Applications due for teaching program

Faculty members and graduate students are reminded that the deadline tomorrow, April 23, to apply for one of the limited spots in the Workshop on Teaching Ethics May 19-21 in the Bernhard Center. The workshop is free of charge to those accepted. Visit www.wmich.edu/ethics for complete information, or contact Sandra Borden at sandra.borden@wmich.edu for details.

Discussion to focus on sustainability

There are only a few faculty openings left to attend the first Sustainability Across the Curriculum Luncheon set for 12:15 p.m. Tuesday, May 4, in the President’s Dining Room of the Bernhard Center. It is being coordinated by the President’s Universitywide Sustainability Committee to initiate conversations that will help build a learning community around WMU’s sustainability research and teaching.

Those attending will be served a locally sourced veggie lunch and have a chance to help identify challenges and opportunities as well as potential barriers. Reserve a spot by contacting PUSC Chair Harold Glaser at harold.glaser@wmich.edu or 387-2713.

Ethnic survey period ending soon

The deadline for WMU employees to report their race and ethnicity is Friday, April 30. To take this two-question, federally mandated survey, login to GoWMU and click Employee Self Service—the same link used to view paychecks. Then click Personal Information and, lastly, Ethnic Groups.

Fidelity advisors to visit campus

Personal consultations with Fidelity investment advisors will be available in the Bernhard Center Thursdays, May 6 and 20, and Tuesdays, May 11 and 25. To schedule an appointment, visit Fidelity online at www.fidelity.com/atwork/reservations or call (800) 642-7131, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to midnight.

Some required to file Form I-9 online

Human Resources now accepts Employment Eligibility Verifications, commonly known as Form I-9s, online via the Employee Self Service link in GoWMU. Follow the instructions at www.wmich.edu/hr/form-i-9.html to complete the form electronically. Human Resources will no longer process paper Form I-9s for employees whose work location is within Kalamazoo County.

In addition, employees who have an incomplete, incorrect or expired Form I-9 on file or who have a missing Form I-9 should already have been contacted by Human Resources. These employees must update their Form I-9 using this same online process.

The U.S. Department of Labor and Security requires WMU to verify the identity and employment eligibility of all employees via Form I-9 within three business days of the date a person’s employment begins.

WMU tapped to train future air traffic controllers

The Federal Aviation Administration announced April 12 that WMU is one of five schools across the nation being added to the agency’s Air Traffic Collegiate Training Initiative. The AT-CTI program helps recruit candidates for terminal and air traffic controller positions.

Five schools were selected from among 21 schools that submitted applications. Counting the new institutions joining the program, 36 schools are now part of the network, with WMU being the only school from Michigan. In addition to WMU, the four other new schools are Sacramento City College, Florida Institute of Technology College of Aeronautics, Texas State Technical College and Hesston (Kan.) College.

Dave Powell, dean of the WMU College of Aviation, says his unit’s work on the initiative began two years ago, and the training program WMU proposed was built as a partnership operation with Kellogg Community College. The application was submitted with an outline for the training curriculum, and the next steps will be to flesh out the curriculum and address issues of personnel, equipment and class location.

“This is a great opportunity in so many ways,” Powell says. “This is an elite group of schools around the country the FAA is entrusting with this work. We’ll begin by putting some meat on the bones of the outline we developed and reinvigorating our partnership talks with KCC.”

According to the FAA, the proposals submitted were evaluated based on the schools’ ability research and teaching, and the potential barriers. Reserve a spot by contacting PUSC Chair Harold Glaser at harold.glaser@wmich.edu or 387-2713.

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Around Campus

Arbor Day celebration scheduled
WMU will celebrate Arbor Day with a public tree planting at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow, April 23, next to the Health and Human Services Building. The University is also celebrating renewal of its Tree Campus USA designation by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

Local partnerships to be talk topic
Timothy R. Terrentine, outgoing executive director of the Douglass Community Association and soon-to-be executive at Southwest Michigan First, is the next Keystone breakfast series speaker.

Terrentine will discuss “Empowering Community One Partnership at a Time” tomorrow, April 23, in the Dean's Conference Room of Schneider. The event begins with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. followed by the talk at 8 a.m. The required reservations may be made by calling 387-5050.

Conference to present autism info
A free informational conference on autism has been set for tomorrow, April 23. WMU President John M. Dunn will deliver opening remarks at 3 p.m. in 2020 Schneider. Presentations by the conference speakers will follow. For more information, contact Wayne Fuqua at wayne.fuqua@wmich.edu or 387-4474.

Second film, media festival slated
The second annual Third Coast Film and Media Festival will spring to life from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 29, in 2028 Brown. The free festival is a multimedia event featuring diverse categories, including documentaries, videos, 3-D animations and music videos.

Presented by the School of Communication, it highlights the diverse talents of students, primarily from WMU's film, video and media studies program. Visit www.thirdcoastmediafest.com for more information or to submit a project.

Event focuses on ethical leadership
The Haworth College of Business is offering a free conference on ethical leadership from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday, April 30, in the Fetzer Center. "Ethical Leadership: The Competitive Edge in a Rebounding Economy" is the theme for the event.

The conference will feature presentations on "It's Not What We Sell, But What We Stand For," "Practical Ethics in a Global Economy," "Ethical Leadership," "Moral Leadership" and " Toxic Leadership." Reservations are required. Visit www.wmich.edu/business/leadership to register or obtain more information.

Spring commencement set
WMU’s spring commencement exercises will take place during four ceremonies Saturday, May 1.

The ceremonies are as follows: 9 a.m. for the College of Education and Human Development and Extended University Programs; noon for the College of Aviation; 1 p.m. for the colleges of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Fine Arts, and Health and Human Services; and 6 p.m. for the College of Arts and Sciences.

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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.

Norwegian immigrants topic of book
Clifford Davidson, emeritus in English and Medieval Studies, recounts the experiences of Michigan’s Norwegian immigrants and their descendants in a new book. His “Norwegians in Michigan” is the latest in a popular series of volumes called “Discovering the Peoples of Michigan,” which was established by Arthur W. Helweg, emeritus in anthropology.

Davidson retired from WMU in 2003, following more than 37 years of service to the University. He received WMU’s Distinguished Scholar award in 1985 and for many years, helped organize the International Congress on Medieval Studies as well as held key editor positions with two of WMU’s well-known journals: Comparative Drama and Early Drama, Art and Music.

Geologist earns public service award
William B. Harrison III, emeritus in geosciences, received an American Association of Petroleum Geologists Public Service Award during that group’s annual convention April 11-14. It recognizes AAPG member’s public affairs contributions that go above and beyond their normal job responsibilities.

Harrison was cited for having dedicated his professional life to establishing WMU’s Michigan Basin Core Research Laboratory in 1982 and building it into the preeminent source for data on the state’s subsurface geology. He also was praised for helping the University of Latvia modernize after the breakup of the former Soviet Union by securing donations of textbooks and laboratory equipment for its geology department and introducing that department to Western-style lectures.

Harrison came to WMU in 1973 and retired from the faculty in 2003. He has continued on as the core lab’s founding director and also has served for the past five years as an emeritus researcher, focusing on retrieving oil from abandoned Michigan oil fields using alternative drilling techniques.

Staffer helps honor WMU’s Afghanistan, Iraq war veterans
A U.S. flag that flew over a U.S. base in Afghanistan in 2009 was presented to the WMU Board of Trustees during its April 15 meeting, then raised by a color guard during a ceremony honoring the service of WMU veterans. Ed Kluk, left, information technology, presented the flag to Tonya Tolbert, right, chair of the Board of Trustees. Kluk is a lieutenant colonel in the Michigan National Guard and a Bronze Star recipient. (Photo by Mike Janka)
Deadlines set for APA/PSSO spring luncheon, awards

Professional and support staff members will gather for the annual APA/PSSO Awards and Spring Luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday, May 21, in the Bernhard Center Ballroom. The deadline to make reservations is Friday, May 14.

The spring luncheon will include door prizes in addition to staff recognitions by the sponsoring organizations: the Administrative Professional Association and the Professional Support Staff Organization. This year’s theme is “Experience Michigan.” Author Larry Manse, local historian and WMU alumnus, will present the keynote address on “Adventures in Michigan’s Past.”

Ministry With Community will be the featured service project at the event.

Both APA and PSSO are accepting nominations for their annual staff awards.

APA will be presenting its Outstanding Professional, Outstanding New Professional and Tony Griffin Service awards. The nomination deadline is Friday, May 7. Nomination forms will be posted soon on the APA website.

PSSO will be presenting its Service Award to two PSSO members who have demonstrated outstanding service to the organization and the WMU community. The nomination deadline is tomorrow, April 23.

A nomination form is posted at www.wmich.edu/p commodo and www.wmich.edu/pssoso. Both are located on the WMU website. Those unable to access the public, costs $5 for members of APA and PSSO, and $8 for nonmembers. To make a reservation, visit the APA website at www.wmich.edu/apa, download the luncheon flier, complete the reservation form and return the completed form with payment by May 14.

Seim featured on TV today

Richard Seim, a doctoral student in clinical psychology, will be shown talking about his work at 9:30 p.m. today on the Animal Planet show “Weird, True and Freaky,” which is about animal phobias.

Seim researches animal phobia treatments in WMU’s Anxiety Disorders Laboratory. He works under the direction of his faculty advisor, C. Richard Spates, psychology, a nationally known anxiety disorders expert.

Obituary

Patricia S. Williams, a retired student affairs staff member, died March 30 in Kalamazoo. She was 86.

Williams came to WMU in 1970 as a secretary in the mathematics department. She transferred to student affairs in 1973 and worked her way up to administrative assistant II. She retired in 1988 after nearly two decades of service to the University.

While at WMU, Williams was instrumental in decorating and selecting photographs for the Martin Luther King Room in the Bernhard Center.

In accordance with her wishes, cremation has taken place and a memorial celebration will follow in the near future. Memorial contributions may be made to the Kalamazoo Humane Society.

Trusted faculty approve, staff retirements

The retirements of two faculty members and three staff members were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees at its April 15 meeting. Trustees also signed off on changes to two previously announced retirement dates.

All of the faculty members who are retiring are doing so with emeritus status.

Richard L. Hodges, finance and accounting professor, 42-1/2 years, effective Dec. 21; and Gary L. Wegenke, change in retirement date, dean of the College of Education and Human Development and professor of educational leadership, research and technology, 12-1/2 years, effective Dec. 31.

The staff members retiring are: Carl M. “Bud” Bender, vice president for development, 13-1/2 years, effective Aug. 31; Charlotte G. Kelley, office associate in the Office of the Vice President for Research, 25 years, effective June 30; and Burnie J. Tabb, credit and collection clerk in accounts receivable, 12-1/2 years, effective Aug. 31.

Medieval Congress free to local residents registering by April 28

Kalamazoo County residents and members of the WMU community may attend the 45th International Congress on Medieval Studies for free if they register by Wednesday, April 28.

The medieval congress is one of the world’s largest annual gatherings of people interested in the Middle Ages. The 2010 congress will take place Thursday through Sunday, May 13-16. It will include an exhibit hall and more than 600 sessions featuring research projects at the event.

Nomination forms will be posted soon on the WMU website at www.wmich.edu/medieval/congress to register or obtain more information.

For sale—Ford Windstar handicap/wheelchair van

For sale—Quiet lake-front cottage on 220-acre all-sports Guernsey Lake in Delton. Champagne color, brown lower accents. $3,000 or best offer. Visit www.wmich.edu/finalsfinish to volunteer or obtain more information.

Finals Finish volunteers needed

WMU’s 2010 Finals Finish will take place from 6 to 10:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 27, at venues across campus.

Now in its 14th year, Finals Finish promotes student success by making spring finals week less stressful so students can stay focused on doing well on their semester-end tests, papers and projects.

The Student Recreation Center will again be the main venue, and offer the most non-academic activities for students, including exercise classes, competitive and non-competitive games, music and prize drawings.

Volunteers are needed to work two-hour shifts from 6 to 8 p.m. or 8 to 10 p.m. Everyone who volunteers receives a T-shirt and is assigned to the Student Recreation Center. There, they greet and visit with students, serve snacks, monitor the study area, issue recreational and fitness equipment, and help supervise games and other activities.

For rent—Quiet lake-front cottage on 220-acre all-sports Guernsey Lake in Delton. Champagne color, brown lower accents. $3,000 or best offer. Visit www.wmich.edu/finalsfinish to volunteer or obtain more information.
Ellsworth Hall employees gather in honor of Eskro

Employees whose offices are housed in Ellsworth honored a late colleague, April 9 when they staged their second annual building-wide gathering.

The event is now named in honor of George M. Eskro, a Career and Student Employment Services staffer who died suddenly March 13. In past years, he had worked to build camaraderie among Ellsworth employees.

The gathering allows the employees to get better acquainted with each other and the wide range of offices they represent, as well as to learn about some of the University services and resources available to them.

Bryon Glock in Extended University Programs, building coordinator for Ellsworth, spearheaded development of the formal gathering.

Top photo: Bryon Glock, left, chats with Cam Vossen, emergency management administrator, who was invited to share safety tips with event attendees.

Bottom photo: Several Ellsworth offices set up booths to dispense information and snacks. Among them was a joint booth for International Admissions and Services and the Center for English Language and Culture for International Students. Staffing the booth were, from left, Leola Morgan and Janna Teachout, CELIS, and Berth van den Hombergh and Sandra Khan, IAS.

Retirement receptions

Richard G. Cooper, interim chair of occupational therapy, will be honored today for 33 years of service to WMU. His retirement reception will be held from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in 4010 Health and Human Services Building.

Carl Doubleday, music, will be honored tomorrow, April 23, for 42 years of service to WMU. His retirement reception will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. in Miller Auditorium.

WMU tapped organizational foundation and resources, organization credibility, air traffic basic curriculum and facilities.

Each school selected is to develop its own curriculum, with the goal of readying students to report to the FAA’s Oklahoma City academy, bypassing an initial five-week basics course. While jobs are not guaranteed to graduates of an AT-CTI program, about 61 percent of FAA new hires over the past five years have attended such a program.

On Campus with Nancy Dyksterhouse

As administrative assistant to WMU’s president, Nancy Dyksterhouse spends most of her workday greeting office visitors and responding to the questions and concerns that come in via phone calls, e-mail messages and letters. But that’s just fine with Dyksterhouse.

“We’re here to serve the entire University community and to try to be as helpful as we can,” she says of the president’s office staff. “Our goal is to communicate and provide good service. No question is too small.”

Dyksterhouse serves as the office’s initial contact person, interacting with students, parents, WMU employees and countless other constituents. She also books travel for the president and handles general tasks such as writing correspondence, processing paperwork and doing some budget work.

“Everything changes with every phone call, but it’s a good learning experience,” she says. “If I don’t know who the best person to respond to a call is, I find out. In any case, it’s always good for the president to be aware of the issues people have.”

Dyksterhouse has held several clerical positions at the University since joining the registrar’s office in 1999. She’s worked in the provost’s office twice, the Office of the Dean of the College of Education and Human Development, and starting this past September, the president’s office.

“It is truly a pleasure to work here. Elena [Gaudio] is a wonderful mentor, and I couldn’t ask for a better work partner,” Dyksterhouse says. “Dr. Dunn is also great. I’m really pleased to be here. I have a lot learn, but it’s an enjoyable journey.”

Dyksterhouse’s service-oriented outlook can be seen in her prior jobs—bank teller, clerical worker and in-home day care provider—and in her extracurricular activities.

On campus, she’s long been active in the Professional Support Staff Organization. Her current job makes her ineligible for PSSO, so she’ll be joining the Administrative Professional Association, WMU’s other non-bargaining employee group. Off campus, she’s been involved with the Westwood Christian Reformed Church for many years, serving as a deacon, a Sunday School teacher and on committees.

Dyksterhouse and her husband live in Kalamazoo and have a daughter who graduated from WMU and a son. In her spare time, she loves to bake as well as to make jewelry and baskets. But those hobbies may have to take more of a back seat now, as her first grandchild arrived a few weeks ago and a second is due July 4.

HELPING IS IN HER NATURE

(Submitted for publication)

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(Design by Joan Baron)