Forum speakers discuss medical school

Members of the University community were updated on the status of the new medical school during a campus forum Feb. 14. WMU President John M. Dunn and medical school Dean Hal B. Jenson led the discussion and took audience questions.

Dunn reported that the state already has granted authority for the WMU School of Medicine to offer a four-year M.D. program and other health degrees.

The school is a partnership among WMU, Borgess Health and Bronson Healthcare. It is a private, nonprofit 501(c)3 corporation. Its board is comprised of representatives from WMU, Borgess and Bronson.

The Michigan State University/Kalamazoo Center for Medical Studies board voted to merge and transition into the school, effective July 1. The center is owned and operated by Borgess and Bronson and has provided clinical instruction in Kalamazoo since 1974.

“The [WMU/So] School of Medicine concept is a true partnership among WMU, Bronson and Borgess, and what marvelous partners they are,” Dunn told those attending the forum. “Our medical school will provide undergraduate, graduate and continuing medical education. The University and community will have everything to gain.”

Dunn and Jenson’s remarks and audience questions covered four general areas.

Trustees to conduct annual meeting

The WMU Board of Trustees will hold its annual meeting 11 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 29, in 157 Bernhard Center. Along with a variety of other business, trustees will elect new officers for 2012. Additional information and key agenda items will be posted online at wmich.edu/news closer to the meeting date.

Nominations open for WMU awards

Nominations are being accepted for three of the University’s most prestigious faculty and staff awards. They are the Distinguished Service, Distinguished Teaching and Emerging Scholar awards. Those receiving these awards for 2012 will be honored at this fall’s Academic Convocation. Visit wmich.edu/provost to access a link to complete information and nomination forms.

Nominations for the spring Make a Difference staff recognition awards are due Tuesday, Feb. 28. The awards recognize outstanding staff members for their daily investments of energy and creativity. Visit wmich.edu/wmubroncos.com for more information.

Free employee photos available

All faculty and staff are encouraged to have their official University photos taken between 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24, in Walworth Hall’s Hening Emeriti Lounge. Employees may have electronic copies for personal use at no charge. Contact Sue Beougher at sue.beougher@wmich.edu or (269) 387-8402 to confirm your session or receive your photo.

New mobile apps being offered

The University has released version 1.2 of WMU Mobile, its smartphone apps for Android and for iPhone and other Apple mobile devices.

WMU Mobile is available free of charge through the Android Market at market.android.com for Android smartphones; and through the iTunes Store and App Store for iPhone, iPod Touch and other Apple mobile devices.

WMU Mobile 1.2 features a new WMU Dining Services mobile menu for dining halls and cafes; real-time Bronco Transit GPS bus tracking and online schedules; maps and locator for key buildings and offices on the main campuses; live streaming of WMUK Public Radio for both HD1 and HD2; sounds of Western, including the “WMU Fight Song,” “WMU Alma Mater” and “keyplay”; the latest Bronco scores and updates from wmbbronzcos.com; and Kalamazoo weather and three-day forecasts.

WMU Mobile was created as a senior engineering project by six computer science majors and released in May 2011. Two new teams of senior computer science majors are working on version 2.0, which is scheduled for release later this spring.

Time to register for Lifelong Learning classes

Registration has begun for the spring 2012 classes being offered by WMU’s Lifelong Learning Academy. The academy offers low-cost, short-term educational programs to Kalamazoo-area residents, although individuals of any age are welcome to participate. Academy courses are provided for the joy of learning—there are no tests or grades.

The spring 2012 session runs from Monday, March 5, through Wednesday, May 9, and features 21 non-credit classes that fall into seven categories: arts and humanities, current events, enrichment, international themes, health, history, and science and technology.

The academy also hosts a rich array of interest groups, lectures, travel-related activities and special events. Travel opportunities this session include a day trip to the Purple Rose Theatre in Chelsea, Mich.; a guided tour of Detroit’s renaissance; and an overnight architecture and art tour that will take participants to Ohio and Indiana.

Tuition is modest and based on the number of times a class meets. Spring 2012 rates range from $20 to $60 for academy members or $30 to $90 for nonmembers, and include free on-campus parking. Fees also may be charged to offset the cost of class materials, books or travel.

For more information or to register for a Lifelong Learning Academy class, visit wmich.edu/offcampus/lifelong or call Extended University Programs at (269) 387-4200.
Food industry, WMU conference focus of Keystone talk

The food industry and WMU’s annual Food Marketing Conference will be the featured topics during the Keystone Community Bank Breakfast Speaker Series set for Friday, Feb. 24.

Frank Gambino, marketing, will discuss current trends and economic conditions in the food industry, as well as the success of the 47-year-old WMU Food Marketing Conference. The event will begin with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. in the Dean's Conference Room of Schneider Hall and be followed at 8 a.m. by Gambino’s presentation, which is free and open to the public. Reservations can be made by calling (269) 387-5050.

The theme “Connecting People, Issues and Solutions,” this year’s food conference is set for Monday and Tuesday, March 26-27, in Kalamazoo’s Radisson Plaza Hotel. It is expected to attract more than 500 food industry executives from around the nation.

Choirs showcase diverse repertoire

Three University choral ensembles—University Chorale, Collegiate Singers and Cantus Femina—will present a free concert showcasing diverse choral genres and styles at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. Program pieces will range from folksong classics to modern masses. Admission is free, but seating is limited. Doors open at 2:35 p.m.

Disney recruiters coming to campus

Walt Disney Co. recruiters will be on campus at noon and 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 27, in 105 Bernhard Center. They will provide information about becoming a paid fall semester intern at the Magic Kingdom in Florida or California through the Disney College Program. Visit disneycollegeprogram.com or contact wumidisneycampusreps@gmail.com for details.

Program offers resiliency workshop

A resilience building interactive workshop will be held from noon to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28, in the Trimpope Building’s Multicultural Center. Sponsored by the Camp wide Suicide Prevention Program, it is part of WMU’s ongoing 2012 Martin Luther King Jr. celebration.

Africa is focus of lecture series

Three nationally and internationally recognized scholars will give campus presentations starting next month as part of the 2012 Distinguished Lectures on Africa Series. The talks, which are free and open to the public, are being hosted by the Center for African Development Policy Research.

• Belinda Straight, anthropology, will present “Health Outcomes of Intercommunity Violence in Three Northern Kenyan Pastoralist Communities” from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Monday, March 12, in 2028 Brown Hall.

• Carrie Jones-Barber, CEO of Dawn Foods Products, a leading global food company, will speak on “Rising to the Challenge: Redefining Business While Staying True to Our Roots” at 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 21, in Schneider Hall.

Novelist writes second fiction work

Peter Blickle, foreign languages, has written a second work of fiction titled “Von einer Liebe zur andern” (“From Love to Love”). The book tells the love story of a literature professor originally from upper Swabia and an American-Jewish violinist.

Although about love and its various qualities, it is deeply rooted in German history and in the human soul. He recounts his narratives in scenic images and rich, sometimes deliberately mysterious in their tension and struggle.

The novel has received acclaim in Germany, including through an October reading invitation shortly after the novel was published in July. Blickle read to a full house in the medieval German city of Pfullendorf. Several newspaper reviews reported that he “cast a spell over the audience.”

Blickle serves as German advisor and has written and translated several highly regarded books in both German and English. He won the Inset Pegasus Award for his fiction in 2004.

Geographer edits reference handbook

Joseph P. Stoltman, geography and science education, is the editor of “21st-Century Geography: A Reference Handbook” published earlier this year by Sage Publications.

The two-volume publication includes 70 chapters and four appendices that discuss and analyze topics pertinent to the discipline of geography as it enters the new century. Chapters range from the changing role of physical geography within the discipline to the dynamics of global urbanization.

Stoltman is a WMU Distinguished Faculty Scholar and former chair of the geography department. A faculty member since 1971, he is widely recognized as a scholar and an expert in geographic education.

Prof garners contracts for three books

Allen Webb, English, has garnered current publishing contracts for three books on the contemporary teaching of English.

The first book, “Teaching Literature in Virtual Worlds: Immersive Learning in English Studies,” is an edited collection that discusses the viability of teaching literary works using virtual worlds. It includes chapters written by 13 graduate students and English department faculty.

The other two books are “Teaching Literature of Today’s Middle East,” which responds to a need for resources on teaching texts by Middle Eastern writers, and “Teaching to Exceed the English Language Arts Common Core Standards: A Literacy Practices Approach for 6-12 Classrooms.” The latter work is co-written with Richard Beach from the University of Pittsburgh and Amanda Thein from the University of Minnesota and coincides with the arrival of the new English common core state standards.
Open-access repository new publishing option for campus community

Some people dream of seeing their names in lights, but many in academia dream of seeing their names in print. WMU students and employees don’t have to dream any longer, thanks to ScholarWorks at WMU, an online, open-access repository that became fully operational this fall. Academic and administrative units are encouraged to work with University Librarians to create a space for uploading their materials. Meanwhile, graduate students and employees are invited to create an account on the companion SelectedWorks program and create professional profiles.

The ScholarWorks repository aims to consolidate the campus community’s output under one umbrella, making this material easy to locate, access and preserve. The digital storehouse already features some 1,500 papers. Full-text versions of many have been downloaded more than 25,000 times by visitors from around the world.

Taking advantage of the cloud

“There’s a huge concern that a lot of material will just disappear into the ether if we don’t start digitally archiving it,” says Maira Bundza, ScholarWorks librarian. “A lot of newsletters and other projects are just done electronically on someone’s computer. When people clean up their computers or get new ones, that material often disappears.” Bundza hopes to save important work stored on countless individual hard drives.

“By choosing to go with ScholarWorks, a repository offered on the Digital Commons platform by Berkeley Electronic Press, we’re using cloud computing. Campuses across the country pay a subscription fee to have their materials published and archived through the service,” Bundza explains. “This is a less expensive way for us to go because Digital Commons provides the equipment, secure backup storage, local customization, training and support. I’m the only campus human resource spending a lot of time on developing ScholarWorks at WMU.”

Countless publishing possibilities

As long as submitters have the proper rights and permissions, the repository will store and share material ranging from departmental newsletters, faculty presentations and digital theses and dissertations. The content may include images, tables and charts as well as audio and video files.

Most of the documents available so far are abstracts of Lee Honors College theses. The college has more than 50 boxes of theses and asked University Libraries in early 2010 to start scanning them.

Nicholas Andreadis, honors college dean, notes that only the most recent honors theses are being published online in their entirety right now because the college only recently started asking students during their thesis defense to give their permission to do that.

“The completion of a senior thesis is a time-honored Lee Honors College tradition requiring students to create a scholarly capstone work that reflects the expertise they’ve developed during their undergraduate studies and honors experience,” Andreadis says. “We partnered with University Libraries to digitize our collection of 2,400 theses dating back to 1967. Now that the ScholarWorks online OT journal taking shape, submissions sought

Plans for an occupational therapy online journal are coming to fruition at WMU, and scholars of all kinds are invited to submit material for publication.

The inaugural issue of the Open Journal of Occupational Therapy, the first open-access, online journal in the profession, is set for fall 2012 (see related ScholarWorks story on this page). The quarterly publication is made possible with the help of a recent $2 million gift from Kalamazoo residents Frederic “Fred” W. Sammons and Barbara A. Rider to the Department of Occupational Therapy, part of which was set aside for innovative projects.

New scholarly work will be published in a timely fashion and available to anyone interested. This access to the most recent, relevant occupational therapy research will benefit authors, researchers, practitioners and, most importantly, clients and their families.

Joseph Fellerino Jr., occupational therapy chair, is servicing as the journal’s inaugural managing editor, and OT faculty member Diane Dirette is editor-in-chief.

Emerging OT scholars are encouraged to submit, and an annual award will be given to the best article by a student or first-time publisher. For more information and to submit a manuscript, visit ojot.org.

Online OT journal taking shape, submissions sought

Obituaries

Phyllis A. De Hollander, a former staff member, died Aug. 28. She was 65. De Hollander left the University in 1995 after 22 years of service in a variety of Facilities Management units. She had been a Kalamazoo area resident most of her life. Memorial donations may be directed to Hospice Care of Southwest Michigan.

James Dexheimer, whose death was reported in the Feb. 9 Western News, will be celebrated at 1:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24, in Kanley Chapel. A reception will follow in Waldo Library’s Meader Rare Book Room.

Hazel L. Starcher died Feb. 2 in Kalamazoo. She was 79. Starcher retired in 2000 as assistant to the dean of the College of Health and Human Services after more than 25 years of service. She received the WMU Distinguished Service Award in 1994. On campus, Starcher was known for her professionalism and many talents, especially her organizational and management skills.

She served the WMU Commission on the Status of Women as president and the Administrative Professional Association as a multiple committee chair. She also was president of the YWCA, from which she won the Gilmore Volunteer Leadership Award; a United Way committee chair; and on the boards of Planned Parenthood, Hospice of Greater Kalamazoo and the National Organization for Women chapter. Per Starcher’s wishes, no formal memorial service is planned. Visit lifestorynet.com to make a memorial guestbook entry.
Chinese proficiency testing available at WMU

The Confucius Institute at WMU will host a testing site for levels 3 to 6 of China’s Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi language proficiency. Registration is required by Sunday, March 18. The testing will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 14, in Brown Hall.

HSK is a standardized proficiency test for Mandarin, the key Chinese dialect taught at WMU, the Portage Public Schools and most other U.S. schools. It is the only test for non-native speakers that is recognized without limitation in the People’s Republic of China.

The test was designed and developed by the HSK Center of Beijing Language and Culture. The WMU testing site is open to all Chinese language learners. The fee is $40 for level 3, native speakers that is recognized without limitation in the People’s Republic of China.

Visit wmich.edu/confucius for comprehensive information and an online application.

Forum speakers discuss medical school

Curriculum innovations

The school is being built from the ground up and just at the right time. It will be based on a 21st-century paradigm of medical education detailed in a 2010 report by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The United States has 126 existing medical schools, and most operate on a 100-year-old paradigm.

The WMU medical school’s curriculum will focus on introducing clinical experiences early in students’ programs, incorporating basic science studies throughout all four years of instruction, using simulation technology for training, and having students work in interdisciplinary teams as well as conduct research and do their clinical work in southwest Michigan.

In addition, two competencies will be added to medicine’s six traditional patient-care competencies. WMU students will be trained to be excellent physicians, but also active citizens in their communities who practice self-care and personal management.

University and regional benefits

Key advantages for WMU as a partner in the school include gaining greater national recognition, increasing opportunities for faculty and student research and interdisciplinary collaborations, and attracting more federal money—45 percent of all federal research dollars that go to higher education go to the nation’s medical schools.

The connections that will develop should also help the University strengthen its already strong health and human service programs and clinics as well as advocate more successfully for new collaborations that will elevate these programs and clinics.

Benefits for the region include improving residents’ health and their access to cutting-edge care, boosting economic development, helping fill a looming physician shortage, and retaining more physicians because the lifelong learning options they need to stay current will be offered locally.

The new school will also allow new initiatives to be developed that focus on expanding access to medical education and increasing diversity in health care fields.

What’s next in the process

The School of Medicine has applicant status with the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, which accredits the nation’s medical schools. A site visit by an LCME accreditation team is set for July. The LCME will decide in October whether to grant preliminary accreditation. If successful, the WMU medical school would begin recruiting its fall 2014 class.

On Campus with Nick Petruska

Nick Petruska admits he doesn’t usually have much time to cook for the University, given responsibilities such as managing catering food and non-food purchases and preparations, writing menus and recipes, working with Registered Student Organizations, helping to manage Bernhard Center event services operations, and training student stewarding assistants.

Petruska, or Chef Nick as he’s known on campus, was hired in 2005 as executive chef for WMU Catering, which serves all of campus as well as the surrounding community.

He says the variety of his job and working with students make his role interesting.

“I still have a hand in creating VIP events, and the good news is more students are using our services,” he says.

Sustainability is a priority in his office, including using more environmentally friendly dinnerware and packaging and using more locally sourced products. He also strives to involve students in the entire catering process, from attending trade shows to learning about customer service, food safety, and food production and presentation.

“We have an opportunity, if not an obligation, to provide mentorship and ‘real life’ work experience in conjunction with curriculum. I see an opportunity for several credit-bearings in the areas of dietetics, supply chain management, environmental studies, marketing and sales, and computer database management.”

A native of southwest Michigan, Petruska began his hospitality career in the front of the house, bussing tables at the Beacon Club. He attended Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo Valley Community College and Michigan State University before heading to Florida Culinary Institute located in West Palm Beach, Fla.

Petruska began his kitchen training as a rounder and C.A. Muer Corp., Joe Muer’s Seafood in Boca Raton, Fla., and Chuck and Harold’s of Palm Beach, Fla. After a stint as “garde manger chef” at the Boca Point Country Club in Boca Raton, Fla., he returned to Michigan as the pastry chef at Webster’s in the Kalamazoo Radisson Plaza Hotel, later becoming “chef de cuisine.” He also has worked as executive chef at a fine family dining facility in rural Edmore, Mich., and as presidential and catering chef with ARAMARK Corp. for Central Michigan University’s Campus Dining division.

He and his wife, Katie, have three sons and live in Mattawan, Mich. He enjoys gardening, crosswords and plays rock and blues music on keyboard and guitar.

Pact boosts student job options

A new College of Aviation pact with two closely allied commercial air carriers will put WMU students on a clear path to careers as commercial airline pilots.

The WMU/ExpressJet Airline Pilot Pathway Program will allow students to begin a pilot screening process early in their University careers that will prepare them for and guarantee jobs as first officers with ExpressJet in addition to an interview for a position as a pilot with Delta Air Lines.

On Campus with Nick Petruska