Meeting set to explain valuable new fellowship

WMU is offering a new option for people to become part of a national effort to reform the way math and science are taught in the United States—the W.K. Kellogg Foundation’s Woodrow Wilson Michigan Teaching Fellowship Program. The University is one of six Michigan universities now accepting applications for entry into the program, which is open to career changers who already hold undergraduate degrees in the arts and sciences as well as recent alumni and students who will graduate this year.

Applications for the program are due Nov. 17. Proposed projects are due Nov. 15 and April 1 for travel and total project budget.

The funds are intended to bridge the gap that often exists between research-stage technologies and technologies that are ready to be licensed by existing companies. For details, visit www.wmich.edu/research/ip/technology/tech-dev-fund.html or contact Michelle Metro-Roland at (269) 387-5890.

WMU seeking proposals for East Campus development

Efforts to revitalize the historic East Campus have moved to a new phase, with WMU seeking proposals from private firms to find new uses for the area that is the University’s birthplace.

WMU is accepting letters of interest from firms that want additional details about the area’s potential and a tour before submitting redevelopment proposals. The action follows a two-year effort by a campus and community task force charged with finding a way to revitalize the 35-acre tract and five buildings that were built in the early 20th century. To be included in the selection process, questions must be posed in writing and letters of interest submitted by 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 25.

All proposals will be held in confidence until contract awards have been made. The eventual use of these buildings does not have to be University related, but it cannot run counter to the mission of WMU,” says Bob Miller, associate vice president for community outreach, who co-chaired the task force with David Dakin, director of campus planning.

“arital architectural integrity of any building selected for redevelopment must be preserved, but other than that, we’re open to any economically viable idea,” Miller said.

Development calls for the University to retain ownership of the land itself, but ownership of the buildings can be transferred to allow developers to take advantage of the full range of tax incentives and development tools that are available for private developers but not available to WMU because it is a public institution that is not assessed taxes.

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Accreditation efforts appreciated

A Universitywide thank-you celebration is scheduled for 3:30 to 5 p.m. today in the Bernhard Center’s North Ballroom to honor the campus community’s two-year-long efforts associated with the Higher Learning Commission’s 10-year accreditation review of WMU. There will be brief remarks to those assembled at 4 p.m.

President John M. Dunn asks supervisors to ensure that employees will be able to attend the celebration at some point. The review process culminated earlier this week with a visit from the commission’s site-review team. The visit lasted three days and included open meetings, one-on-one interviews, facility tours and an in-depth examination of the University.

Funds available for tech development

Technology Development Funds of up to $20,000 are available to help faculty prepare their inventions for commercialization. Applications are due Nov. 17. Proposed projects must be based on technology or intellectual property disclosed to the research office.

The funds are intended to bridge the gap that often exists between research-stage technologies and technologies that are ready to be licensed by existing companies. For details, visit www.wmich.edu/research/ip/technology/tech-dev-fund.html or contact Michelle Metro-Roland at (269) 387-8218.

Program to address humanities study

Friday, Oct. 22, is the deadline to register for a program on the university in the 21st century and the place of the humanities in professional and vocational education. WMU President John M. Dunn and Vice Chancellor Janet Beer from Oxford Brookes University will lead the discussion.

The event is set for noon to 2 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 28, in the President’s Dining Room of the Bernhard Center. Lunch will be provided by the WMU Center for the Humanities. Visit wmich.edu/humanities/event-rsvp.html to make a reservation.

Internationalization awards offered

Faculty are invited to apply by Nov. 15 for funding to support projects that improve international education at WMU. The awards are available through the International Education Faculty Development Fund, a joint program of the Office of the Provost and Haenicke Institute. The maximum award is $1,200 and cannot exceed 50 percent of the total project budget.

Application deadlines for each academic year are Nov. 15 and April 1 for travel and projects that occur within the following 12 months. Award announcements are made about two weeks after each deadline. For guidelines and an application, visit www.wmich.edu/international or contact Michelle Metro-Roland at michelle.metro-roland@wmich.edu or (269) 387-5890.
Two targeted career fairs scheduled
A Broadcast Media Career and Networking Fair is set for noon to 3 p.m. today on the second floor of Brown and a Nonprofit Opportunity Day is set for 1 to 4 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 26, in the Bernhard Center’s East Ballroom. Visit www.wmich.edu/career and click Calendar of Events for more information.

Development expert to talk on Iraq
Matthew S. Mungus, public affairs and administration, will speak on “Stabilizing Iraq: A View from the Front Lines of Democratic Development” at 7 p.m. today in the Fetzer Center’s Parney Auditorium. Mungus spent 2009-10 in Iraq as a senior governance specialist with the U.S. Department of State.

Practical aspects of math explored
Ivars Peterson, director of publications at the Mathematical Association of America, will show how math can manifest itself in streetscapes, sculptures, architectural structures and more during an illustrated presentation titled “Geometreks” at 4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 22, in 1110 Rood.

Comic relief coming to campus
WMU students will present a free night of comic relief Saturday, Oct. 23, in Miller Auditorium by sponsoring “The Ques of Comedy.” The show will feature performances by Joe Torry and other professional comedians as well as student comics. It will begin at 7 p.m. and be followed by a comedy workshop and question-and-answer session with the performers from 9 to 10 p.m.

Still time to give blood, get shots
Members of the University community and public can help WMU win this year’s WMU-CMU American Red Cross Blood Challenge by donating at drives taking place from 11 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. today in the Bernhard Center; Friday, Oct. 22, in Garneau-Harvey; and Thursday, Oct. 28, in the Bernhard Center.

Also, employees may get vaccinations against the flu, meningitis and whooping cough. Walk-in is basis at the St. 23. at clinics from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 26, in D120 Engineering and Applied Sciences Building and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 10, in the Student Recreation Center.

Social media Keystone talk topic
How businesses can interact in a positive way with social media will be the subject of the Friday, Oct. 29, Keystone Community Bank Breakfast Series lecture. Jason Kehrter, chief problem solver at the Image Group, will speak at 8 a.m. in the Dean’s Conference Room of Schneider. The free event begins with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Reservations are required by calling (269) 387-6259.

Renowned taiko performer to visit
Japanese-style drumming will take center stage when the Kenny Endo Taiko Ensemble performs at 8:15 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 3, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. Tickets cost $5. Additionally, Endo will present a free lecture and demonstration from 4 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 4, in R1004 of the Richmond Center for Visual Arts.

Haunted hall to benefit charities
WMU students will hold their annual haunted hall Thursday through Saturday, Oct. 28-30, in Eldridge-Fox. The public will have a night of frightful fun, and the proceeds will benefit local charities.

This year’s haunting will take place from 6 to 10 p.m. Thursday and 9 p.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday. For children age 15 and under, a mini-haunted hall as well as games and art activities will be available from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

The entry fee on Friday and Saturday is $6 or three canned goods per person. The fee on discount Thursday is $5 or two canned goods per person.

Event to highlight WMU research, related resources
Research and related resources at WMU will be highlighted during a Research and Dessert Open House from 1 to 4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 22, in the Bernhard Center’s East Ballroom. Visit www.wmich.edu/research for more information or to register, visit www.wmich.edu/career. Registration is encouraged to plan for seating and order desserts for the event. For more information or to register, visit www.wmich.edu/research or call (269) 387-6205.

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Jobs
Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources Web site at www.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.

Writer finalist for national book prize
Jaimy Gordon, English, has been selected as a finalist for the National Book Award. Gordon was named one of five finalists in the fiction category for her novel “Lord of Misrule.” Last year, WMU alumnus Bonnie Jo Campbell was also a finalist in fiction.

The National Book Awards are given by writers to established and emerging authors who represent the best in U.S. fiction, nonfiction, poetry and young people’s literature. “Lord of Misrule,” published in November by McPherson & Company, is a darkly realistic novel about a young woman living through a year of horse racing while everyone’s best-laid plans go brutally wrong.

Gordon joined the faculty 1981 and has been compared to such writers of the American demimonde as Nathaniel West, Damon Runyon and Eudora Welty. Her third novel, “Bogeywoman,” was on the Los Angeles Times Best Books List for 2000.

Professor’s theories widely recognized
Susan M. Hoffmann, political science, is garnering attention in public policy and banking circles as the author of a book that argues the Federal Home Loan Bank System did not contribute to the current foreclosure crisis.

Hoffmann’s timely book, “Mission Expansion in the Federal Home Loan Bank System,” was co-written with Mark K. Cassell from Kent State University and released in October by SUNY Press.

The authors provide an in-depth study of the Federal Home Loan Bank System, a little known but important wholesale bank. A government-sponsored enterprise such as Fannie Mae, it serves and is owned by most of the U.S. banks and thrifts.

Hoffmann came to WMU in 1999 and is director of the Institute of Government and Politics. She is a former practicing city planner with expertise in public administration, the policy process and urban politics.

Sociologist edits new book on crime
Ronald Kramer, sociology, is one of the editors of “State Crime in the Global Age,” which was released in March by Williams Press. The book brings together original writings from leading criminology scholars to explore the many ways the use and abuse of state power results in grave social harms.

“State Crime” breaks new ground by examining the ways globalization has intensified potential for nations to engage in crime. It developed out of a 2008 conference organized by Kramer and his co-editors, William J. Chambliss from George Mason University and Raymond Michalowski from Northern Arizona University. Kramer, who directs the criminal justice program, wrote two chapters for the book. Almauna Dawn L. Rorke contributed one chapter.

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For more information or to register, visit www.wmich.edu/research or call (269) 387-6205.

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Western Michigan University
Hybrid electric vehicles research gets big boost

Battery and hybrid electric vehicle drive testing in West Michigan took a significant leap forward Oct. 7, when Eaton Corp. and WMU formally opened a laboratory that is part of the University’s celebrated Center for Advanced Vehicle Design and Simulation, or CAV-DES.

The new CAV-DES Hybrid Electric Research Center was announced last December. This unique lab is designed to be one of Michigan’s premier sites for research into battery and hybrid electric vehicle drive testing facilities.

The cost for the lab’s development and first year of operation comes in at just over $1 million, with most of that support coming from Eaton. The lab will be a valuable resource where the hybrid electric drive business group at Eaton and WMU’s engineering college can collaborate to promote innovative ideas and research solutions for challenges associated with commercial and military hybrid drives. The focus of the lab will be on systems integration.

WMU well represented in art chosen for governor’s residence

The work of four artists with current or former WMU ties has been selected for display in the Michigan Governor’s Mansion for one year that will end in August 2011.

Oil paintings by Ellen L. Armstrong, academic advisor for the Frostic School of Art, and acrylic and mixed media work by part-time art instructor Paul Nehring are on display, as well as photographs by student George Crow. In addition, former WMU part-time art instructor Brenda Snipe has her work exhibited.

Their creations are among the work of 37 Michigan artists whose art was chosen. Selected artists passed an initial screening process, with the final choices of artwork made by Gov. Jennifer Granholm and First Gentleman Daniel G. Mulhern.

Diane M. Sayers, Dining Services—Burnham; James Henry, social work, directs the Children’s Trauma Assessment Center, which is a program of the College of Health and Human Services and the college's affiliated United Clinics. The center assesses the impact that traumatic events and suspected fetal alcohol exposure have on children.

Trauma center gets $1 million to reduce impact of violence

WMU’s Southwest Michigan Children’s Trauma Assessment Center has been awarded a $1 million, four-year grant through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention’s Safe Start Promising Approaches Initiative.

The grant, awarded in partnership with New Genesis, the Kalamazoo Hispanic Council and several other community agencies, will fund Project Partnering to Effectively Reduce the Impact of Violence to Children in Kalamazoo. Partners in the project will first identify children exposed to violence in Kalamazoo County. They will then use a tiered-intervention approach to reduce the impact of that violence on the children’s neurodevelopmental, relational and emotional progress.

James Henry, social work, directs the Children’s Trauma Assessment Center, which is a program of the College of Health and Human Services and the college’s affiliated United Clinics. The center assesses the impact that traumatic events and suspected fetal alcohol exposure have on children.

Service

The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service during October.

35 Years—Ruth A. DeYoung, Dining Services—Valley #2.
30 Years—Dennis E. Boyle, information technology.
25 Years—Laverne Jones, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Patricia A. Purman, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; William E. Rogers, Haworth College of Business; Julie A. Scott, information technology; Terri D. Stowers, University Libraries; and Lois J. Tolhurst, University Libraries.
20 Years—Roy A. Middleton, dining service—Bernhard Center; Carolyn R. Nosack, Facilities Management-recycling; Diane M. Sayers, Dining Services—Burnham; Bryan K. Sutton, Facilities Management-maintenance services; Tony M. Thompson, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; and Moon Walters, Dining Services—Berkner Center.
15 Years—Don R. Beyer, intercollegiate athletics; Susan Ann Nap, College of Arts and Sciences; Debra K. Stoyanoff, Mallinson Institute for Science Education; and Kathryn A. Wright, geosciences.
10 Years—John M. Coffey, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Rainer B. Liebert, Sincerus Health Center; Peggy L. Miller, Human Resources; Nancy S. Wilson, public safety; and Michael D. Wolfe, West Hills Athletic Club.
Five Years—Kent A. Buchanan, Miller Auditorium; Melissa K. Kuepfer, student conduct; Nicole Marie Lockwood, admissions; Theresa L. McGee, biological science; Kara J. Nuimser, Bernhard Center; Ken R. O’Connor, Facilities Management-maintenance services; Nicholas K. Petruska, catering; Terri L. Riembald, Student Activities and Leadership Programs; and Shari L. Rose, admissions.

HP grant will boost global educational collaboration

The University is one of 30 educational organizations across 11 nations selected to participate in HP’s Catalyst Initiative. A global social innovation program, the initiative aims to develop more effective approaches to education in the STEM disciplines—science, technology, engineering and mathematics education.

It will create five global consortia in 2010, each focusing on a specific innovation theme for transforming STEM education, building on the Obama Administration’s “Educate to Innovate” coalition that seeks to improve national outcomes in STEM subjects.

Prina Ari-Gur, mechanical and aeronautical engineering, will direct the effort at WMU. The University will receive an award valued at more than $150,000. The award will include $20,000 in cash as well as equipment, software and services. Ari-Gur’s team will use the award to create a 3-D virtual laboratory for engineering and applied sciences education.

The award and the 3-D virtual lab will allow the University to play a significant role in the HP Catalyst “New Learner” consortium, which the company calls “an elite cohort that will be exploring what the future of STEM+ learning and teaching can be.”
On Campus with Bill Emmert

Bill Emmert has described himself as a “tinkerer” for as long as he can remember. A WMU mechanic for almost 10 years, he recalls standing in his parents’ driveway when he was as young as six years old watching his father fix equipment and handling tools. “My mom and dad would keep stuff around for me to tinker with. I love to fix cars, motorcycles. I usually buy a project and fix it up for myself. Buying something more current helps me stay fresh with the new technology that I’m not used to,” he says, admitting he has two pickup trucks and a Volkswagen Beetle in his garage right now that he’s fixing. Emmert and fellow mechanic Michael Welenga maintain more than 300 pieces of equipment for the University, including all vehicles and about two dozen servicing generators on campus. About the only equipment they aren’t responsible for at WMU is small lawn equipment, which is handled by landscape services. Their jobs are overseen by garage supervisor Jeffrey Alexander and coordinated by office associate Carolyn Lynn. “I like working with the people on campus and for the people on campus. It’s a team effort,” Emmert says. “When something breaks, we’re called to fix it.”

His busiest time is the fall when the University purchases new vehicles and older models have to be fixed for re-sale. During this time of the year, all of the University’s generators are checked and updated and its snowplows are inspected and readied for the winter. “Plus, we have to take care of the day-to-day maintenance,” Emmert adds. He was a mechanic prior to coming to WMU and also worked for construction and landscaping businesses. When time allows, he enjoys fishing and camping and taking day trips with his wife, Nancy, who is a bus driver for Mattawan Consolidated Schools. The couple lives in Mattawan and has two grown children and a 19-month-old grandson. “Family is a big part of our lives, and we try to make time to be together,” Emmert says.

WMUK emphasizes member during fall campaign

The University’s public radio station is trying something new during this year’s fall campaign. Instead of setting a dollar amount for fall donations, WMUK has set a goal of having 2,000 people become new or renewing members. The station made the change to further reduce on-air pledge time, with the expectation that donations from 2,000 members would provide enough support to keep WMUK going until its next spring campaign.

The on-air portion of this year’s “quiet” campaign began Oct. 16 and will end Friday, Oct. 22. As of 8:30 a.m. yesterday, 823 people were needed for the station to achieve its membership goal. The 1,175 new and renewing members had given or pledged $116,484 of the $180,000 in gifts WMUK hopes to raise this fall.

Pre-drive mail-in contributions and online gifts kicked off the campaign. During the on-air portion of the drive, station hosts have focused on reporting the number of members who have called in rather than on the amount of money raised.

Go to www.wmuk.org to update your membership status and make a gift or to review the Fund Drive Ticker, which shows how well the station is doing so far in the 2010 fall campaign.

Meeting set to explain valuable new fellowship

“This is an amazing career opportunity for alumni and community members who are interested in changing careers and also for students graduating this year in STEM fields,” says Marcia Fetters, teaching, learning and educational studies, who co-directs Wilson Fellows. “Fellows are trained in an intense mentorship program and during their first three years around the state. Through the fellowship high-need districts is part of the program. The first round of fellowship awards will be announced in April. Fellows will begin their studies in May 2011. A three-year commitment to teaching in one of Michigan’s high-need districts is part of the program. The first cohort of fellows will seek teaching positions for fall 2012 employment around the state. Through the fellowship program and during their first three years of teaching, they will receive intensive support and mentoring to encourage them to continue their professional development and work with Michigan youth.

Visit www.wmich.edu/education/fellowships for more information. Visit www.wt teachingfellowship.org to apply or obtain complete details.

Elaborate art open house set

The Frostic School of Art will hold its third annual open house from 5 to 9 p.m. Friday, Oct. 22, to reintroduce its programs, facilities, students and faculty to the community and area high school students. There will be demonstrations, presentations, activities and student exhibitions throughout the Richmond Center for Visual Arts and South Kohrman. The school’s new director, Patricia Villalobos Echeverria, will be in attendance greeting visitors and participating in some of the activities. Otherspecific “can’t miss” events include a bronze pour by sculpture faculty, the firing of a woodkiln by ceramics faculty and learning-style explorations by art education faculty. Attendees also will be able to tour the Richmond Center’s art galleries and enjoy music by the Kalamazoo Laptop Orchestra as well as complimentary refreshments.

In addition, attendees will be able to buy and make art as part of a variety of special activities slated to raise funds for the Frostic School of Art. Visit www.wmich.edu/art/home.php for complete details.

Woodworking tools for sale

WMU Surplus Sales has several pieces of woodworking equipment, tools and many miscellaneous items available for sale on a special sealed-bid basis. Items will be on view in the old Upholstery Shop on Oakwood Drive, across the street from the Seelye Center, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 23; 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 26; and 9 a.m. to noon Friday, Oct. 29. For details, visit www.obf.wmich.edu/logistical-services/stores/surplus.html or call Surplus Sales at (269) 387-8829.