Board of Trustees meeting set
The next meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees will be held Thursday, Sept. 20. Details and key agenda items will be posted online at wmich.edu/news closer to the meeting date. The board usually meets in the morning in 157 Bernhard Center.

Time to update personal records
Faculty and staff must update their personal records by Friday, Sept. 21, to be included in this year's WMU Directory as well as to assist with emergency planning and federal compliance. Visit the My Self Service channel in GoWMU and select Employee Self Service, then Personal Information Summary. If you do not want your home information published in the WMU Directory, you must set your privacy flag to “Yes.”

Trustees approve AFSCME contract
Meeting Aug. 10, the WMU Board of Trustees approved a new three-year contract with Local 1668 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Council 25 and Local 1668. The new contract became effective Aug. 12 and covers 430 employees. Under the new pact, wages for union members rose 1 percent retroactive to July 1 and will increase another 3.5 percent in phases through 2014-15. Other items in the contract affect areas such as retirement eligibility and contribution packages, health care contributions and longevity pay. Visit wmich.edu/news/2012/08/1238 for details.

Fridays with Friends schedule set
Fridays with Friends, the popular monthly gatherings for WMU faculty and staff, have been scheduled for the 2012-13 academic year. The first event is set for Friday, Sept. 21, following the Academic Convocation. Each gathering will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. and feature light hors d’oeuvres and a cash bar. The Sept. 21 Fridays with Friends will be in the Richmond Center Lobby; the Oct. 12 and Nov. 16 gatherings will be in the Gilmore Theatre Atrium.

Language department renamed
During their July 25 meeting, WMU trustees signed off on changing the name of the Department of Foreign Languages to the Department of World Languages and Literatures. The department is WMU’s instructional home for Arabic, Chinese, the classics, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Latin and Russian.

Its new name was selected to be more inclusive, better reflect the intentions of the college and University’s strategic plans, and be in keeping with national trends for similar units.

Recognition set for Sangren, Lee addition
Just days before classes began, junior Elizabeth Ruimveld stood at the center of West Campus and observed surroundings she describes as more inviting.
“I love the landscape,” Ruimveld says. “It gives Western a fresh new look.” That fresh look is thanks to the now-finished Sangren Hall, a new attractively landscaped pedestrian mall and, to complete the transformation at the heart of campus, an expanded and renovated Lee Honors College building.

The Kalamazoo community is invited to formally celebrate these major developments at an event titled “Excellence Renewed” at 6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 28, on the pedestrian mall.

The projects have been garnering approving comments from returning students and faculty. Ruimveld, an elementary education major, says she is especially excited about her classes in the new Sangren, headquarters of the education college. She characterized the old building’s environment as one that was not always conducive to learning in comfort.

The northern wing of the old structure still stands behind the new version, but its days are numbered. Demolition is expected to begin by mid semester, and the area is set to be repurposed for parking next year.

Situated just west of new Sangren is the enlarged and enhanced Lee Honors College. Work on it included doubling the number of classrooms and infusing the entire facility with state-of-the-art instructional technology.

Another big change near Sangren is one motorists in particular will notice. Due to the pedestrian mall, drivers can take West Michigan Avenue past the Bernhard Center and the

Big summer developments move along medical school
Several important developments this summer have kept the WMU School of Medicine on track to open in August 2014. July was a key time for the school, with the Kalamazoo Center for Medical Studies officially transitioning into the WMU School of Medicine.

As part of its transition, KCMS operations, programs, personnel and facilities have become part of the medical school’s clinical operations. Personnel remain at their current locations at 1000 Oakland Drive and at the psychiatry clinic located on the Borgess campus. All patient care services provided to the community remain unchanged.

Hal B. Jenson, founding dean of the medical school, says 63 full-time KCMS faculty members with expertise in teaching and clinical care have been appointed to the School of Medicine. Over the coming months, other clinicians, basic scientists and experts from the community who desire to serve as medical school faculty will be recruited and appointed.

Other July developments included a site visit by a team from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education and the WMU Board of Trustees approving a services-and-resources agreement between the University and the medical school.

2012 Academic Convocation set for Sept. 21
The Academic Convocation is set for 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 21, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. A reception will immediately follow in the Richmond Center lobby. The convocation will feature WMU President John M. Dunn’s annual State of the University address, as well as the presentation of prestigious campuswide awards in four categories to 11 faculty and staff members (see related awards story on page 6). Being honored will be the recipients of the 2011-12 Annual Make a Difference Award and 2012 Distinguished Teaching, Distinguished Service and Emerging Scholar awards.

A longstanding tradition, the Academic Convocation celebrates accomplishment and focuses on important University issues and initiatives. Since 2009, it has served as WMU’s formal launch of each new academic year.

The event is free and open to the public. Detailed stories about all of this year’s award winners will be posted at wmich.edu/news in the days leading up to the convocation.
At the Office of Service-Learning will host its annual Campus and Community Breakfast from 8 to 10 a.m. Friday, Sept. 28, in rooms 208-209 of the Bernhard Center on WMU’s main campus. Registration by Thursday, Sept. 20, is requested at esl_info@wmich.edu or (269) 387-4455.

The office hosts the breakfast to foster service-learning partnerships between the University and greater community. The event offers an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of service-learning, network with WMU and community representatives, and create service-learning partnerships.

Community representatives from southwest Michigan as well as WMU faculty members, professional staff members and administrators are encouraged to attend. Visit wmich.edu/casp/servicelearning for more event information.

CECP program accredited

The Doctor of Philosophy in Counseling Psychology has been accredited for seven more years by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association.

It is the only APA-accredited doctoral program in counseling psychology in Michigan. Reaccreditation for the maximum seven-year period indicates full compliance with the profession’s accepted standards for the highest level of psychology training.

The Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology has been continuously accredited by the APA since 1993 and will remain accredited through 2019. It is offered by the Department of Counseling Education and Counseling Psychology, with Lonnie Duncan and Eric Sauer serving as co-directors of training.

The program embraces a scientist-practitioner model of training, preparing students for the scientific and professional practice of counseling psychology, and emphasizes the importance of addressing the needs of an increasingly diverse society.

Jobs

Current job opportunities at WMU are available 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.
Gifts to WMU up sharply

Shattering all previous one-year records for fundraising, donors made more than $41 million in private gifts to WMU during the recently completed 2011-12 fiscal year.

Including cash, pledges, and planned and in-kind gifts, the Office of Development and Alumni Relations received on behalf of the University a total of $41,575,189 for the fiscal year that ended June 30.

The amount represents an increase of $39,446,110, or more than 240 percent, compared to the total for the 2010-11 fiscal year. Gift records indicate the size and scope of the donor population and reflect a broad and deep base of support and a high level of global engagement.

More than 25,000 donors made a total of 70,816 gifts during fiscal year 2011-12. Many of the gifts were made to the WMU Annual Giving program, which raised $1,919,795, an increase of more than $100,000 over the 2010-11 program total.

An additional illustration of the growing connection between WMU alumni and friends and the University is revealed by looking beyond the dollars raised. As an example, more than 200 gifts were made in the past year in memory of Kenneth “K.C.” O’Shaughnessy, longtime WMU professor of management, who died in a biking accident last summer.

As a result of these gifts, scholarships will be created and entrepreneurial opportunities generated for students, faculty and the community.

Sanford schedules free financial planning workshops

WMU is again offering a series of workshops on topics related to financial planning.RSVPs are required at julie.ahlberg@raymondjames.com or (269) 488-6900, extension 28.

The workshops, designed exclusively for WMU employees, will be conducted by Sanford Advisory Services, which provides administrative and consulting services for the WMU retirement plan. All events will be held in 157 Bernhard Center. Light refreshments and beverages will be provided; attendees are also encouraged to bring a lunch.

The 2012 Financial Planning Series topics are: Alzheimer’s and Elder Care, 12:15 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 12; Saving for College, 12:15 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 10; and Tax Planning, 12:15 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 7. Visit sanfordfinancialservices.com for more information.

New state program features university-business partnership

A new program developed as part of a collaboration among WMU and five other state universities will make it easier for businesses to take advantage of much-needed technical expertise and other resources within a university partner network.

The Instant Innovation Program has been developed as part of the Michigan Corporate Relations Network, a collaboration of six public universities connecting businesses with university resources to help drive innovation and commercialization.

“The MCRN university partners represent a depth and breadth of technical expertise that is of significant potential value to businesses, but can be difficult to engage in a comprehensive manner,” says Mike Finney, chief executive officer of the Michigan Economic Development Corp.

“The Instant Innovation Program takes all of the guesswork out of the process and ensures that the best talent and resources are assigned from across the network to help develop solutions.”

Following receipt of a company’s application, an MCRN representative will identify a minimum of two technical experts from within the network and develop a budget, including a company match, to cover program costs. By the end of the program, participants will have brainstormed ideas for new research and development initiatives, or proposed potential solutions to an existing problem.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact Lisa Garcia, director of WMU’s Business Connection office, to discuss a potential program prior to submitting a proposal application. Programs selected for implementation may have a broad impact within the participating company with potential application across the industrial sector.

Visit michigancrn.org for more program information. Garcia can be reached at (269) 387-0950 or lisa.garcia@wmich.edu.

Participants, volunteers take part in biennial communitywide golf outing

About 50 employees, students and friends took part in the fifth Community Golf Outing Aug. 17 at the Prairies in Kalamazoo. The event fosters WMU camaraderie and was organized by the Administrative Professional Association. On- and off-campus organizations sponsored holes and donated prizes, and individuals across campus worked at the event. Five awards were presented, with the top two teams having the same score and a tie breaker needed to determine which one took first place.

• First-place team (below left, from left): Gerry Schulz, maintenance services; Sandy Steinhach, associate vice president for business and finance office; Linda Poquette, associate vice president for finance office; and Patrick Len, construction services.

• Second-place team (below right, from left): David Longjohn, admissions; Travis Ritchie, admissions; Cheri Bales, communication and First-Year Experience Programs and Max Bales, Cheri’s son.

• Closest to pin, men and women: Steve Doca, community member, and Amy Seth, University Recreation.

• Longest drive, men and women: Max Bales and Kara Nuimser, catering. (Photos by Jeanne Baron)
The following faculty and staff members were recognized for 40, 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, and 10 years of service during August.

40 years—Stephen G. Jones, music; Joseph G. Reish, University Libraries; and Charles C. Warfield, educational leadership, research and technology.

35 years—Harriet E. Bates, Haworth College of Business; Donald E. Creoney, social work; Leonard C. Ginsberg, biological sciences; Mark C. Kerstetter, computer science; and Theodore L. Skartsiaris, Valley II Dining.

30 years—Elise Dinsmore, computer science; Marilyn S. Kritzman, communication; Elizabeth W. Kuhle, intercollegiate athletics; Nina Nelson, dance; and Susan Poo, economics.

25 years—David A. Burnie, finance and commercial law; Robert F. D’Amelio, intercollegiate athletics; Raghvendra R. Gejji, electrical and computer engineering; Margaret J. Hamilton, College of Fine Arts; Danna Hernández, multicultural affairs; Patricia M. Holton, public safety; Katherine Joslin, English; William S. Kern, economics; Renata A. Knific, music; Thomas Knific, music; David E. Little, music; David M. Lyth, industrial and manufacturing engineering; Romuald J. Rabiej, mechanical and aeronautical engineering; Rebecca S. Solomon, Haenicke Institute for Global Education; Kathleen K. Springsteen, institutional effectiveness; Bruce J. Uchimura, music; Linda C. Walker, University Computing, and Allen Webb, English.

20 years—Karen R. Blasore, family and consumer sciences; David Lobberg Code, intercollegiate athletics; John C. Flanagan, management; Jil C. Larson, English; Debra K. Lindstrom, occupational therapy; Michael Nissaney, anthropology; Craig A. Peterson, finance and commercial law; G. Thomas Ray, teaching, learning and educational studies; zoan K. Snyder, sociology; Donna M. Talbot, educational leadership, research and technology; and Allen Webb, English.

15 years—Richard Adams, music; Robert L. Aramone, anthropology; Michael J. Barcelona, chemistry; Jose Antonio Bean, history; Steven E. Burt, industrial and manufacturing engineering; Linda K. Cland, Sindecuse Health Center; Michelle L. Hastings, statistics; James A. Henry, social work; Sandra D. Kelly, information technology; Kathleen M. Kline, mathematics; Michelle Komnits, geosciences; Kirk T. Korista, physics; Ashlyn K. Kuersten, political science; Yuri S. Ledyaev, mathematics; David Lemberg, geography; Bert G. Miller, occupational therapy; Damon A. Miller, electrical and computer engineering; Mark Orbe, communication; James R. Palmitessa, history; Alan Rea, business information systems; John Salliant, English; Nancy M. Schullery, business information systems; Linda Sims, music; Vince Torano, art; XiaoWang Wang, world languages and literatures; Steven Ziebarth, mathematics; and Teresa L. Ziebarth, mathematics.

10 years—Heather Addison, communication; Omar Angulan, finance and commercial law; Donna Kim Balland, Center for Academic Success Programs; Mary J. Baukus, nursing; Karen Bordarchuk, art; Maira Bunda, University Libraries; Carol J. Cranbaugh, teaching, learning and educational studies; Melissa Downey, teaching, learning and educational studies; Julie J. Evans, music; Kieran J. Forarty, College of Health and Human Services; Olivia G. Gabor-Peretz, world languages and literatures; G. Michael Graumet, geosciences; Charles R. Henderson, physics; Sarah Hill, anthropology; Richard Katrovas, English; James J. Kiddie, chemistry; Ok-Kyeong Kim, mathematics; Larry A. Levin, business services; Mark Liermann, theatre; Jane-Jane Lo, mathematics; Michael Millar, Spanish; Yirong Mo, chemistry; Angela Marie Mor, sociology; Deborah Mukherjee, economics; Stephen Newell, marketing; Pablo M. Pastrana-Perez, Spanish; Thomas F. Rienzo, business information systems; Jana K. Schulman, English; Jeffrey Strom, mathematics; Jacinda M. Swanson, political science; Judith Swisher, finance and commercial law; R. Paul Vellom, teaching, learning and educational studies; Karen S. Vokee, English; Gail A. Walker, educational leadership, research and technology; Wilson J. Warren, history; Alan H. Wuomaa, physics; and Takashi Yoshida, history.

Five years—Melisa J. Beesen, public affairs and administration; Judy R. Belland, University Libraries; Deborah J. Benjamin, Sindecuse Health Center; Luigi A. Bertò, history; Stephen R. Cameron, geographer; Joan E. Conrow, Center for English Language and Culture for International Students; Alice Deyoung, nursing; Linda Dove, family and consumer sciences; Sharie Falan, nursing; Suzanne L. Grech, intercollegiate athletics; Chien-Juh Ou, sociology; Claudia M. Hantsford, mechanical and aeronautical engineering; Mariam Dema Konate, gender and women’s studies; Adrian Little, art; Donald G. McCloud Sr., Haenicke Institute for Global Education; Gelfert Mezi, chemistry; James M. Murray, Medieval Institute; Linda Lee Powell, family and consumer sciences; Joseph Isaac Ruppert, Center for English Language and Culture for International Students; Rika Saito, world languages and literatures; Mary Ellen Santos, social work; Carolyn C. Smith, admissions; Kenneth Andrew Steuer, history; Adam Tolbert Wall, residence life; Ly Yang, geography; and Thomas P. Zemrowski, business information systems.

Obituaries

Visit wmich.edu/news and click Obituaries for details about the following WMU community members.

Charlene R. Bennett, Emeritus Professor of Social Work, died June 9 at age 88. She retired in 1979 after 16 years of service. Gene S. Booker, Emeritus in management, died Aug. 15 at age 81. He retired in 1990 after 30 years of service. Do Young Chang, Emeritus in political science, died Aug. 3 at age 81. He retired in 1993 after 22 years of service. Julie M. Christensen, Emeritus in occupational therapy, died Aug. 15 at age 54. She left WMU in 8 August 2010 after 18 years of service. Van Cooley, interim dean of the College of Education and Human Development, died suddenly July 31 at age 64. He had served WMU for 16 years. George Coy, Facilities Management, died Aug. 9 at age 84. He retired in 1992 after 21 years of service. William “Bill” Granet, University Computing Center, died Aug. 15 at age 90. He retired in 1985 after 14 years of service. Emma ‘Em’ Hollingshead, Office of the Vice President for Finance, died July 24 at age 93. She retired in 1983 after 13 years of service. Cameron W. Lambe, Emeritus in education and professional development, died Aug. 11 at age 87. He retired in 1981 after 19 years of service. R. Marcus “Mark” Spink, Media Services, died June 17 at age 86. He retired in 1989 after 23 years of service. Morvin A. Witz, Emeritus in special education, died Aug. 17 at age 92. He retired in 1984 after 17 years of service.
Fall traditions help campus community gear up for new year

This week marks the beginning of another fall semester and a host of exciting annual events to help employees and students gear up for the new academic year.

Thousands of students started gathering on campus in late August for Fall Welcome week, international student orientation and a wide variety of other events focused on familiarizing first-year students with WMU and the local community.

Fall Welcome, with its numerous popular activities, has itself become a many-faceted tradition.

Throughout the week, incoming freshmen take part in activities such as Stadium night at Waldo Stadium, an ice-breaker activity and concert; a Matriculation Ceremony with President John M. Dunn followed by Pizza with the Profs; and the evening run across campus called Buster’s Moonlight Stampede. The week ends with Click Downtown, a unique photo scavenger hunt that encourages students to explore everything the city’s downtown has to offer.

Graduate Student Welcoming Fair
WMU is welcoming graduate students to campus this week with back-to-back activities designed to provide information and fun for these advanced students and their families.

Representatives from several graduate study and campus service offices will be available to answer questions from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. today in the Bernhard Center’s North Ballroom for the 2012 Graduate Student Welcoming Fair.

Units represented include the Graduate College, Research Compliance Office, Graduate Student Advisory Committee, Graduate Center for Research and Retention, Career and Student Employment Services, and the Sindecuse Health Center.

Information on other services—including parking, public safety, registration, student financial aid and Bronco ID cards—will be available down the hall in the West Ballroom until 6 p.m.

The activities will continue on Friday, Sept. 7, from 7 to 10 p.m. and features a halftime fireworks display.

CommUniverCity Night
The local and University communities also converge during fall’s annual CommUniverCity Night pre-game celebration kicking off WMU’s first home football game. This rousing public get-together will take place from 4 to 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 8, with participants filling more than 33 tents at the Corporate Village that will be set up on WMU’s baseball field near Waldo Stadium.

One of the biggest events in southwest Michigan, CommUniverCity Night has been a University tradition since 1992. It will conclude with the home opener against Eastern Michigan University, which starts at 7 p.m. and features a halftime fireworks display.

For the 2012 event, WMU and Discover Kalamazoo are sponsoring a luncheon at noon Friday, Sept. 7, in the Radisson Plaza Hotel Ballroom, Kalamazoo. Head football Coach Bill Cubit and WMU football players will be on hand, and there will be performances by the Bronco Marching Band and Spirit Teams.

Tickets cost $25 per person or $200 per eight-person table and can be purchased through today by contacting Stacy Thines at stacy.thines@wmich.edu or (269) 387-3062.

Fall Fab Fest
New this year will be an areawide event welcoming lesbian, bisexual, gay and transgendered students and their allies to town for fall semester. Local organizations have joined forces to stage the Fall Fab Fest, the only fall event planned specifically to welcome and support the greater Kalamazoo area’s LBGT and allied college students.

This free event is set for 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 9, at WMU’s Intramural Fields near the Goldsworth Valley residence halls. It will feature games, food, music and giveaways, as well as information about supportive resources available locally.

Fall Fab Fest is being sponsored by the Kalamazoo Gay Lesbian Resource Center Project and the WMU Office of LBGT Student Services with support from the Kalamazoo Community Foundation.

Homecoming
A stirring mix of public activities is being planned for 2012 homecoming week, Monday through Sunday, Oct. 1-7.

This year’s celebration revolves around the theme “We Bleed Brown and Gold.” It features numerous events on campus and in the Kalamazoo area throughout the week, culminating in the football game homecoming day against UMass at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 6.

Major activities include the student-staged Western games and soapbox derby, starting at 11 a.m. Friday, Oct. 5; the annual Distinguished Alumni Dinner and Award Ceremony that evening in the Bernhard Center; a parade the length of the Kalamazoo Mall beginning at 8:15 p.m. and ending with the 8:30 p.m. start of a pre-game party on the North Kalamazoo Mall; the 14th Campus Classic 5k and 1K run/walk early on Homecoming Saturday; and a pre-game tailgate on the grounds of the College of Health and Human Services.

Festivities in Waldo Stadium will include the pre-game parade of international students’ home nation flags, naming of the 2012 homecoming king and queen and announcement of community winners of this year’s Spirit Cup awards.

Many campus roads and parking areas will be closed Saturday to accommodate the annual running of the Homecoming Campus Classic 1K and 5K races. This year, the 5K race route runs clockwise around the main campus while the 1K events will be held at Kanley Track.

Visit wmich.edu/campusclassic for information about the 2012 Homecoming Campus Classic, including online race registration, signing up as a race volunteer and a map of the 5K course.
Eleven faculty, staff members to receive awards at convocation

2012 Distinguished Service Award
This award recognizes exceptional service to the University through innovative and effective programs, services in areas and organizations that contribute to WMU’s growth and stature, or service that broadly extends WMU’s impact and presence.

The 2012-13 recipients are R. Wayne Fuqua and Charlotte Giscombe. Fuqua, chair of the Department of Psychology, joined the faculty in 1976. He has served as professor, acting chair and director of graduate training for psychology. He was appointed associate chair in the department in 1999. 

Giscombe is director of the TRIO Student Success Program, a federal-funded program that helps first-generation, income-eligible college students and college students with disabilities complete their bachelor’s degree and transition to graduate school and professional life. She joined WMU in 1997 as the program services coordinator and became director in 2009. While at the University, Giscombe also has served as a delegation coordinator between WMU and Kanto Gakuin University in Yokohama, Japan.

2012 Distinguished Teaching Award
This award is the University’s highest teaching honor and goes to exceptional educators and mentors who demonstrate outstanding dedication.

The 2012-13 recipients are Jon Adams and Richard Malott.

Adams, associate professor of English, joined the faculty in 2003. An author, he studies the cultural meanings of manhood and heroism as they inform American national identity. Adams was also nominated in 2007 for the WMU Distinguished Teaching Award and is an Honorary Faculty Inductee to Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society.

Malott, professor of psychology, has been a member of the WMU faculty since 1966, when he co-founded the University’s behavior-analysis program. He has received two Fulbright Senior Scholar Awards and helped start the Association for Behavior Analysis International. Malott has presented his research in 13 countries and co-authored “Principles of Behavior,” a book previously known as “Elementary Principles of Behavior.” Malott received ABAA’s 2002 Award for Public Service in Behavior Analysis (now called the Award for Scientific Translation) and was elected ABAA president in 2010.

2012 Emerging Scholar Award
This award was launched late in 2006 to acknowledge the accomplishments of WMU faculty members who are among the rising stars in U.S. higher education. It is designed to celebrate the contributions of faculty who are in the first decade of their careers at WMU and who, by virtue of their contributions to scholarship or creative activity, have achieved national recognition and demonstrated outstanding promise to achieve renown in their continuing work. 

The 2012-13 recipients are Jeffrey Angles, Charles Henderson and Sherine Obare.

Angles, associate professor of world languages and literatures, joined the WMU faculty in 2004 and has served as director of the Soga Japan Center since 2011. He also is head of the Japanese Language Program. His work as a literary translator and scholar of modern Japanese literature has won several major awards and impacted both the scholarly community and the general public, both in the United States and internationally. Angles has produced significant translations of major Japanese modern and contemporary poets, in particular Tada Chimakou and Ito Hiromi.

Henderson, associate professor of physics, joined the WMU faculty in 2002 and the faculty in WMU’s Mallinson Institute for Science Education in 2004. Since coming to the University, he has been involved in grant projects totaling more than $2 million, including awards from the National Science Foundation, the state of Michigan, NASA and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Henderson has been instrumental in the evolution of physics education research, and his extensive research has helped change the landscape of STEM education.

Obare, associate professor of chemistry, joined the WMU faculty in 2004 and has been an adjunct professor in the Michigan State University Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science since 2007. An internationally respected, rising star in the area of nanomaterials, she is acknowledged as a scientist who has the ability to design nanoscale materials with important optical, catalytic and electronic properties. Her research has earned Obare a number of prestigious awards, including the 2010 National Science Foundation American Competitiveness and Innovation Award, which is given to the top 10 materials scientists each year.

2011-12 Annual Make a Difference Award
This award is the highest honor the University bestows specifically to non-faculty employees for their service. It recognizes the year’s four most outstanding 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 2011-12 recipients are Myra L. Currie, Christin Fawley-Zehner, Rainer B. Liebert and Jessica Parker.

Currie, parking clerk in public safety, joined the staff in 2008 as a parking enforcement officer and was promoted to parking clerk six months later. Nominators lauded her for her efficiency, initiative, and perpetual willingness to take on work without being asked as well as to assist colleagues in parking services and throughout public safety.

Fawley-Zehner, first cook in the Valley I Dining Service, joined the staff in 1976 as a utility worker and by 1981, had risen to first cook. In that role, she leads the cooking team in the Valley I Dining Hall. She is well known for following best practices to ensure quality food preparation and presenting her cooking knowledge, and supporting as well as advocating for students.

Liebert, physical therapist in the Sindecuse Health Center, joined the staff in 2000 in his current capacity. He was nominated as much for his everyday thoughtfulness and for his knowledge, passion and skills as a physical therapist, and was commended for quietly stepping up to help students.

Parker, academic advisor in Extended University Programs, joined the staff in 2006 as a student services representative in Bronco Express Services and was promoted to academic advisor in Extended University Programs two years later. She was praised by her nominators for her outstanding professional expertise and unfailing dedication to the primarily older students she serves.
Two publications include WMU among nation’s best schools

WMU has been named one of the country’s top 100 national universities in a ranking recently released by Washington Monthly and is once again among Princeton Review's “Best Midwestern Colleges.”

WMU is one of five Michigan schools to make the 2012 list, which the popular Washington, D.C., magazine has published annually since 2005. Its publication’s College Guide and Rankings rates schools based on what they are doing for their students and the country.

The list appears in the magazine’s September/October issue. It is based on three factors: the publication characterizes college qualities that are good for the nation; producing cutting-edge research and new Ph.D.s., encouraging students to give back to the nation through service, and promoting social mobility by recruiting and graduating low-income students.

This year, editors added additional credits for cost, giving its highest marks to “colleges that are both effective and inexpensive.” By focusing on institutions that combine higher-than-expected graduation rates with affordable prices, editors said, “we are able to offer a true measure of where the biggest ‘bang for the buck’ is to be found in higher education.”

Of the 100 schools named to the list this year, 59 are public universities, including the University of California-San Diego, which captured the top spot. The five Michigan universities included were listed with these rankings:

- University of Michigan, 13th;
- Michigan State University, 34th;
- Michigan Technological University, 63rd;
- WMU, 90th; and
- Wayne State University, 95th.

This is the eighth year WMU has received Princeton Review’s Best Midwestern College designation, an honor made to 153 schools in 12 states. The 2012 list is compiled using institutional data, visits to schools, and college counselor and advisor opinions.

An important element of the selection process is an 80-questions student survey. Only schools that permit Princeton Review to independently survey their students are eligible to be considered for its regional ‘best’ lists.

WMU was one of only 15 public and private schools chosen in Michigan for the list that also included Kalamazoo College, Michigan State University, the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor and the University of Michigan-Flint.

WMU offers mobile payment service for campus parking

Motorists can now use their cell phones to pay for parking by credit card at select locations on WMU’s Kalamazoo campuses.

The University has partnered with Parkmobile USA Inc. to launch the new on-campus parking payment service, which uses Parkmobile’s native mobile applications for the iPhone, Android, Windows 7 and Blackberry smartphones.

To use the innovative system, customers register online at parkmobile.com for free. Once registered, one can start using the system immediately to pay for parking via a mobile app, the Internet, a QR (quick response) code or a toll-free customer phone call at (877) 280-4146. Customers can select the option to receive text message alerts and reminders when a meter’s time is about to expire.

The new program will be offered at some 336 metered visitor spaces. Students and visitors also may use Parkmobile to purchase daily parking in both Parkview Campus parking structures. There is no cost to create a Parkmobile account, and parking meter fees have remained the same—25 cents per 10 minutes or $1.50 per hour.

Lots with Parkmobile meters are located on the University’s East, West, Oakland Drive and Parkview campuses in Kalamazoo. The lots that have these meters are numbered 1, 12, 13, 28, 33, 35, 41, 44, 45, 63, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72R, 74, 78, 95, 100 and 104.

Daily parking for the Parkview Campus ramps is purchased for a specific license plate and costs $5 per day plus a 35-cent transaction fee. License plate information is stored on a computer, eliminating the requirement of a physical permit. An account can be activated for the first time by telephoning (800) 280-4146 or visiting parkmobile.com.

Visit parkmobile.com or call (800) 280-4146 for more information about paying for parking via a mobile phone and a global map of locations where the company’s payment system can be used. For specific parking questions or meter locations, contact WMU parking services at (269) 387-4609.

Landscape services cited for good stewardship

Landscape services in the Facilities Management department has achieved certification in the Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program, a nationally known statewide program.

Certification requires regulatory compliance and implementation of practices that reduce environmental risks associated with pesticide and fertilizer handling, application and record keeping; wellheads; septic systems; fuel storage; irrigation and water use; and emergency response.

“It’s an honor for landscape services to be recognized for helping to foster WMU’s culture of sustainability,” says Tim Hoyle, director of landscape services. “We’re dedicated to meeting and exceeding the requirements of environmental laws and wherever possible, strive to reduce waste, use natural products and educate the campus community about sustainability initiatives.”

Board of Trustees OKs four staff retirements

The retirements of four staff members were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees at its July 25 meeting. Trustees also signed off on one faculty resignation.

The names, positions, years of continuous service and effective dates of retirement for the staff members who are retiring are: Maxine R. Gilling, Gear Up Learning Centers, 22 years, effective July 31; William A. Green, Sincerecise Health Center, 10 years, effective June 13; Linda M. Rowen, psychology, 22 years, effective July 31; and David H. Smith, university relations, 34 years, effective June 30.

The faculty member who is resigning is Pingbo Tang, civil and construction engineering, effective July 15.

Japanese culture focus of free outreach presentations

Area school children and residents can learn about origami, kimono dressing, calligraphy and other aspects of Japanese culture in free presentations offered by the Soga Japan Center.

Michiko Yoshimoto, the center’s outreach coordinator, is available to provide in-house, hands-on demonstrations to area K-12 classrooms, libraries, churches, community centers and businesses to expand upon cultural exchange between the United States and Japan.

A Japan native, Yoshimoto joined the center’s staff in 2009 to promote Japanese culture, society and language throughout West Michigan. She is pursuing a master’s degree in socio-cultural studies of education at WMU.

For more information, or to schedule a demonstration, contact Yoshimoto at michiko.yoshimoto@wmich.edu or (269) 387-5874. Visit wmich.edu/japancenter to learn more about the Soga Japan Center.

Reception

Margaret Hamilton, College of Fine Arts, will be honored for her 25 years of service to the University during a retirement reception from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 13, in the Richmond Center lobby.
Sindecuse schedules flu, meningitis vaccination clinics

WMU community members and their eligible dependents may get seasonal influenza and meningitis shots on a walk-in basis during set times at the Sindecuse Health Center or during Sindecuse’s six upcoming vaccination clinics.

Protection against the H1N1 flu strain is included in the seasonal flu shot. Clinics will be held: Tuesday, Sept. 11, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., flu vaccinations only, 1224 Aviation Education Center, aviation campus, Battle Creek, Mich.; Wednesday, Sept. 12, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., 3131 Sindecuse Health Center; Tuesday, Sept. 18, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Arrium, Health and Human Services Building; Tuesday, Oct. 2, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., 157 Bernhard Center; Wednesday, Oct. 10, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Employee Lounge, Engineering and Applied Sciences Building; and Wednesday, Nov. 7, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., flu mist and meningitis vaccinations, indoor tennis courts, Student Recreation Center (at WMU’s Health and Wellness Expo).

Meningitis shots cost $108, although individual insurance plans may cover all or part of this cost. Flu shots cost $18 for students and $25 for non-benefits-eligible employees and their dependents. Benefits-eligible employees covered under WMU’s Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan insurance will receive flu shots with no out-of-pocket expenses if they get their shots at Sindecuse or its vaccination clinics. Flu shots are a covered benefit for Shield of Michigan insurance will receive flu shots with no out-of-pocket expenses if they get their shots at Sindecuse or its vaccination clinics.

For more information, visit wmich.edu/healthcenter or call (269) 387-3287.

Big summer developments move along medical school

The LCME will review the site visit findings to determine if the program meets standards. If standards are met, the organization would vote to grant preliminary accreditation, allowing the school to recruit medical students next year. Throughout the first four years of the curriculum, the medical school would need to submit additional information and host two more site visits to achieve provisional accreditation, then full accreditation before the first cohort graduates in 2018.

The medical school is a private nonprofit corporation developed collaboratively by WMU along with two Kalamazoo-area hospitals—Borgess Health and Bronson Healthcare. The services and resources agreement spells out the terms under which the University may provide administrative, operational and other services in support of the medical school as well as how WMU will be compensated for those resources and services.

In other summer news, it was announced June 28 that the downtown Kalamazoo building to be renovated and named in recognition of WMU alumnus Paul V. Sangren, WMU’s second president, and his wife, Flossie.