resources website at wmich.edu/hr/forms.html under the Tuition remission heading. Direct questions to HR by calling (269) 387-3620.

Power plant employee contract OK’d

Trustees approved a three-year contract April 18 with the 15 Beam Power Plant employees who are members of the Michigan State Employees Association. The contract, ratified by unanimous vote of the union membership March 26, runs July 1 through June 30, 2016.

The first year of the contract calls for a wage increase of 1 percent on July 1 and an additional 1.5 percent in January 2014. A 1.75 percent increase is slated for the second year of the agreement, while the third year would see a 2 percent increase.

Other changes in the new contract involve the number of annual leave hours that can be carried forward into future years as well as changes that impact new employees who will be covered by the contract.

Delayed opening for Sindecuse May 16

The Sindecuse Health Center will open May 16 at 10 a.m. Thursday, May 16. The first appointments will be scheduled for 10:15 a.m. That day’s regular summer hours, which are posted online at wmich.edu/healthcenter in the About section, will resume May 17. Call (269) 387-3287 for more information.

Office makes grant requests easier

The Office of Development and Alumni Relations has created a webform at mywmich.com/grants that faculty and staff members can use to request funding for projects. Requestors will be provided with a list of possible donor matches and assistance with the next steps in the process.

Dates set for new-student events

Deans, faculty members and administrators are asked to save the evening of Thursday, Aug. 29, for the fall Matriculation Ceremony and Buster’s Buffet (formerly Pizza with the Prof). The 5 p.m. ceremony in Miller Auditorium will be immediately followed by Buster’s Buffet.

Also, staff members are encouraged to get involved with other activities taking place during this fall’s Welcome Week, Aug. 27-30. Sign up to attend the new Parent and Family Hospitality Tent early in the week or to volunteer at one of several student events. Online registration at wmich.edu/fye/fallwelcome/register is open for all events. Direct questions to adrienne.fraaza@wmich.edu or (269) 387-2332.

WMU again named among top ‘green colleges’

For the fourth consecutive year, WMU has been named one of “the nation’s most environmentally responsible ‘green colleges’” by Princeton Review and the U.S. Green Building Council’s Center for Green Schools.

The 2013 edition of the free guidebook, released April 16, lists 322 U.S. and Canadian colleges and universities that “demonstrate notable commitments to sustainability in their academic offerings, campus infrastructure, activities and career preparation.” Visit princetonreview.com/green-guide.aspx to download the publication.

Notable WMU activities cited

The guidebook’s profile of WMU cites the University for its:

• Use of LEED construction standards for both new projects and existing building renovations;
• Extensive electric vehicle infrastructure;
• Water management record;
• Numerous energy conservation efforts, including heat recovery and lighting;
• Use of locally sourced food and trayless dining;
• Learning and research-oriented opportunities through the Office for Sustainability.

WMU also was noted as the only Michigan university with a student sustainability fee that provides support for sustainability efforts as well as grants for student-initiated research. In addition, WMU is a signatory to the American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment and the Talloires Declaration and is a member of the Founding Circle of the Billion Dollar Green Challenge.

This summer’s green projects

The Miller-Davis Co. is in the process of installing 975 solar panels on Sangren Hall’s 54,000-square-foot roof by June 1. President John M. Dunn and other WMU officials examined the work early this month. They learned it will generate the equivalent of 15 to 20 percent of Sangren’s energy use. That will avoid more than $40,000 in annual energy expenditures and equates to planting 4,500 trees in terms of offsetting greenhouse gas emissions.

The rooftop tour also gave officials a bird’s-eye view of three West Campus areas where more green space will be added this summer.

Archives reduces hours to prep for facility move

Archives and Regional History Collections is now on reduced hours to prepare for its move this year from East Hall to the Zhang Legacy Collections Center near the corner of Oakland Drive and Howard Street.

Once the archives are moved, East Hall will be renovated and transformed into an alumni center for the University.

According to Sharon Carlson, archives director, research and instruction hours at her unit are now 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, with time on Mondays available by appointment only.

Beginning Aug. 1, the facility will be closed to all walk-in research and instructional services, as staff members prepare and pack the historical collections for the move. Full services at the Zhang Center are scheduled to begin in October 2013. Questions about use of the archives during the moving period should be emailed to arch-collect@wmich.edu.

With the historical materials no longer housed in East Hall—WMU’s birthplace—campus planning officials will begin the design and site preparation for the building’s long-awaited renovation. The project will turn the facility into the WMU Alumni Center, which will house the development and alumni relations staff and serve as a gathering spot for campus and community events as well as a place to highlight WMU’s history.

By late May, an architect for the project will be named. Shortly after that, a series of design input sessions will be held to allow campus and community members the opportunity to share their ideas for what should be in the new Alumni Center.

A construction sign will soon go up on East Campus that features an artist rendering of what East Hall could look like when the alumni center opens in 2015.

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Dunn, center, and two Miller-Davis reps check out Sangren Hall’s new solar panels. (Photo by Mike Lankau)

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Around campus and beyond

Editor’s note: Visit umich.edu/news/events for details and more events news.

48th Medieval Congress starts today

The International Congress on Medieval Studies is being held today through May 12 at various venues on campus and in Kalamazoo. The congress is the world’s largest annual gathering of people interested in the Middle Ages. Among this year’s highlights will be an iron smelting demonstration and the free exhibits hall, where visitors may buy used books, medieval sundries and other items.

Tech company CEO to give talk

Alumnus Matt Mace, co-founder of BlueGranite, will share insights about the evolution of his business intelligence company when he speaks this week as part of the Entrepreneurship Forum.

The event is free and begins with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Friday, May 10, in 2150 Schneider Hall. Mace’s talk will follow at 8 a.m. Reservations are required and may be made by contacting Rachael Bowser at 216-687-5460 or bowser@wmich.edu (269) 387-5052.

WMU preserve to be showcased

The birds, plants and history of WMU’s Asylum Lake Preserve will be showcased during a Day of Celebration from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 18, at the preserve’s Parkview Avenue entrance in Kalamazoo. Local naturalists will lead an Audubon Society tour starting at 1:30 p.m. and a Michigan Botanical Club tour starting at 2 p.m. There also will be a tent where attendees can view exhibits and speak with representatives from area groups.

A brief ceremony will be held at 3 p.m. at the preserve parking lot to dedicate a memorial stone and plaque for Montford Piercey and Renay Piercey-Nessus. The couple was instrumental in organizing the Asylum Lake Preservation Association.

University to host Midwest games

WMU will take on the air on its first day of work, employees are expected to report to a Monday morning orientation session instead of reporting to their hiring unit. If the University is closed on Monday, that week’s orientation will be held on Tuesday.

Orientation will include important information about getting started and working at WMU.

Sessions will begin at 8:30 a.m. and last until early afternoon. Lunch will be provided. Once sessions end, employees will report to their hiring units.

Those wishing to register a vehicle and obtain a parking permit should report to Parking Services between 7:30 and 8 a.m. before orientation starts.

Questions may be directed to Human Resources at (269) 387-3620.

Obligation

Editor’s Note: Visit umich.edu/news/obligations for full obituaries.

Avis M. Sparks, a retired first cook in the Draper Dining Service, died March 11. She was 92. Memorial gifts may be made to the American Cancer Society. Visit tanglends.com to make a memorial guestbook entry.

Dean earns YWCA of Kalamazoo award

Margaret Merrion, College of Fine Arts dean, will receive one of five 2013 YWCA Women of Achievement Awards during the program’s annual award celebration at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 21, in Kalamazoo’s Radisson Plaza Hotel.

Her award is sponsored by the Kalamazoo Community Foundation. Her nominator said her tenure at WMU “has been characterized by spectacular success for student learning opportunities in the arts for our community and an extraordinary level of personal service on her part to the national arts community.”

Merrion came to WMU in 2000 as the fine arts college’s first female dean. Under her guidance, the college received the Governor’s Award in 2002, and its arts education program was announced daily on the Human Resources website at umich.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.

Merrion

Nassaney

Around campus and beyond

Orientation program for new employees updated

Human Resources will offer weekly orientation programs for all new WMU employees, both regular and temporary, beginning Monday, May 13.

The program is being implemented in conjunction with the University’s move to a Monday hire date for all employees.

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Candidates announced for Make a Difference annual awards

The Make a Difference selection committee has announced the candidates for its 2013 annual awards. These individuals are the winners of 2012-13 semiannual awards and are now eligible to win one of four annual awards.

Recipients will receive a $1,200 cash prize, before taxes, and will be honored at the 2013 WMU Academic Convocation set for Friday, Oct. 4. Employees who wish to provide additional information in support of any candidate may do so through Friday, May 31. Any such additional information should include specific examples of how the candidate has demonstrated dedication to outstanding service.

The Make a Difference annual award candidates are: Mitchell Beare, Bernard Center; Debra Bitterman, Bernard Café and Market; Jean Bowsky-Verschoof, Bernard Center; Donna DeVries, landscape sciences; Ann Ganz, Han取りsubjects Institute; Jeannine Hamilton, Registrar’s Office; Jill Hamilton, admissions; Faizan Haq, University Libraries; Karen Lamon, Residence Life; Gracie Mae, Bernard Center Dining Service; Amell McFleisher, building custodial and support services; Richard McMullen, Center for Academic Success Programs; Angela Minckler, communication; Jennifer Morrow, world languages and literatures; Cris Oberiter, military science and leadership; Marcy Peake, College of Education and Human Development.

Richard Santman, maintenance services; Gladys Sim, WMU-Grand Rapids; Christopher Slijh, Student Activities and Leadership Programs; Arthur Smith, information technology; Bryan Sutton, maintenance services; Alison Thor, University Libraries; Stacey Tyler, dance; Sharon Van Dyken, College of Aviation; and Christopher Voss, University Recreation.

This prestigious annual award is reserved for WMU’s most outstanding staff employees—those who reach far beyond their assigned responsibilities to give generously and creatively of their time and talents, making the University an even finer place to work and study.

The selection committee, with representatives from each employee group, will review any new information submitted for the candidates, as well as the previously submitted semiannual nominations. There is no need to resubmit the previous nominations. Visit wmich.edu/makeadifference for more information.

MBA entry requirements changed for vets, others

Veterans can now ask the Haworth College of Business to consider them for admission to its Graduate Management Admissions Test and Graduate Record Examinations waiver process.

Master of Business Administration applicants are required to supply GMAT or GRE test scores as part of their application package. However, under circumstances in which an individual has significant managerial experience, an applicant may petition to waive the requirement.

Applicants who have a bachelor’s degree and a minimum of seven years of managerial experience within the military may apply for the GMAT and GRE waiver, based on their experience and training.

In addition, anyone seeking an MBA from WMU beginning with fall 2013 admissions now has the option of submitting GRE scores instead of GMAT scores.

Trustees approve faculty, staff member retirements

The retirements of 10 faculty members and 11 staff members were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees at its April 18 meeting. Trustees also signed off on one faculty and one staff resignation.

All of the faculty members who are retiring are doing so with emeritus status. Their names, units, years of continuous service and, effective dates of retirement are: Sherrell D. Babcock, physician assistant, 15 years, effective June 30; David G. Dickason, educational leadership, research and technology, 29 years, effective June 30; Debra J. Eldridge, computer science, 15 years, effective Jan. 31, 2014; Darsha C. Nisula, world languages and literatures, 25 years, effective Dec. 1; Donald E. Thompson, educational leadership, research and technology, 29 years, effective April 30, 2014; and Charles C. Warfield, educational leadership, research and technology, 24 years, effective Dec. 31. The staff members retiring are: Halbert E. Bates, Haworth College of Business, 35 years, effective April 26; Dennis W. Brooks, WMU Bookstore, 17 years, effective April 10; Jose L. Cardoza, custodial and building support services, 12 years, effective April 30; Margaret J. Corbin, Davis Dining Services, 38 years, effective May 31; Mary E. Escobedo, Sindecuse Health Center, 14 years, effective May 31; Shelley S. Grant, building support services in custodial administration, 21 years, effective May 2; Terence A. Hudson, WMU Bookstore, 34 years, effective April 10; M. Jamie Jeremy, student development and alumni relations, 39 years, effective June 27; Suzanne E. Kats, Campus Trends, 10 years, effective April 10; Terry W. Shaffer, Residence Life, 18 years, effective June 30; and Michael B. Strong, TotalTech, 22 years, effective April 10.

Resigning are: Anthony J. Vizzini, dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, effective June 30; and Sandra D. Steinbach, associate vice president for business and finance, effective April 19.

Poker Walk set for May 21

WMU faculty and staff members are invited to take part in the 10th annual Poker Walk for fun and fitness Tuesday, May 21. The registration deadline is Monday, May 20. Visit wmich.edu/rec for details.

Second Universitywide common read underway

A book that helped free an innocent man after 30 years in prison—27 on death row—has been selected for WMU’s second Universitywide common read.

“A Anatomy of Injustice: A Murder Case Gone Wrong” by Pulitzer Prize-winner Raymond Bonner will be read in all First Year Experience seminars and by upper-class and graduate students as well as faculty and staff members across campus. University Common Read 2013-14 will be launched in early June to coincide with summer orientation activities, and copies of “Anatomy of Injustice” will be available for purchase through the WMU Bookstore. Activities planned will run throughout the upcoming academic year and include a talk by Bonner Monday, Oct. 14, and bringing the traveling exhibition of the Jim Crow Museum at Ferris State University to WMU. Visit raymondbonner.net for details about Bonner’s book. For more information about this year’s common read, contact Miranda Howard at miranda.howard@wmich.edu or Toni Woolfork-Barnes at toni.woolfork-barnes@wmich.edu.
On Campus with Judy Jones

Among the biggest transformations planned is a redesign of Fountain Plaza near Miller Auditorium.

The redesign will move away from the rigid geometric shapes that characterize the current layout and will result in more green space, seating and shade, making the area a destination for passive recreation.

Phase I of the redesign, which includes major reconfiguration of the pavement and expansion of green space, is expected to start in the coming weeks.

Severe weather often erupts during the spring season, so WMU officials urge members of the campus community to be alert.

Keep an eye out for tornados, but also fully participate in tornado drills—regardless of whether you're in the middle of a lecture, office task or class assignment.

Severe weather can occur at any time, but the most likely time is between 3 and 7 p.m. The 1953 tornado that hit Flint, Mich., is listed as No. 9 on the top 10 deadliest U.S. tornadoes list.

Collections facility (see archives hours story on page 1), and another 100 to replace predominately damaged, dead and dying trees.

Attend tornado drills, and make tornado safety rules and guidelines readily available.

Visit obf.wmich.edu/safety/emergency/tornado for information about the ways employees and students are notified of watches and warnings and about the procedures to follow if notified of a watch or warning.

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