MLK proposal deadline approaching

Grant proposals for the 2013 Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration are due Friday, Nov. 2. Funds of up to $500 are available. Even if funding is not sought, those planning MLK-related events during spring semester must apply to be included in community-wide publicity about this year’s celebration. Visit wmich.edu/mlk for more information or to apply.

Campus Climate survey closes Friday

President John M. Dunn urges all employees to take part in the WMU Campus Climate Survey, which closes Friday, Oct. 19. You should have received a link to this confidential survey in an email from Qualtrics sometime in the past three weeks. Direct questions to tiffany.white@wmich.edu or (269) 387-6327.

25 Year Club induction event set

Nearly 60 WMU employees who were hired in 1987 will be inducted into the 25 Year Club during the annual 25 Year Club Gala. The event is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 27, and will begin with a reception at 5:30 p.m. Invitations will be sent soon to all active and retired club members.

Demolition to cause EduCable outages

Sections of the University’s cable television system, EduCable, will be interrupted for varying periods of time through Nov. 15 due to the scheduled demolition of the old Sangren Hall. Interruptions will be minimized as much as possible and most will last less than one hour. Exceptions include interruptions at the Goldsworth Valley residence halls and apartments. Questions should be directed to the Office of Information Technology Help Desk at helpdesk@wmich.edu or (269) 387-4357, option 1.

Access Prism through Scholarworks

The September issue of Prism is now accessible through Scholarworks, as well as the Office of the Provost website. Prism is an online newsletter covering academic affairs that has archived issues dating back to 2004. Readers are asked to access the newsletter at scholarworks.wmich.edu/provost_prism so readership can be assessed.

Staff award nominations coming due

Make a Difference is a campuswide peer-to-peer program that recognizes WMU staff for their accomplishments and daily investment of energy and creativity. Nominations for the fall round of semianual awards are due by Wednesday, Oct. 31. Every fall and spring, semianual awards may be presented to a maximum of 15 people. Semianual award recipients may win multiple times, but are limited to one semianual award per academic year. Visit wmich.edu/hr/make-a-difference year-round for nomination instructions and forms.

Medical school moving ahead in key ways

A groundbreaking ceremony Oct. 12 launched a massive renovation of the downtown Kalamazoo building that will house the WMU School of Medicine and served as the forum for announcing that the school has been granted preliminary accreditation by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, the national accrediting body for educational programs leading to the Doctor of Medicine degree.

“This is an important step because we now have the go-ahead to recruit students for our first class to begin in August 2014,” Hal B. Jenson, founding dean of the medical school, told the assembled crowd. “The Kalamazoo community has a 40-year legacy of collaboration providing outstanding undergraduate and graduate medical education. The Liaison Committee on Medical Education noted this as a major strength of the new medical school.”

WMU will lease the renovated building to the School of Medicine, which is a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation and a collaboration involving the University of Michigan and Kalamazoo’s two teaching hospitals, Borgess Health and Bronson Healthcare.

Jenson thanked the visionary leaders from WMU and Borgess and Bronson who have collaborated to develop the medical school. He noted that the school will admit an inaugural class of about 50 students, eventually increasing this number to about 80 students each year.

Those students will receive instruction from School of Medicine physician faculty and residents, as well as community physicians. Medical students will be exposed to a wide range of patient-care environments at the WMU School of Medicine Clinics and area physician offices, and at Borgess Medical Center and Bronson Methodist Hospital.

Other speakers at the event included U.S. Rep. Fred Upton and WMU President John M. Dunn, who explained what the school will mean to the area’s economy as well as health care in Michigan and the southwest Michigan community.

“The city of Kalamazoo has a history of excellence in education, health care, research and life-science exploration—all of which are assets for the development of a new medical school,” Dunn said. “Efforts to launch a medical school addressing the growing shortage of physicians in Michigan and the nation, and provide other benefits to the local area.”

Interim vice provost named to lead Haenicke Institute

Bassam Harik, formerly vice provost for budget and personnel, has been appointed interim vice provost of the Haenicke Institute for Global Education.

Harik, whose appointment was effective Sept. 1, replaces Donald McCloud, who is continuing to oversee the activities of the Confucius Institute as well as to direct the global and international studies program.

A longtime faculty member and senior administrator, Harik already is active in this new role. He recently met with Fr. Abraham V. Mani, vice chancellor (the equivalent of provost) of Christ University in India during an extended visit by Mani to campus.

WMU has had a winning program with CU since 1997. The school is continually rated among the top 10 educational institutions in India, and the WMU-CU partnership has brought some 250 students to Kalamazoo.

Harik, a professor of economics, has been scheduled to retire this year after 33 years of service. His retirement has been changed to become effective June 30, 2013.

He was named vice provost for budget and personnel in 2006 and served as interim provost and vice president for academic affairs in 2007. Previous posts included economics chair and associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.
Events scheduled for National Campus Sustainability Day

WMU will observe National Campus Sustainability Day Wednesday, Oct. 24, by hosting events to raise awareness about sustainable living and celebrate campus and community sustainability projects.

Following a student lunch, there will be a public walking tour of campus sustainability sites beginning at 12:30 p.m. and a talk by Wayne Muller at 5:30 p.m. in room 1010 followed by a 6:30 p.m. reception and book signing. Muller is known for his bestselling books. His latest is “A Life of Being, Having and Doing Enough.”

War hero shares message of survival

Louis Zamperini will visit Tuesday, Oct. 23, to tell the inspirational story of his struggles to reintegrate into society after being a prisoner of war in World War II. Zamperini is featured in Pulitzer Prize-winning author Laura Hillenbrand’s latest book. He will speak at 6 p.m. in the Bernhard Center’s North Ballroom. Call (269) 387-3230 for free tickets.

Talk focuses on Kalamazoo Promise

Janice M. Brown, executive director of the Kalamazoo Promise, will give an update on the Kalamazoo Promise at 8 a.m. Friday, Oct. 26, in 2150 Schneider Hall.

Hertalk, “The Kalamazoo Promise...So What’s the New York Times Talking About Anyway?”, is part of the Keystone Community Bank Speaker Series. The free event begins with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Reservations are required and can be made by calling (269) 387-6059.

Family-friendly trick-or-treating set

Families looking for a safe trick-or-treating option are invited to visit Eicher/LeFeve Hall from 5 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 28. The event is open to children in grades K-8, and there will be separate sections for younger kids and older kids.

Business department slates IT Forum

The 10th Western Michigan IT Forum is set for Friday, Nov. 2, in the Fetzer Center and is being put on by the Department of Business Information Systems, which is celebrating 30 years of BIS education. Visit wmich.edu/infosystems/itforum/index.php for more information or to register. Registration is free for WMU employees and students.

Free activities at the Health and Human Services Building Saturday, Oct. 20, will celebrate the Integrative Holistic Health and Wellness Program’s 30th anniversary. Reservations are encouraged at mywmich.com/holistic30. holistic-info@wmich.edu or (269) 387-2650.

Activities include dedication of an outdoor labyrinth installation at 5 p.m. and a talk by Wayne Muller at 5:30 p.m. in room 1010 followed by a 6:30 p.m. reception and book signing. Muller is known for his bestselling books. His latest is “A Life of Being, Having and Doing Enough.”

BEAUREGARD

Hernandez

AD recognized by state sports group

The Michigan Sports Hall of Fame has named Athletic Director Kathy Beauregard the recipient of a prestigious Gerald R. Ford Award. The award is named for the 38th president of the United States and Michigan Sports Hall of Famer.

It goes to members of the sports community who have demonstrated extraordinary leadership and vision, and who have enhanced the image of sports and improved the quality of life for the people of Michigan.

Beauregard received the award during an Oct. 5 on-campus luncheon with Bronco radio voice Robin Hook served as the master of ceremonies, and former Bronco quarterback Tim Hiller delivered the keynote speech.

Past Ford Award recipients include such luminaries as Roger Penske, Dennis Archer, Peter Karmanos, Mike and Marian Ilitch, J.P. McCarthy and Tom Wilson.

Staffer honored as outstanding educator

Diana Hernandez, director of the Division of Multicultural Affairs, was one of five Michiganders to receive an outstanding Hispanic leader award during the annual Cesar E. Chavez Commemorative Dinner in Lansing, Mich., Oct. 5.

The dinner and an awards program were sponsored by the Michigan Hispanic Caucus, Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan and Capital Area Cesar E Chavez Commission.

The events included the presentation of awards in several categories and were part of the organizations’ celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, Sept. 15 through Oct. 15.

Hernandez, a WMU staff member since 1985, was honored in the outstanding Hispanic leader category as Educator of the Year. The award is given in recognition of individuals who have shown exemplary leadership in their communities.

Prof elected officer of national board

Peter W. Krawutschke, world languages and literatures, has been elected to the 2012-14 Executive Committee of the Joint National Committee for Languages and the National Council on Language and International Studies.

A member of the German faculty since 1967, Krawutschke was elected to a two-year term as board treasurer during the organization’s annual meeting in May. He had just completed a two-year term as a director for the body, which represents more than 60 national and regional groups encompassing virtually all areas of the field of language education.

The joint committee’s council promote public awareness of language issues and engage in public advocacy on behalf of languages and international education, among other activities. They were founded on the belief that all Americans should have the opportunity to learn and use English and at least one other language.
Free college-level courses offered to income-eligible residents

Volunteer teachers from WMU are helping low- to moderate-income residents of Kalamazoo County realize the full potential of education to transform their lives. They are a cornerstone of the Humanities for Everybody program, a partnership among WMU's Center for the Humanities and College of Arts and Sciences, Open Doors Kalamazoo and Kalamazoo Neighborhood Housing Services.

The program provides non-credit history, literature, philosophy and writing courses free of charge, giving nontraditional students access to rigorous university-level education in the humanities. The 2011-12 inaugural class included single mothers, homeless men, career-track employees, recovering addicts, and people with bachelor's degrees as well as those without high school diplomas.

Students are being continuously enrolled for the two-course, 10-week fall semester that began Sept. 10 and the three-course, 15-week spring semester that begins Jan. 14. The second fall course is set to start Monday, Oct. 22. Each course, or module, lasts five weeks and meets Mondays and Thursdays from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Cooper Apartments, 611 W. Lovell St., Kalamazoo.

The 2012-13 academic year opened with the History of American Slavery course and will finish with the Shakespeare course Oct. 22 to Nov. 26. The upcoming spring semester will feature Freedom and Empowerment, Jan. 14 to Feb. 14; The Black Experience; From 1866 to the Present, Feb. 25 to March 28; and Philosophy, Justice and Well-being, April 1 to May 2.

Experienced WMU professors teach the discussion-style courses, and participants receive free books, tuition and supplies.

Festive Family Weekend coming up later this month

Hundreds of parents and family members of WMU students will be in Kalamazoo Friday through Sunday, Oct. 26-28, for Bester's Family Weekend Adventure.

The University’s annual Family Weekend honors the year-round commitment parents, guardians and other family members make to their college students and WMU. Numerous events on campus and in the surrounding communities will keep students and their family members entertained throughout the weekend.

The campus activities will begin Friday with an admissions open house for prospective students from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Bernhard Center for those who preregister. Friday will also feature Classes Without Quizzes, interactive information sessions where participants get schooled on a variety of topics by some of the University’s most engaging faculty and staff members. Other weekend highlights include the annual tailgate buffet and football game on Saturday, “Grab the Reins” Brunch in one of the dining halls on Sunday, and Little Siblings Weekend hosted by the Residence Hall Association.

For more information or an application, visit humanitiestoreverybody.com. To donate to the program, visit opendooraskalamazoo.org or wmich.edu/humanities.

University employees featured on United Way billboards

The University Center for the Humanities organizes experienced volunteer faculty from WMU while the College of Arts and Sciences funds the graduate assistantship of LaTasha Chaffin, a full-time doctoral student who serves as the program’s part-time coordinator.

Ronald D. Yarbrough, a full-time Open Doors employee, serves as the program’s coordinator.

“We have a backlog of about 30 professors who are eager to teach the courses,” Yarbrough reports. “That says a lot about both the students and the instructors. For us, the bottom line is that education is for everybody.”

For more information or an application, visit humanitiestoreverybody.com. To donate to the program, visit opendoorkalamazoo.org or wmich.edu/humanities.

Obituaries

Kirk D. Arnold, a custodian in building custodial and support services, died Oct. 3. He was 58. Arnold, of Delton, Mich., was hired in 1981 and had worked at WMU for more than 31 years.

A private memorial service is planned. Visit williamsgorefuneral.com to make a memorial guestbook entry.

Van Cooley, interim dean of the College of Education and Human Development, will be honored during a campus memorial service at 1 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 21, in 1910 Sangren Hall.

Cooley died suddenly July 31. He had been appointed interim dean in January. A major focus of his work during the final months of his life was the new Sangren Hall, which opened for classes this fall.

A reception will follow the service. Parking is available in Lot 41 and at Henry Hall. Memorial contributions may be made to the Van E. Cooley Memorial Scholarship fund through the WMU Foundation at mywmu.com.
Graduate students author infant foster care grant

WMU’s acclaimed Fostering Success initiative will serve as the umbrella organization for a new social service program aimed at improving outcomes in infant foster care.

The effort is being made possible by a $50,000 grant from the Kalamazoo Community Foundation. The grant proposal was written by graduate students as part of a course taught by Rick Grimnell, social work. The students are: Holly Barra, Jody Ikes, Kerrie Jackson, Bridget Jancarz, Brandan Mitchell, Korrine Wojcik, Dawn Wood and Genanne Zeller.

The grant will allow WMU to collaborate with the Michigan Department of Human Services as well as Bethany Christian Services, Lutheran Social Services of Michigan and Family and Children Services to achieve positive outcomes in infant foster care.

It will fund one year of a three-year initiative to provide training for 15 social workers in evidence-based parenting programs. 

“Getting the grant is a testament to the hard work by WMU students, our local partners and foster-care providers. The program will be a great asset to the community,” she says.

Dionne is a columnist with The Washington Post, senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and professor at Georgetown University. He also is a nationally known and respected commentator on politics, appearing weekly on National Public Radio and regularly on NBC’s “Meet the Press” and MSNBC.

His latest book is titled “Our Divided Political Heart: The Battle for the American Idea in an Age of Discontent.”

On Campus with Carol Farrance

Coordinating dozens of WMU summer events on campus is the job of Carol Farrance, conference coordinator for Residence Life.

A University employee for 34 years, for the past six years she’s managed locations for everything from WMU’s annual world-renowned International Congress on Medieval Studies to youth arts, sports and academic camps. Prior to her current position, she worked as an office associate and assistant manager in Campus Apartments before that office merged with Residence Life in 2006.

She is responsible for designating residence halls where summer event participants stay. Those events include the massive Medieval Congress in May that attracts more than 3,000 attendees, of which about half stay on campus.

“I meet with various groups planning conferences and look at their needs. It’s a very diverse job. There are some new groups that come in that I’ve never heard of, and they come back the following year,” she says.

There were 35 groups that came to WMU this past year, from May to the end of July, and that number can fluctuate depending on the economy.

During the academic year, Farrance also supervises the student moving crew—a group of seven students whose priority is making sure residence hall students and apartment residents are taken care of where furnishings are concerned. With approximately 6,000 students living in the residence halls, and nearly 1,000 residents in four apartment complexes, this entails managing a lot of furniture in rooms and apartments and maintaining storage rooms for extra furniture. The crew will move whatever is needed for the department, whether it’s rearranging furniture in an office, unloading and delivering boxes of supplies, or picking up gaming equipment for the halls.

A native of Portage, Farrance lives in Cooper Township with her husband Leigh. The two have a daughter who is a WMU student studying civil and construction engineering.

They enjoy golf and on the weekends traveling up north where they have a home. They also enjoy canoeing, kayaking and rafting with family and friends.

On their three acres in Cooper Township, they have been hobby beekeepers for three years, building up their honey-making operations to six hives this year. Calling it “the most pure thing you can ever eat,” Farrance and her husband normally only sell their honey to family, close friends, neighbors and co-workers.

Turkey Trot slated for Nov. 17

The annual Turkey Trot 5K race will take place Saturday, Nov. 17, with check-in and event-day registration from 7 to 8 a.m. and the race starting at 8:30 a.m. On-site registration event day costs $20. Participants and spectators are asked to bring canned foods or nonperishable items for donation to Loaves & Fishes of Kalamazoo. Visit wmich.edu/rec/turkeytrot to register for and early registration costs and deadlines.

Medical school moving ahead

Many of the additional benefits will be economic in nature, such as the creation of new employment opportunities; direct spending by the medical school; spending by school staff, students and visitors; and realizing the $68 million investment to renovate and expand the school’s home.

That home is a 330,000-square-foot building located at 800 Portage St., in Kalamazoo that was donated to WMU by Michigan’s Mattawan-based MPI Research.

As announced in June, the site has been named the W.E. Upjohn Campus of the new medical school, honoring the founder of the Upjohn pharmaceutical company and the great grandfather of WMU’s president and CEO William U. Parfer.

Widely known as Building 267, the facility was once part of the Upjohn, Pharmacon and Pfizer downtown campuses.