Trustees scheduled to meet in July

The next meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees is scheduled for Friday, July 22. Most board meetings are held during the morning in the Bernhard Center. The agenda will be available closer to the meeting date.

Traffic may be disrupted on Friday

Weather permitting, there will be a film crew on campus Friday, June 24, between noon and 8 p.m. shooting Chevy commercials. The project may result in temporary traffic disruptions.

Plans call for the crew to be at WMU mid to late morning, shooting at the Parkview Campus by noon, then moving to Fountain Plaza on the main campus. Questions or concerns should be directed to Tim Kelloff, business services, or Blaine Kalafut, public safety.

Families urged to host Japanese visitors

The Haenicke Institute is seeking 10 “friendship families” to host junior high and high school English teachers coming to WMU in July to study advanced English and language teaching.

Families will be assigned one teacher to host for dinner about twice a week and include in weekend activities from the end of July to the first week of the fall semester. For details, contact Jane Blyth Warren at jane.blyth.warren@wmich.edu or (269) 387-3954.

Sign up now to help with Fall Welcome

Volunteers are needed Monday, Aug. 29, through Thursday, Sept. 1, to help with Fall Welcome events. Visit www.wmich.edu/fye to obtain details and a registration form.

Nominations sought for NEH stipends

Proposals for $6,000 National Endowment for Humanities 2012 Summer Stipend awards are being accepted through Wednesday, July 6. Once nominated, faculty members may submit their applications to NEH through Thursday, Sept. 29. Visit www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/stipends.html for complete guidelines. For more information, contact Gina Betcher at gina.betcher@wmich.edu or (269) 387-8204.

In general, submit the following to the appropriate college associate dean by 4:30 p.m. July 6 to apply for nomination: a cover page, including name, contact information, title of proposed work and date; a three-page project narrative documenting intended full-time work on a humanities project for a period of two months; a one-page bibliography; and a two-page resume.

Western News goes on summer hiatus

This is the final issue of Western News for the summer. Publication will resume Thursday, Sept. 8, at the start of the fall semester. During the summer hiatus, read WMU News at www.wmich.edu/news to stay up to date.

WMU sets tuition in wake of state cuts

Acting at its June 9 meeting, the WMU Board of Trustees opted to honor Gov. Rick Snyder’s request to keep cost increases below 7.1 percent, voting to raise tuition and fees 6.6 percent.

Facing a more than $16 million cut in state appropriations as part of Michigan’s recently adopted budget, the board approved both a slight boost in enrollment fees and a tuition increase. Together, they mean that a full-time Michigan freshman or sophomore will pay $9,636 in tuition and required fees for the 2011-12 academic year. That is an increase of $600 over 2010-11.

The tuition decision, along with targeted reductions in the coming year’s budget and an increase of $4.4 million in available financial aid funds, reflect WMU’s efforts to preserve both the quality and accessibility of the University’s degree programs.

“These are difficult economic times, but for our students, this is their time,” Dunn says. “We cannot infringe on the quality of their education, and we cannot tell them it’s time to restrict their options, come back another year or curtail their hopes for the future.”

WMU officials are confident that the University will remain Michigan’s most affordable research university, and it will be in the bottom half of tuition costs among the state’s 15 public universities once all of those institutions set their tuition rates.

They say the overriding cause for this year’s increase was the 15 percent cut in state appropriations. The cut takes the University back to its early 1990s level of funding from the state and is more than $32 million below WMU’s 2002 historical high in annual state support.

To help combat nearly a decade of state cuts, the University has implemented budget reductions and cost avoidance measures that have amounted to more than $60 million. As a result, it has the second leanest administrative staffing levels of any of Michigan’s public universities and has become a national leader in campus energy conservation.

In other fiscal-related business June 9, trustees approved a 7.1 percent tuition increase for all programs and courses offered at WMU’s regional locations and online by Extended University Programs. Visit www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2011/06/021.html for details and links to related budget news.

Lee Honors College expansion, renovations under way

Students as well as a key donor teamed up with University officials June 9 to break ground for a $1.7 million addition to the Lee Honors College Building. The privately funded project, which is scheduled to take one year, will add 4,000 square feet to the 8,400-square-foot structure and include facility upgrades. When completed, the building will have twice as many classrooms as it does now, a small library, and a seasonal outdoor classroom with amphitheatre-style seating as well as a renovated student lounge and state-of-the-art instructional technology throughout.

The honors college was constructed in 1990 with $1.3 million in private funding. It is named in honor of Carl and Winifred Lee, who donated $500,000 toward its initial construction and $1.1 million for the new addition and renovation project. Carl E Lee, former president, general manager and owner of Fetzer Broadcasting Service of Kalamazoo, took part in the groundbreaking ceremony. Also participating were WMU trustee Kenneth V Miller, WMU President John M Dunn, honors college Dean Nicholas Andreadis, honors college member Charlotte Munn-Wood and Alex Zhang, who participates in the college’s Academically Talented Youth Program. The youth program, which is designed for students in grades six through nine, still has openings for its one-week summer camps.

For more information about the camps, visit www.wmich.edu/honors/atyvp and download the Summer Programs brochure or call (269) 387-3230.

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E-learning boasts new look and improved features

“Potentially transformative” is the way James Gilchrist, WMU chief information officer, describes the transition to a new software program for online instruction, with greatly expanded capabilities for both instructors and students.

The system continues under the name E-learning and offers various improved features in an intuitive, customizable interface. They include a more sophisticated spreadsheet-style grade book, subscription services for discussions, a webinar and interactive engagement platform called LiveRoom, and better integration of third-party tools.

“Impact online learning will be primarily a matter of how to adapt our teaching to the limitations of the system, the flexibility and capabilities of the new E-learning will allow us to expand and improve our teaching with new modes of interactive learning,” says David Leiberg Code, music, a member of the selection committee for the new system.

The new system will be rolled out in three phases beginning this month and continuing through spring semester 2012. Phase I will roll out fully online courses for summer II session.

Phase II will consist of migrating 100 courses and training the faculty who instruct them for fall semester implementation and feedback. Lastly, Phase III will consist of migrating the remainder of the courses for spring semester implementation.

By the spring semester, instructors will be able to access the new E-learning through GoWMU, and the old system will be taken offline. Beginning with spring semester, all instructors will submit their midterm and final grades through E-learning instead of through the current Banner interface.

Around campus and beyond

Calligraphy demonstration slated

Paul Wang, a renowned local Chinese calligrapher, will present a free talk and demonstration of his craft and Chinese culture from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 28, in 2025 Brown Hall.

Free concerts offered during July

Seminar 2011, WMU’s summer music camp for high school students, is set for July 10-23. The students will present several free concerts, including performances by the brass and concert choirs Sunday, July 17, and a concert Saturday, July 23, featuring five chamber music ensembles.

Also, WMU will offer a related summer concert series featuring three free shows, all of which will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. The shows are a concert by the Gold Company, WMU’s acclaimed jazz ensemble, Monday, July 11; a collage of drumming traditions by Danuya Drum and Dance Thursday, July 14; and a special theatrical piece about Clara Schumann with actress Sharon Williams narrating accompanied on the piano by WMU faculty member Lori Sims Monday, July 18.

BTR Park Critterm set for July 16

The BTR Park Critterm is set for 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, July 16, at the Parkview Campus. Online registration ends at 11:59 p.m. Thursday, July 14. There will be race-day registration on site. Visit www.kalamazoozooclub.org to register or obtain more information.

Archaeology open house scheduled

The annual Fort St. Joseph Open House will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 13-14, at the project site in Niles, Mich. During this free event, visitors may view ongoing excavations and meet WMU archaeologists. Visit www.wmich.edu/fortsstjoseph closer to the event date for complete details.

National group honors administrator

Kathy Beauregard has been named Athletic Director of the Year for WMU’s region and division by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics. Top athletic directors were chosen in four geographic regions for each of the divisions and subdivisions in intercollegiate athletics.

Beauregard was selected as the year’s top athletic director in the Central Region for the Football Bowl Subdivision, formerly Divi- sion I-A. The region includes Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

Beauregard was named WMU’s athletic director in 1997. Previously, she served the Broncos for nine years as an athletic administrator and nine seasons as gymnastics coach.

Journal previews emeritus’ new book

H. Byron Earhart, emeritus in comparative religion, is having a forthcoming book of his previewed this summer via an online article in The Asia Pacific Jour- nal. The article, “Mount Fuji: Shield of War, Badge of Peace,” may be accessed at www.japanfocus.org and comes from the final chapter of Earhart’s new book.

The book, “Mount Fuji: Icon of Japan,” will be published in October by the University of South Carolina Press. It examines how both the Japanese and Americans used images of the iconic peak to advance their sides’ success during and after World War II. Japanese propaganda used it to promote nationalism, while the American employed images of the mountain to trigger homesickness and encourage surrender.

Earhart, an expert in world religions, retired from WMU in 2000 and now lives in San Diego. He continues to teach online courses in Japanese and world religions.

Trustees grant promotions to forty-five faculty members

The WMU Board of Trustees approved the promotions of 45 faculty members at its June 9 meeting. All of the promotions are effective with the beginning of the 2011-12 academic year.

Promoted to professor were: Massood Z. Atashbar, electrical and computer engineering; Diane K. Dittert, occupational therapy; Richard Junger, communication; Carla M. Koreszky, geosciences; Mahendra S. Lawoti, political science; Vincent Lyon-Callo, anthropology; James A. Muchmore, teaching, learning and educational studies; Caroline B. Webber, family and consumer sciences; Nicholas Witschi, English.

Promoted to associate professor were: Karen Bondarchuk, art; Walter L. Burt, educational leadership, research and technology; William P. Davis, art; Michael A. Famiano, physics; Nicholas Witschi, English.

Promoted to assistant professor were: Karen Bondarchuk, art; Walter L. Burt, educational leadership, research and technology; William P. Davis, art; Michael A. Famiano, physics; Donald Kane, biological sciences; Karen M. Lencendorfer, marketing, Thawseephan (Duke) Leingsibul, marketing; Lessert T. Lihien, computer science; Nichole A. Maury, art; Christine Miremont, economics; Stanley R. Pelkey, music; Heather L. Petrowicz, geosciences; Susan V. Piazza, special education and literacy studies; Patricia L. Reeves, educational leadership, research and technology; David A. Richter, mathematics; Vivian Ruellot, foreign languages; Kenneth H. Smith, music; Patrick Spence, communication; Susan M.B. Steer, University Libraries; Deanna Swoboda, music; Udaya R.A.J. Wagle, public affairs and administration; Yuan-Kang Wang, sociology, and Caroline B. Webber, family and consumer sciences.

Promoted to master faculty specialist were: Matthew J. Elliott, aviation sciences; M. Patricia Fueht, nursing; Martin B. Grant, aviation sciences; Laurie E. Hays, accountancy; Loren Heun, statistics; Wendy Kershner, nursing; Casey D. McKintrick, English; and Kimberly A. Searing, nursing.

Promoted to faculty specialist II were: Kirsty J. Eisenhart, mathematics, and Thomas F. Rienzo, business information systems.
Miller Auditorium and University Theatre announce 2011-12 seasons

Miller Auditorium and University Theatre have announced their 2011-12 season lineups.

Great seats are available for those who purchase subscriptions now. In addition, both venues offer discounts for faculty and staff members.

Six hit musicals will take the stage in Miller, including the 2006 Tony Award winner for Best Musical, "Jersey Boys," March 20-April 1. "Jersey Boys" is about the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame group, the Four Seasons.

Other productions scheduled as part of this year's Broadway and Broadway plus pack-

Retirements OK'd for 11 more faculty, staff members

The retirements of five faculty members and six staff members were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees at its June 9 meeting. Trustees also signed off on four faculty resignations.

The faculty members resigning are: Barbara M. Howes, social work, Aug. 21; Joni L. Jones, nursing, Aug. 21; Heather Koole, speech pathology and audiology, June 30; and Donna Brostek Lee, blindness and low vision studies, Aug. 19.

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CAE associate deans named

Cathryn Bailey and Terrell Hodge have been appointed associate deans in the College of Arts and Sciences, effective June 13.

Bailey, a professor of gender and women’s studies and former director of the program, came to WMU in 2008.

In her new role, she will focus on interdisciplinary programming, international programming, space allocation, and faculty and student success.

Hodge, an associate professor of mathematics, came to WMU in 1999.

In her new role, she will be focusing on budget and personnel, information technology, and the research, creative and scholarly activities of faculty and students.

University approves tenure for 31 faculty members

The WMU Board of Trustees approved the tenure of 31 faculty members at its June 9 meeting, effective with the beginning of the 2011-12 academic year. Their names, titles effective in fall 2011 and departmental affiliations are:

- Karen Bondarchuk, associate professor of art; Walter L. Burt, associate professor of educational leadership, research and technology; Amy B. Curtis, associate professor of physician assistant; William P. Davis, associate professor of art; Thomas N. Edmonds, faculty specialist II of finance and commercial law; Michael A. Famiano, associate professor of physics; M. Patricia Fuehr, master faculty specialist of nursing; Donald Kane, associate professor of biology; Thomas R. Pelkey, associate professor of music; Terrell Hodge, an associate professor of the program, came to WMU in 2008.

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ages are “My Fair Lady” Oct. 18 and 19; “Cirque Dreams Holidaze” Nov. 29 and 30; and the five-time Tony-nominated hit musical “Rock of Ages” Jan. 31, and four-time Tony Award-winning "In the Heights" Feb. 24.

The Flex Pass Series includes all of the Broadway and Broadway plus productions, as well as eclectic offerings such as a show by the Harlem Gospel Choir, a salute to the Oscars by WMU’s Gold Company, the comedy of Bob Newhart, Christmas concerts by Kenny Rogers and Celtic Thunder, and the family friendly ballet "Fairstyle Fantasy."

University Theatre, which features WMU’s talented theatre students, will bring a participatory production of "The Rocky Horror Show" to the stage, along with world-class guest artists, provocative dramas, hit musicals and award-winning comedies.

Its season will start with "References to Salvador Dali Make Me Hot" Sept. 29-Oct. 2. Followed by Noël Coward's witty comedy, "Blithe Spirit" Oct. 6-16. To round out the season, the Tony Award-winning musical "Hair" will be performed April 12-21. Subscription packages for the 2011-12 theatre season are on sale now and may be ordered by calling (269) 387-6222. Visit www.wmich.edu/theatre for details.

Students explore careers through business externships

More than 50 Haworth College of Business students spent the month of May job shadowing business professionals as part of the 2-year-old BusinessExternship Program.

The program, developed to help first- and second-year students build on their education, matched business students interested in particular occupations with professionals already working in those fields. The students observe the business environment, tasks and responsibilities of the professionals during one- to five-day externships.

This year, 97 externships were offered at 49 different work sites. The program is coordinated by Geralyn Heystek and Jessie Wagner, career advisors with the business college’s Career Center. They created the externship program after noting that some students have trouble engaging in their education until they discover an academic major and career path that is a good fit for them.

Season subscription packages are on sale now, as are Flex Pass subscriptions, which allow patrons to combine four or more events from the entire season and save $5 off each ticket. Single-show tickets will go on sale several weeks before each performance.

For more information about individual performances or subscription options, visit www.miller auditorium.com or call the Miller Auditorium Ticket Office at (269) 387-2300 or (800) 228-9858.

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Geralyn Heystek, left, and Jessie Wagner, right, visit with the students participating in externships at Haworth Inc. in Holland, Mich. (Photo courtesy of the Haworth College of Business)
University signs on to help GRCC students earn associate degrees

WMU is one of four Michigan universities that inked an unprecedented reverse transfer agreement June 13 with Grand Rapids Community College, enabling students to earn an associate degree by combining their GRCC credits with those earned at the school to which they transferred.

WMU joined Davenport, Ferris State and Grand Valley State universities in signing the agreement, which makes it possible for students who have earned at least 45 credits at GRCC to apply for a retroactive associate degree using the credits earned at their four-year transfer school. It takes 60 credits to earn a GRCC associate degree.

WMU President John M. Dunn was on hand for the signing ceremony, along with GRCC President Steven Ender and the presidents of the other participating universities. State lawmakers and area business people also attended the event. The initiative grew out of a brainstorming session with Talent 2025, a coalition of Michigan educators and business leaders working to enhance Michigan’s future workforce.

According to GRCC officials, about 1,000 students leave the school every year having earned 45 credits or more, but without earning enough for a degree. The new agreement allows them to combine credits earned at two schools to add an important credential to their resume.

That credential also can serve as a safeguard for students who may not complete their four-year degree before entering the work force.

Major changes made in WMU’s withdrawal policy

Beginning with the current summer session, students wanting to withdraw from a course have only two options: student-initiated withdrawal within a specific time period at the beginning of a session or semester; and thereafter, Hardship Panel-approved withdrawal.

A previous option of appealing to an instructor for approval to withdraw is no longer available.

Following the period for student-initiated withdrawal, all requests to withdraw must be made to and approved by the Hardship Panel.

Qualifying as hardships for consideration by the panel are: physical or mental illness; serious injury to the student or a close family member; death of a close family member; an act of violence; and other serious circumstances mostly or wholly beyond the student’s control.

Students are strongly encouraged to consult with the University ombuds before initiating a hardship-based withdrawal appeal. International students also are encouraged to consult with staff in the Haenicke Institute’s Office of International Admissions and Services.

More details and examples are available at www.wmich.edu/registrar/records/withdraw on the Registrar’s Office website.

Direct questions to the Office of the Ombuds.

Four named Frostic Fellows

Four doctoral candidates have been awarded spring 2011 Frostic Doctoral Fellowships. They are Reem El Asoleh, paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging; Stephanie Evergreen, evaluation; Melanie Kintz, political science; and Tova Samuels, chemistry.

Frostic Doctoral Fellowships are given twice annually by the Graduate College. They are made possible by an endowment from the estate of the late Gwen Frostic, a poet, artist, naturalist and WMU alumna. The competitive fellowships assist doctoral students in all fields with dissertation expenses, including tuition and fees, materials and travel.