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 Kelly, public safety.

Families urged to host Japanese visitors

The Haenicke Institute is seeking 10 “friendship families” to befrend Japanese 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.

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 honors college’s Academically Talented Youth Program.

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

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 $9,606 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.
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.

“Instead of online learning being 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 Loberg 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 spring semester, students 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.
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 order 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-
ages are “My Fair Lady” Oct. 18 and 19; “Cirque Dreams Holidaze” Nov. 29 and 30; 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 Broad-
way 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 “Fantasy Fantasies.”

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.

All of the faculty members who are retiring are doing so with emeritus status. Their names, positions, years of continuous service and effective dates of retirement are: Suzanne Hedstrom, counselor education and counseling psychology, 23 years, April 30, 2012; Charles E. Hines Jr., accountant, 15 years, Aug. 17, 2012; Catherine Julien (posthumous retirement), history, 15 years, May 15; Trent P. Kenston, music, 39 years, April 30, 2012; and Frederick F. MacDonald, social work, 26 years, June 30, 2012.

The staff members retiring are: Brenda A. Brewer, history, 22 years, Aug. 31; Greg J. Brown, Facilities Management-custodial and support services, 34 years, June 30; Sharon M. Dwan, institutional research, 16 years, June 12; Susan S. Kremer, Office of the Vice President for Business and Finance, 39 years, June 30; Jan M. Prange, Facilities Management-landscape services, 20 years, June 30; and Mary Swart, WMU-Traverse City, 13 years, June 30.

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 fine arts and commercial law; Michael A. Fiamiano, associate professor of physics; M. Patricia Fuehr, master faculty specialist of nursing; Donald Kane, associate professor of biologi-
cal sciences; Wendy Kehninger, master faculty specialist of nursing; Karen M. Lancen- dorfer, associate professor of marketing; Thaweephan Leingibul, associate professor of marketing; Leszek T. Lilien, associate professor of computer science; Nichole A. Maury, associate professor of art; Casey D. McKinnick, master faculty specialist of consumer science.

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.millerauditorium.com or call the Miller Auditorium Ticket Office at (269) 387-2300 or (800) 228-9858. 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.

In season will start with “References to Salvador Dalí Make Me Hot” Sept. 22-Oct. 2, followed by Noel Coward’s witty comedy, “Blithe Spirit” Oct. 6-16. To round out the season, the Tony Award-winning musical “Hairspray” 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.

CAS 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.

Students explore careers through business externships

Gerald Hayt, left, and Jessi Wagner, right, visit with the students participating in externships at Haworth Inc. in Holland, Mich. (Photo courtesy of the Haworth College of Business)

More than 50 Haworth College of Busi-
ness students spent the month of May job shadowing business professionals as part of the 2-year-old Business Externship 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 Gerald Hayt and Jessi 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.

Program.

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- Christine Moser, associate professor of economics; Stanley R. Pelkey, associate professor of music; Heather L. Petcovic, associate professor of geosciences; Mary E. Peterson, faculty specialist II of speech pathology and audiology; Susan V. Piazza, associate professor of special education and literary studies; Patricia L. Reeves, associate professor of educational leadership, research and technology; David A. Richter, associate professor of mathematics; Thomas S. Rienzo, faculty specialist II of business information systems; Viviane Ruedot, associate professor of foreign languages; Kimberly A. Searing, master faculty specialist of nursing; Kenneth H. Smith, associate professor of music; Patric Spence, associate professor of communications; Susan M. B. Steuer, associate professor of Library Sciences; Donna Swoboda, associate professor of business; Udaya R. A. J. Wagle, associate professor of public affairs and administration; Yuan-Kang Wang, associate professor of sociology; Caroline B. Webber, associate professor of family and consumer science.
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; other serious circumstances 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 and 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.