New LEED certifications boost total to seven

WMU is starting the new year with a total of seven campus buildings recognized for meeting the stringent requirements of LEED—Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design—the national benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings.

Late in December, WMU facilities officials learned that Brown Hall and the Chemistry Building had successfully met LEED standards for existing building—EB—certification, widely considered among the most difficult certifications to earn. Earlier in the fall, all four buildings of the Phase I Western View student housing complex earned LEED new-construction—NC—certification.

“These certifications represent thousands of hours of work aimed at ensuring and documenting lower operating costs and reduced impact on the environment over the life of these buildings,” says President John M. Dunn. “The U.S. Green Building Council’s designations acknowledge our commitment to energy efficiency and our determination to use the resources entrusted to us in the most effective ways possible.”

The six newly certified buildings are the Chemistry Building, Psychology Building, Chemistry Building, and University Center East and West, which earned LEED new-construction certification.

The 2011 evaluation did not include a salary increase because budgetary constraints that had kept WMU from providing salary increases to any employees except those with previous contractual commitments.

Dunn’s contract now runs through June 30, 2016, and his 2012-13 salary will be $373,440. The new salary figure includes a 1 percent matching increases for other campus employees.

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The event will be set up to resemble a college fair and will include information about steps already taken to implement the three-year plan as well as provide information about how individuals and campus units can join in the implementation effort.

The strategic plan was formally adopted when the WMU Board of Trustees approved it in December 2011. Its three basic pillars describe a campus that is learner centered, discovery driven and globally engaged. In recent weeks, a set of institutional effectiveness measures was adopted and is being used to assess progress toward the plan’s goals.

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Still time to apply for faculty scholars funding

The deadline to apply for the Support for Faculty Scholars Award is Thursday, Jan. 31. This internal funding opportunity aims to advance the University’s research mission. Among its key goals is to support creative activities and research that may not lead to external funding but that enhance and sustain the scholarly reputation of WMU and the faculty principal investigator.

The award is for up to $2,000 with no commitment for external proposal submission. A three-page, 1,500-word application is required by the deadline.

Visit wmich.edu/research and click Funding Sources, then Internal Funding Opportunities for an application, guidelines and a list of previously funded projects. Questions may be directed to Diane Berkshire Heart at diane.berkshire.heart@wmich.edu or (269) 387-8275.

Philosophy prof pens new book

Fritt Alloff, philosophy, questions the basic premise that torture is wrong under any circumstances in his newly published book, “Terrorism, Ticking Time Bombs and Torture: A Philosophical Analysis.”

While allowing that torture constructs a moral wrong, Alloff argues that, in exceptional cases, it represents the lesser of two evils.

He does not take that position lightly. After carefully considering both issues, he addresses criticisms of torture, analyzing the impact its adoption could have on democracy, institutional structures and foreign policy.

In addition to his duties as an associate professor, Alloff is a senior research fellow at the Center for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics at the Australian National University. He is co-author of “What Is Nanotechnology and Why Does It Matter?”

Staff member earns area LBGT award

Jen Hsu, Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay and Transgender Student Services, received the Kalseke Education Award from the Kalamazoo Gay Lesbian Resource Center Dec. 15 during the resource center’s Winter Gala.

Hsu was among seven individuals and one organization presented with one of the center’s six annual awards. She was praised on and off campus for invigorating WMU’s LBGT Student Services office since being named its coordinator this past April and for helping to create a wide range of new programs.

They included a First-Year Pride Alliance to aid new LBGT and ally students and a Student Advisory Council to review University policies and programs affecting LBGT inclusion. Her office also held the first LBGT and ally Diversity Career Fair, co-sponsored a communitywide Fall Fest Fair, and is collaborating to make local faith communities more welcoming of LGBT people.

Athletic trainer named national fellow

Michael G. Miller, human performance and health education, was honored last year as a National Athletic Trainers’ Association Fellow. The NATAs Fellow program recognizes certified athletic trainers who have demonstrated professional achievement in research or education that is combined with service to the profession of athletic training. Only the most accomplished scholars in the profession are awarded the distinction and are allowed to use the prestigious designation, FNATA.

Miller is the director of the University’s graduate athletic training program. He is a Certified Athletic Trainer and Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist. He earned a bachelor’s degree from California University of Pennsylvania, master’s degrees from West Virginia and Western Michigan universities, and doctoral degrees from WVU and WMU.
Joffrey ballet master directing students; appears in documentary

WMU students will be performing in January and February under the direction of a Joffrey ballet master who is featured in a recent documentary by an alumnus of the University.

Guest artist Willy Shives will direct dance students in performances of the Joffrey Ballet piece “Viva Vivaldi” at 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, Jan. 31-Feb. 2, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 3, in Shaw Theatre. Shives is one of the many dancers featured in Bob Hercules’ film, “Joffrey: Mavericks of American Dance,” which had its national PBS premiere Dec. 28 on the network’s “American Masters” program.

The documentary tells the origin story of the revolutionary dance company the Joffrey Ballet, and covers the ballet’s 56-year history to present day. Hercules’ film chronicles the company’s modest start with a handful of touring dancers to its rise as one of the world’s preeminent ballet companies. Led by visionaries Robert Joffrey and Gerald Arpino, the company helped transform the world of American dance.

“Viva Vivaldi” is a work of Arpino, Joffrey’s legendary artistic director, and Shives learned the ballet from Arpino himself. Shives, who has served as a guest artist at WMU twice before, began auditioning and teaching WMU students during the fall semester.

“He is a wonderful artist who is very generous with his knowledge...,” says Sharon Garber, dance. “We are just thrilled.”

The Joffrey company became known for ballet that was classical at its core but also influenced by modern movement and unorthodox artistic choices.

“They were very liberated because they weren’t beholden to those older European and Russian traditions in dance,” Hercules says. A 1979 WMU graduate, veteran filmmaker and co-owner of Chicago-based Media Process Group, told the WMU Magazine for a recent article about his documentary.

NARRATED BY ANDY PATINKIN, the film was first shown to a sold-out audience in the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City last year. The film’s executive producer characterized the documentary as “deeply archived,” while Film Journal International heralded it as a “bountiful feast for dance lovers, as well as a thrilling story of artistic endeavor for everyone to savor.”

The film includes interviews with Joffrey dancers talking about the art form, the ballet company’s late founders, Joffrey and Arpino, and just what made the company so special. The film also discusses and features excerpts from some of the Joffrey’s most famous works.

“It was a tremendous experience to make this film,” Hercules says. “It’s one of those things where you pinch yourself and say, ‘Did that really happen?’”

To read the entire WMU Magazine story online, visit wmich.edu/magazine and click the Winter 2012 issue. Visit the film’s website, joffreyromovie.com, for more information.

NPR counterterrorism correspondent to speak as part of Great Decisions program

WMU is again partnering with the World Affairs Council of Western Michigan in Grand Rapids to present a free timely talk on international issues as part of the council’s 2013 Great Decisions Discussion Series.

Locally, WMU will be offering a live lecture by NPR correspondent Dina Temple-Raston at 11 a.m. Monday, Feb. 4, in the Fetter Center’s Putney Auditorium.

Her talk, “The New Threat Assessment: Defending America on a Budget,” will address the nation’s new and emerging challenges in dealing with terrorism and counterterrorism.

Service

The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 40, 35, 25, 20, 15 and five years of service during January.

40 Years—Robin A. Williams, University Libraries.
35 Years—C. Dennis Simpson, physician assistant.
25 Years—Connie S. Bashaw, student financial aid and awards Chapman; Craig J. Boucher, information technology; Maria J. Saldivar, multicultural affairs; and Denise S. Williams, building custodial and support services.
20 Years—Susan M. Alexander, public safety; Kathleen M. Cain-Babbitt, landscape services; Carrie A. Caming, Registrar’s Office; Doris N. Ohler, Dining Services-cash operations; and Martha M. Stotek, Davis Dining Services.
15 Years—Sarah Curry, Development and Alumni Relations.

Five Years—Daniel J. List, maintenance services; Cherie Pening, multicultural affairs; Timothy Ready, Walker Institute for Race and Ethnic Relations; Kimberly Ann Tembreull, occupational therapy; and Patrick J. Vail, College of Aviation.

Temple-Raston is an award-winning author, well known for her 2001 book, “A Death in Texas,” and for her work as a White House correspondent for Bloomberg News during President Clinton’s two terms. She joined the NPR staff in 2007 and reports on counterterrorism at home and abroad.

The Great Decisions Discussion Series is one of the largest foreign policy lecture series in the nation. This year, the series will feature eight talks in Grand Rapids, all of which have an admission fee for some people and will be held in the Performing Arts Center at Aquinas College. They will take place from 6 to 7:15 p.m. over eight consecutive Mondays from Feb. 4 through March 25.

The cost per lecture at Aquinas is $15 for World Affairs Council nonmembers. Because WMU is one of the council’s educational partners, the University’s students as well as its faculty and staff members may attend free of charge by showing their Bronco Card at the door. Visit worldmi.org for more information.

Spring 2013 staff award nominations due Feb. 28

Nominations for the spring round of WMU’s semiannual Make a Difference awards are due by Thursday, Feb. 28.

Make a Difference is a campuswide peer-to-peer program that recognizes staff members for their accomplishments and daily investments of energy and creativity. It features semiannual and annual awards presented to employees who provide exceptional service to the University.

Every fall and spring, semiannual awards are presented to a maximum of 15 people. Those selected for the accolade receive a $300 pre-tax prize and certificate, are recognized at a special reception and may be nominated for one of four annual Make a Difference awards that carry a $1,200 pre-tax prize.

Employees may receive the semiannual award more than once, but are limited to one such award per academic year. The annual award, which may only be received once, is given to each year’s four most outstanding semiannual award winners.

Nominations for Make a Difference awards are accepted for individuals from the following employee groups: American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; Michigan State Employees Association; Police Officers Association; and Staff Compensation System.

Nomination forms are available year round at wmich.edu/makeadifference/nominations.

Obituaries

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

Dorothy J. McGinnis, emerita in education and professional development, died Jan. 11. She was 92. McGinnis, nationally known for her innovations in the diagnosis and treatment of reading problems, joined the faculty in 1944 and retired early in 1986 after 41 years of service.

John P. Mulligan, a former residence hall custodian, died Nov. 8. He was 89. Mulligan joined the staff in 1976 and retired in 1986 after 10 years of service.

Willie G. Page, a custodian in Facilities Management, died Dec. 21. He was 80. Page joined the staff in 1981 and retired in 1998 after 17 years of service.

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New Issues announces prize winner, Michigan poetry anthology

The editors of WMU’s New Issues Press have selected Ralph Angel as the winner of the publication’s 2013 Green Rose Prize for his manuscript “Your Moon.”

The prize is awarded to an author who has previously published at least one full-length book of poems.

Angel is the Edith R. White Distinguished Professor of English and Creative Writing at the University of Redlands and a graduate writing faculty member at the Vermont College of Fine Arts. He has written five books of poetry and won numerous prestigious awards. For the Green Rose Prize, he will receive $2,000 and have his manuscript published in spring 2014.

New Issues also has announced that it has received a $15,000 grant from the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs to support the production of its anthology “Poetry in Michigan/Michigan in Poetry,” coming this fall.

Titles for New Issues publications are chosen by the graphic design students, under the supervision of staff members Tricia Hennessy and Paul Sizer, in the Frostic School of Art’s Design Center.

New LEED certifications boost total to seven

Certified buildings join the College of Health and Human Services, which earned a LEED-EB gold designation in 2009. That building and WMU’s focus on the LEED-EB rating has attracted national attention and a spate of articles in professional publications.

“WMU continues to get national exposure because of our unique focus on LEED for existing buildings,” says Peter J. Strazdas, associate vice president for facilities management, who notes that the CHHS building and its special characteristics were most recently featured in the December 2012 issue of Buildings magazine.

The University’s newly certified facilities share several green design features, including integration into WMU’s award-winning stormwater retention system.

However, the facilities also have their own unique combination of features.

- Chemistry Building (LEED-EB silver level)
  - computer-controlled irrigation system
  - water-efficient fixtures, including dual flush toilets
  - energy-efficient classroom lighting with dimmers and occupancy sensors
  - compact fluorescent site lighting
  - underground service tunnel that preserves green space around the building
  - energy-efficient site lighting controlled by the building automation system
  - bike racks incorporated into site design
- Western View’s Phase I (LEED-NC)
  - access to public transportation and reuse of a previously developed property
  - water-efficient fixtures
  - optimized energy performance with electrical and HVAC equipment
  - construction waste management procedures and use of recycled and local materials
  - low-emitting paints and flooring materials
  - thermal insulation and use of daylight to lower energy consumption

Six other buildings are now going through the lengthy certification process. If successful, they should bring WMU’s number of LEED-certified buildings to 13 by early 2014. The buildings are Sangren Hall, the Lee Honors College, the Zhang Legacy Collections Center and the two new residential buildings and community center being constructed in Western View’s Phase II.

Free financial aid event is Feb. 10

Area college-bound high school students and their families will be on campus Sunday, Feb. 10, participating in College Goal Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. in Schneider Hall.

The program is one of more than three dozen such events being held at sites around the state to help high school seniors fill out their Free Application for Federal Student Aid and submit it in time to ensure eligibility for maximum benefit.

A complete list of items needed, along with additional details on the event and how to win a $1,000 scholarship, an iPad Mini or one of 10 $25 Amazon gift cards is online at micollegegoal.org.

New LEED certifications boost total to seven

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On Campus with Helen Beck

Service is anything but a cliché for Helen Beck, coordinator of the Learning Resource Center in the College of Health and Human Services.

Beck welcomes students and faculty to the center by creating a warm environment where they can meet and be creative. That’s one of many reasons she received CHHS’ Outstanding Customer Service Award last year and why students helped the college create a student emergency fund in 2008 administered by the WMU Foundation that is named in her honor.

“Efforts like that really touch my heart,” Beck says. “We’re all here helping each other, so most days you go home feeling very good.”

The resource center has 38 computers and includes a wide range of books, journals, videos, DVDs and other resources. Beck is responsible for everything from updating catalog items, keeping the software and technology up to date, and proctoring exams for students with disabilities to training and supervising work study students and establishing policies.

“Beck came to WMU in 2000 and served as an office assistant in social work for 10 years before taking on her current role in 2010. She combines her academic background in graphic design with photography to produce materials for special events and create art pieces that she’s exhibited locally.

Previously, Beck was a conference coordinator for the Hilton Corp., once working with the Secret Service in arranging a press conference for President Ronald Reagan. She enjoys sports, especially kayaking, hiking, downhill skiing and tennis, as well as quilting, reading and photography.

The Portage resident volunteers with various organizations and has traveled much of the world. She did health education work in a West African village for two years with the Peace Corps and encourages students “to experience life in different cultures by traveling overseas.”