Summer orientation under way

Some 8,000 people, including beginning and transfer students as well as their parents, will be attending the University's summer orientation programs.

Twelve 1-1/2-day orientation sessions have been set for beginning students. They started June 7 and will conclude July 1. Additionally, 600 transfer students will take part in the 2010 transfer transition program. It features three one-day sessions, the last two of which will be held July 23 and Aug. 13.

Two commencement ceremonies set

WMU will conduct its summer commencement Saturday, June 26, in Miller Auditorium. Visit www.wmich.edu/commencement for details about the two ceremonies that have been scheduled.

The first ceremony will start at 9 a.m. and is for students in Extended University Programs and the colleges of Education and Human Development, Engineering and Applied Sciences, and Health and Human Services.

The second ceremony will start at noon and is for students in the Haworth College of Business and the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Aviation, and Fine Arts.

Financial experts coming to campus

TIAA-CREF representatives will be on campus Tuesday through Thursday, July 20-22. Private consultations with these representatives may be scheduled to discuss investment or retirement planning issues.

To schedule an appointment, visit www.tiaa-cref.org and click Consultations and Seminars under Products and Services. If you are unable to register online, call the scheduling group at (800) 732-8353.

Seven students named Frostic Fellows

Seven doctoral candidates are 2010 recipients of Gwen Frostic Doctoral Fellowships. The competitive fellowships assist with dissertation expenses, including tuition and fees. This year, fellowships ranged in amount from $1,400 to $4,000 and went to:

Berta Carrasco de Miguel, a Spanish student from Spain; Ravin Kodikara, a physics student from Lansign, Mich.; Lars Kohler, a chemistry student from Portage, Mich.; Minghong Liu, a chemistry student from China; Miles Rogers, a biological sciences student from Warren, Mich.; Buddhika Senarath-Dassanayake, a physics student from Sri Lanka; and Imad Zyout, an electrical and computer engineering student from Kalamazoo.

Western News going on hiatus soon

The final issue of Western News for the summer will be distributed on Thursday, June 24. The deadline to submit items for that issue is 5 p.m. Friday, June 18. Visit www.wmich.edu/news during the hiatus to stay up to date on University news.

Enyedi, Luderer selected for dean posts

Two veteran WMU administrators have been named to dean positions.

Alexander J. Enyedi will head the College of Arts and Sciences while Jack R. Luderer will serve as interim head of the school of medicine. Luderer also was appointed as associate dean of research for the medical school and will remain in that role after the national search for its founding dean concludes.

Enyedi, College of Arts and Sciences senior associate dean, and a professor of biological sciences, was chosen following a national search. His appointment, effective July 1, is pending approval by WMU's governing board.

Luderer came to the University in 1993. He was chair of the Department of Biological Sciences from 2001 until his appointment as associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in 2004. He has been the college's senior associate dean since 2008.

A specialist in plant physiology and an active researcher, Enyedi has received numerous federal and corporate grants and published 40 journal articles and abstracts on his work. He received the WMU Alumni Teaching Excellence Award in 2000.

Luderer came to WMU in 2000 as associate vice president for research. He has been serving for the past five years as executive director of the Biosciences Research and Commercialization Center and was named to his new posts June 1.

He is a board-certified medical specialist in internal medicine with subspecialty certification in clinical pharmacology and a long-time medical researcher.

In addition to his BRCC role, Luderer has spent the past two years working with President John M. Dunn and the Kalamazoo medical community to establish a privately funded school of medicine at WMU.

Obama visits campus to address Kalamazoo Central grads

President Barack Obama spoke June 7 before an enthusiastic, sometimes deafening capacity audience of more than 5,000 people in University Arena for Kalamazoo Central High School's 2010 graduation ceremony. Following his commencement address, Obama remained on stage to shake hands with each of the 292 new graduates as they received their diplomas. Earlier in the week, a Marine helicopter that ferries the president did a rehearsal landing near the Student Recreation Center. (Full photo by Mike Larka and right photo by Cheryl P. Rollandi)

Effort launched to increase educational opportunity

The presidents of six southwest Michigan community colleges and WMU met June 3 to launch a consortium aimed at expanding and strengthening higher education opportunities for college students throughout the region.

Members of the new consortium committed as a group to collaborate and share resources in a way that will lead to expanded college opportunities and increase the level of preparedness of the work force across the region. A formal signing ceremony held at WMU sealed the agreement that was developed during a regular series of informal meetings the presidents have held over the past two years.

The ceremony was hosted by John M. Dunn, president of WMU, and included G. Edward Haring, president of Kalamazoo Valley Community College; Jack R. Nesbary, president of Muskegon Community College; Marilyn J. Schlack, president of Dowling College; William J. Schrage, president of Lake Michigan College; and Robert J. Schrage, president of Southwestern Michigan College.

The ceremony was attended by American President's Council, which is the body of presidents from the Kalamazoo area that is represented at the signing ceremony by Patricia K. Morgenstern, the college's associate dean of instruction.

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Thirty-four faculty members receive tenure

The WMU Board of Trustees approved the tenure of 34 faculty members May 26. The tenured appointments are effective starting with fall 2010-11. The newly tenured faculty and their disciplines are:

- Fritz Allhoff, philosophy; Allison L. Baer, special education and literacy studies; Kathileen M. Baker, geography; Elizabeth Braden, art; Kenneth Prewitt, music; Eli Rubin, history; Maira Bundza, University Libraries; Leen M. Baker, geography; Elizabeth Braden, art; Kenneth Prewitt, music; Eli Rubin, history.
- David J. Meade, manufacturing engineering; Maureen Mickus, occupational therapy; David W. Montgomery, music; Ginger Y. Owen, art; Kenneth Prewitt, music; Eli Rubin, history.
- David Schuster, physics; Scott Slawinski, English; Jacinda M. Swanson, political science; Mary-Louise Tottot, art; Slobodan Urdaevic, industrial and manufacturing engineering; Maarten Vonhof, biological sciences; and Kristina Wirtz, anthropology.

Hemphill, who retired in 1999, remains widely known as a national and international conference presenter, consultant and writer.

Since retiring, she has edited the second edition of “Assessments in Occupational Therapy Mental Health: An Integrative Approach.” In addition, she earned a Doctor of Ministry degree in 2004, and teaches courses in spirituality in the Kalamazoo area.

Professor editing physics publication

Charles Henderson, physics and Mallinson Institute for Science Education, is serving as the Physics Education Research editor for the American Journal of Physics. Henderson has been research editor since November 2008.

Published by the American Association of Physics Teachers, the eleventh annual issue of the journal is an archival publication, edited to serve teachers of advanced-level physics instruction as well as researchers in the fields of physics and physics education.

Henderson, as WMU faculty member since 2002, was on sabbatical this spring semester as a Fullbright Scholar working with the Finnish Institute for Educational Research at the University of Jyväskylä. Much of his current research is focused on the development of theories and strategies for promoting change in the teaching of science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects.

Researcher chosen national fellow

Jessa Spybrook, education leadership, research and technology, received a 2010-11 National Academy of Education/Spencer Postdoctoral Fellowship, which includes a $55,000 award.

This year, 20 fellows were selected from a competitive pool of more than 160 applicants from scholars of education across the nation. The fellowships are administered by the National Academy of Education and support early-career scholars working in critical areas of education research.

Spybrook came to WMU in 2008. She is the principal investigator for a $300,000 project funded by the U.S. Department of Education’s Institute of Education Sciences. She examines the changes in methodology that occur between the design and implementation of field trials in education.
Variety of construction, remodeling projects continue across campus

Work on a variety of campus projects is continuing this summer, but none of the work is expected to create significant road closures or work disruptions.

Ongoing projects of note involve both the Bernhard Center and Ellsworth.

The Bernhard Center is adding functionality to some rooms and refreshing other areas just in time for summer orientation.

Phase II of the project enlarged the main entrance and stairwell and was completed June 2, Phase II, remodeling of the entire first floor, will be done by mid-August.

"In the last couple of years, we've put millions of dollars into things like chilling towers and a new roof, but that's not what people see. Now we're doing the more visible stuff," says Mitchell Beare, Bernhard Center manager. "This building is used for a lot of events for prospective students and their parents. They think it reflects what's in our classrooms. We need to update the look, lighting and equipment, so it serves as a showcase facility for recruiting.

Most of the remodeling being done on the center's first floor involves updating furniture, floors and wall paint in the lobby and lounge areas; upgrading 105-7, 158-9 and the Presidents Dining Room; and renovating all of the men's and women's restrooms.

In addition, 157 will be outfitted with new audio and video equipment. The room is primarily used for meetings, and is the campus location for most meetings of the WMU Board of Trustees.

Meanwhile, half of the work scheduled for Ellsworth was completed last month when the third floor was remodeled to accommodate relocation and consolidation of Extended University Programs.

New e-mail service being introduced at five presentations starting next week

Five presentations introducing Webmail Plus, WMU's new collaborative e-mail service, are scheduled for June 14-23.

All sessions are open to anyone with a WMU e-mail account. The June 23 session is intended especially for retirees and emeriti and will be presented by James Gilchrist, vice provost and chief information officer. Ed Khuk, information technology, is scheduled to lead the other four presentations.

Introducing Webmail Plus will be held from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Monday, June 14, in D109 Engineering and Applied Sciences Building; 10:30 a.m. to noon Tuesday, June 15, in Schneider's Brown Auditorium; 2 to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 16, in Schneider's Brown Auditorium; 10:30 a.m. to noon Tuesday, June 22, in Schneider's Brown Auditorium; and 5 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 23, in the Fetzer Center's Putney Auditorium.

WMU has won the prestigious Grunder Prize to a University of Notre Dame scholar for his book, "Sisters and Brothers of the Common Life: The Devotio Moderna and the World of the Later Middle Ages.

The prize was awarded at the 45th International Congress on Medieval Studies at May 15 to John van Engen, the Andrew V. Sams, residence life; Dawn Wesaw, Gear UP Learning Center; and Daoli Zheng, College of Aviation; Tracie N. Sams, residence life; Dawn Wesaw, GEAR UP Learning Center; and Daoli Zheng, information technology.

Five Years—Lynda S. Blake, Human Resources; Katie M. DeBoer John, advancement and legislative affairs; James A. Hopenrupger, College of Fine Arts; and Surangi M. Pradhan, Career and Student Employment Services.

Service

Editor's note: Service anniversaries for July and August will be posted this summer on the Human Resources website and printed in the first full issue of Western News.

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

30 Years—Barbara A. Gustafson, student financial aid and scholarships, and Barbara K. Rhodes, admissions.

25 Years—Susan R. Reed-Williams, information technology; Andrew C. Robins, WMUK Radio; and Tony Y. Woolfork-Barnes, First-Year Experience Programs.

20 Years—David J.I. Kotecki, public safety.

15 Years—Daniel R. Brimmer, Facilities Management-maintenance services; Kristal E. Ehrhardt, special education and literacy studies; Michael Lee Glenn, information technology; John Mackenzie, information technology; and Karen M. Stokes, institutional effectiveness.

10 Years—Kerry L. Cochran, physics; Joshua Grant, information technology; Jennifer Wendling Holm, Graduate College; Jane M. Jacobs, Sincicue Health Center; Sally A. Laws, accounts receivable; Dennis M. McFall, College of Aviation; Tracie N. Sams, residence life; Dawn Wesaw, GEAR UP Learning Center; and Daoli Zheng, information technology.

May 15 to John van Engen, the Andrew V.
University introduces new wellness training series this summer

Human Resources is introducing the University’s new Mind-Body-Work Connection program with a series of four training sessions from June through August.

Registration for the first session, “Working on Wellness at WMU,” are due by 2 p.m. Monday, June 21.

The Mind-Body-Work Connection program is free and open to all employees. It recognizes that if even one component of people’s lives is out of balance, other components such as performance and work attendance will be affected.

Nichele Moses, HR, says the new program will not only improve WMU employees’ knowledge of wellness, but also provide tools they can incorporate into their daily lives that, if applied properly, will result in increased productivity and decreased absenteeism.

Pre-registration is required for this summer’s four sessions, which are being held from 10:30 a.m. to noon in the Fetzer Center and include refreshments.

Experts in health-related fields will serve as presenters.

The first session is set for Tuesday, June 22, and takes a holistic view of health and wellness. Attendees will learn how to change behaviors, obtain personal happiness, realize contentment, and create a better balance between their work and personal lives.

The remaining sessions in this summer’s series are: “Stress: The Power to Choose,” Wednesday, July 14; “Take Control of Your Health: Being a Good Health Care Consumer,” Thursday, July 29; and “Get Fit the Fun Way: Personal Health and Fitness,” Tuesday, Aug. 17.

Visit www.wmich.edu/hr/development/series for more details or to register. Space is limited, so early registration is encouraged.

Questions should be directed to Moses at nichele.moses@wmich.edu or 387-3650.

Effort launched to increase educational opportunity

“We all agree that there is potential for enormous benefit to our students if, as a group, we are thoughtful and creative about how we leverage existing resources to meet the needs of the populations we serve,” Dunn says. “This is our commitment to work closely together to ensure students have the opportunities they need to realize their goals.”

Among the consortium’s next steps will be a series of meetings in which specific academic programs and ventures will be examined and tailored to the needs of students. Each college will appoint a liaison to the consortium who will be charged with identifying areas of mutual interest with the greatest potential.

Examples of the type of programs that may grow out of the consortium are two pilot dual-enrollment programs serving aviation and engineering students at Kellogg Community College who plan to earn bachelor’s degrees from WMU. Those programs launched in the past 18 months. Similar programs already are in stages of formation and implementation with the other community college partners.

Standing in front of trays of brownie bars, M&M cookies and cinnamon muffin tops, Ruth DeYoung admits she has a sweet job as a University baker.

New attached to the Valley 2 dining hall, DeYoung has spent almost 35 years in WMU Dining Services. She’s worked in every kitchen on campus, including the snack bar that used to be located in Walwood for East Campus students.

During her more than three decades at WMU, DeYoung says she sees the same student preferences in food year after year, although there’s more variety now in food offerings.

“They still like pizza, burgers and ice cream,” she says. “But the quantity of desserts has decreased.”

DeYoung notes that recent trends in her industry are to provide more self-serve options as well as to prepare more fresh items in front of students. In addition, the University regularly updates its dining halls. For instance, the Valley 2 hall was remodeled in the last 10 years, improving its dessert counter and adding carpeting to keep the noise down.

Individuals also make a difference within Dining Services.

“Sometimes I tweak the recipes,” DeYoung says. “After a while, if something isn’t working there are things you can do that you learn along the way.”

That might include changing the amount of an ingredient or adjusting a cook time or temperature. Years of experience have helped DeYoung take recipes and find ways to make them even better.

She and her husband, Steve, live in Kalamazoo and have two grown sons and a four-year-old granddaughter. A passion they have as a couple is working with sound reinforcement (managing sound systems).

“Volunteering for more than 20 years for the Kalamazoo Christian Schools and the Singing Crusaders of Kalamazoo has been such a blessing,” she says. “Seeing the talents of children singing and acting is very uplifting.”

While DeYoung says she doesn’t do a lot of baking at home, her hobbies do include crocheting and crafts. She enjoys recycling materials into new projects, such as knitting dishrags from strings that have been used to bundle towels used in the University kitchens.

“My love is crafts. I make a new Christmas ornament every year,” she says.

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