Gov. appoints two to Board of Trustees

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder has appointed Michelle Crumm of Ann Arbor and Ronald “Ron” Hall of Detroit to the WMU Board of Trustees.

The new trustees will serve eight-year terms that began in 2013, and each replaces a board member whose terms expired at the end of 2012.

Crumm, CEO and owner of Ann Arbor-based Present Value, replaces Larry Tolbert. Previously, she was a co-founder and chief business officer of Adaptive Materials Inc. Her background also includes positions at the Kellogg Co. and at Plante and Moran.

Crumm was named one of 2007’s Most Influential Women by Crain’s Detroit Business and one of Enterprising Women’s Women of the Year in 2008.

Hall, president and CEO of Bridgewater Interiors and chairman and CEO of New Center Stamping, is a 1965 WMU alumnus who replaces Dennis Archer. He also is president and CEO of Renaissance Capital Alliance and CEO of Destination Travel Management. Hall is well known for turning the Michigan Minority Supplier Development Council into one of the premier minority business organizations in the country. In addition, he was assistant vice president of minority business development for New Detroit Inc., the nation’s first urban coalition.

East Hall to be renovated, converted to alumni center

With the proposed private development of historic East Campus at an official standpoint, WMU officials have decided to focus all preservation efforts on renovating the institution’s birthplace, East Hall, for use as an alumni event center.

East Hall

“More than a dozen years ago, we had all of our East Campus buildings assessed,” says WMU president John M. Dunn. “We were told then, we needed to ‘save something, or lose it all.’ We’ve decided we can wait no longer, and it is of paramount importance to our campus and community to save the core of East Hall.”

The decision means the three other early structures built nearby at the top of Prospect Hill—West Hall, North Hall, and the Speech and Hearing Center—will be razed to avoid the continuing expenditure of WMU dollars for security, utilities and basic maintenance and to open up the area for campus green space and parking for the alumni center. The University will salvage important architectural elements from the buildings that will be razed.

Plans call for East Hall to serve as a gathering place that can be a focal point for alumni efforts and information about University history. The structure would also house part of WMU’s development and alumni operations. The reconstructed WMU Trolley that once carried students up Prospect Hill would be permanently displayed nearby, and the entire area would be convenient for alumni tailgaters.

Numerous activities scheduled for annual MLK celebration

Activities for this year’s local Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration begin Thursday, Jan. 17, and continue throughout 2013 to honor the 50th anniversary of King’s visit to WMU in 1963.

All activities are free and open to the public, with a jam-packed day scheduled for Monday, Jan. 21, the federal holiday commemorating King’s life.

The day will kick off with the City of Kalamazoo Communitywide Day of Service and feature a convocation in Kalamazoo College’s Stetson Chapel with a keynote talk by Harvey Hollins III, director of the Michigan Office of Urban and Metropolitan Initiatives. There will also be a presidential inauguration viewing in WMU’s Miller Auditorium and a march to MLK Park that starts at WMU.

Other major events include a WMU visitation day Saturday, Jan. 19, for area public school students and their families; a Black History 101 Mobile Museum exhibit Friday, Jan. 18, in the Hicks Student Center at Kalamazoo College, with a keynote address by Khalid el-Hakim, mobile museum director.
Sabbatical leaves granted for 33 faculty members

During its Dec. 5 meeting, the WMU Board of Trustees granted sabbatical leaves for 33 faculty members.

Paul V. Engelmann, industrial and manufacturing engineering, was granted a sabbatical leave for the 2013 spring semester. The remaining 32 sabbaticals will take place during the 2013-14 academic year and are for Christine Browning, mathematics; Ho Sung Lee, mechanical and aeronautical engineering; Nicholas A. Maury, art; Casey D. McKitrick, English; Matthew S. Mingus, public affairs and administration; Iliana Nash, gender and women's studies; Michael Nastassian, anthropology; Lynn Nations Johnson, teaching, learning and educational studies; Sheree O. Obate, chemistry; Cynthia J. Pietras, psychology; Elke Schofflers, chemistry; Helen M. Sharp, speech pathology and audiology; Andrea B. Smith, teaching, learning and educational studies; Paul R. Solomon, art; Benjamin Torres, Spanish; Gregory W. Veeck, geography; Kristine Wright, anthropology; Nicolas S. Witschi, English; and Richard W. Zinser, family and consumer sciences.

New learning community forms

Building on efforts started earlier in 2012, the University is creating a new Sustainability Across Research and Teaching faculty learning community that will begin this month and run through April 2014. Space is limited, so register at wmich.edu/fac/sustainability and WMU students. Full-time faculty and part-time faculty and staff members, as well as trade unions and organizations such as other specialists and are sponsored by schools and programs. Those programs are for electrical engineering and construction, and are offered to adults age 18 and older for personal enrichment.

For more information, send an email to wmu-sustainability@wmich.edu or call the Office of Sustainability at (269) 387-0742.

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.
Finalists for enrollment manager position to speak on campus

Two finalists for the position of associate provost for enrollment management who have strong track records in growing enrollment will be on campus this week.

The two were identified following a national search and will make public presentations as well as meet with numerous University groups.

Bryan J. Terry, associate vice president for enrollment management and student academic success at Montclair State University, will give his presentation at 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 11, also in 2020 Fetzer Center.

Terry has been the enrollment management chief at Montclair State since 2009. He previously served as associate vice president for enrollment management for three years at Seton Hall University.

In addition, Terry also has held enrollment management or financial aid positions at the University of Miami, Florida A&M University, Wayne State University, Illinois State University, Fitchburg State College and Lewis and Clark Community College.

Tremblay, a 1994 and 1999 WMU alumnus, launched his admissions career at WMU. He served at the University as an admissions counselor, assistant director of admissions and orientation coordinator from 1994 to 2003, then became director of admissions at Canisius University.

He has been at U of M-Dearborn since 2006, serving first as director of admissions and orientation, then as executive director of enrollment management and interim director of financial aid before being promoted to his current position in 2011.

Visit wmich.edu/provost for detailed information about both candidates.

Graduate College selects inaugural faculty fellows

Jon Adams, English and gender and women's studies, and Louann Bierlein Palmer, educational leadership, research and technology, were selected as Graduate College Faculty Fellows beginning spring 2013.

The fellowship program is a new WMU initiative that provides an opportunity for faculty members to develop as leaders on campus while making significant contributions to graduate education.

Both of the inaugural fellows have helped coordinate graduate education in their departments or units and serve as Graduate Studies Council members. During this fellowship year, Adams will focus on student and faculty engagement and success while Bierlein Palmer will focus on graduate admissions and enrollment.

Climate change is series focus

The Lee Honors College's 2013 Lyceum Lecture Series focuses on climate change and will continue through April 17. The talks, which are being presented by WMU faculty members, are being held from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesdays in the Lee Honors College building lounge. Those attending are welcome to bring a brown bag lunch.

Call 269-387-7866 for details.

Obituaries

Editor’s note: Visit wmich.edu/news/obituaries and search by last name for full obituaries of these members of the University community.

Geraldine J. Bowen, a retired cashier for the WMU Bookstore, died Dec. 5. She was 94.

Janice L. Carlson, a retired first cook in Bernhard Center Dining Service, died May 3. She was 78.

Joe R. Chapel, a retired associate professor of teaching, learning and leadership and director of the McGinnis Reading Center and Clinic, died Dec. 1. He was 73.

Junne G. Martin, a retired student orientation leader supervisor, died June 26. She was 86.

Don W. Nantz, an emeritus in mechanical engineering and an assistant dean emeritus in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, died Dec. 18. He was 92.

Keith Roberts, a retired custodian, died Nov. 29. He was 77.

Robert C. Scherzer, a retired laboratory manager in physics, died Nov. 21. He was 64.
Events slated for first Universitywide common read

Three public events have been set for the common read of “The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks” by Rebecca Skloot, the book chosen for WMU’s first Universitywide common read.

• Skloot will speak at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 14, in the Gilmore Theatre Complex’s Shaw Theatre. Seating will be open, and a book signing will follow the author’s talk.
• The Center for the Study of Ethics in Society will sponsor a panel of WMU faculty members discussing the book on Henrietta Lacks, as it relates to research writing and ethical choice, at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 30, in the University Center for the Humanities in Knauss Hall.
• David Lacks, Henrietta’s son, and another member of the Lacks family will participate in a question-and-answer session starting at 4:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 11, in the Fetzer Center’s Kirsch Auditorium. Seating will be open, and a book signing will follow until 8 p.m.

WMUK announcer and producer Cara Lieurance has music in her.

Lieurance grew up with musicians in her family, and this legacy built her appreciation and love of many kinds of music. Her great-grandfather, Thurlow Lieurance, was a noted composer of classical music. Her father is a musician, bandleader and instrument repair technician. In addition, her sister Barbara is an acclaimed classical pianist and WMU alumnus who performed this past October in the Dalton Center.

But Lieurance credits the fact that she listened to CBC Radio every night when she grew up in northern Canada for helping her decide she would become a radio announcer, if not a professional musician herself.

She interned at and joined the staff of campus radio station WMUK while still a student, studying the flute and communication. Twenty years later, she is still the announcer for the station’s morning classical music show.

Lieurance enjoys experiencing music, whether interviewing a local musician or a world-renowned one, building WMUK’s extensive music library that includes more than 10,000 classical CDs, or organizing an event to feature local talent. “I feel fortunate to be able to hear for the 800th time a piece by [Johannes] Brahms, and I still enjoy it,” she says. “Since it’s been my only job, this place is pretty much my family. And everyone is outstanding at what they do. I am grateful to re-experience music and learn so much from the guests I interview.”

Over the years, technology has changed from splicing reel-to-reel audio tape to editing her digitally recorded shows on a computer. She also conducts more live interviews and added a second show to her roster.

David Marlatt, an office associate in WMU’s Frothic School of Art, introduced her to a wooden flute commonly used in Celtic music. As her interest in Celtic music grew, she and Marlatt, a fiddler, started and today co-host WMUK’s Celtic music show, “The Pure Drop.” The two also play in an Irish band, “Whiskey Before Breakfast.”

She met her husband, Dan Keto, a naturalist at the Kalamazoo Nature Center, on the job when he volunteered to answer phones during a WMUK pledge drive.

East Hall to be renovated

The University has searched in vain for decades to fund the $60-plus million necessary to rehabilitate East Campus’ four core buildings.

The most recent effort was for a private developer to use state brownfield redevelopment and historic preservation tax credits not available to nonprofit WMU to renovate the structures for various commercial ventures. The project fell through last year when anticipated Michigan tax credits were eliminated.

To save East Hall, WMU will commit $15 million in borrowed funds to renovate the building—the limit that can be borrowed to accomplish the renovation given University building priorities for mission-critical purposes. The extent of the renovation and the fate of East Hall’s wings would be determined by how much private support could also be garnered.

Numerous activities scheduled

The University has been working with its community college partners to find ways to make those transfer transitions more seamless and allow students to derive the maximum benefit of each part of their collegiate experience.

With the Dec. 4 signing, a total of seven community colleges have inked reverse transfer agreements with WMU.

Partners participating in the signing along with Greene were Gary Wheeler, Glen Oaks Community College; Dennis Bona, Kellogg Community College; Robert Harrison, Lake Michigan College; and Brent Knight, Lansing Community College.

The agreements are tailored to each institution, but they generally allow students who earn at least 30 credits at their community colleges to apply as many as 30 WMU credits toward completing an associate degree, which typically requires around 60 credits.

Combined, the four partner community colleges send about 300 transfer students to WMU each fall. Many transfer students have already completed their associate degree requirements, but a lot have not.

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