Trustees to honor veterans at meeting

The next meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees will be held Thursday, April 15. Details will be posted online at www.wmich.edu/news closer to the meeting date. One announced agenda item is the presentation of a U.S. flag to the board by Ed Kluk, information technology.

Afterward, the flag will be raised by an ROTC color guard during a ceremony honoring the service of WMU’s military veterans. All veterans in the campus community are welcome to attend the event at 12:30 p.m. at the Siebert Administration Building’s flagpole.

Kluk, a lieutenant colonel in the Michigan National Guard, was responsible for hoisting the flag at his unit’s forward base in Afghanistan. It will be flown over WMU for about 10 days, then be retired and preserved in a special case.

April 23 deadline for ethics workshop

Teaching assistants and full- and part-time faculty members are invited to learn techniques for teaching ethics in any discipline during a free “Workshop on Teaching Ethics” May 19-21 in the Bernhard Center. Space is limited, so apply by Friday, April 23, to receive full consideration. For details, visit www.wmich.edu/ethics or contact Sandra Borden at sandra.borden@wmich.edu.

E-learning presentations scheduled

WMU is evaluating its learning management system, generically called e-learning, with the prospect of changing to a new licensed product during 2011. As part of the evaluation, all students and faculty members are invited to public presentations of the four leading e-learning solutions. Those attending will be encouraged to submit comments through a written evaluation.

The presentations will be in the Fetzer Center’s Putney Auditorium, and there will be two identical sessions—one from 9 to 11 a.m. and a second from 2 to 4 p.m.—on each of the following four dates: Monday, April 12, Desire2Learn; Thursday, April 15, Moodlerooms; Tuesday, April 20, Sakai; and Thursday, April 22, Blackboard.

Financial representatives to visit WMU

TIAA-CREF representatives will be on campus Tuesday through Thursday, April 13-15, and May 18-20. To schedule a private consultation for investment or retirement planning, visit www.tiaa-cref.org and click Consultations and Seminars under Services. Those unable to register online may call the scheduling group at (800) 732-8353.

Time to register for sports camps

Registration is underway for summer youth camps for girls’ basketball, football, gymnastics, soccer and volleyball under the direction of Bronco varsity coaches. Visit www.wmubroncos.com/camps for details about registering, discounts and more.

Governor makes two trustee appointments for 2011

Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm has announced the appointments of two people to the WMU Board of Trustees to succeed sitting trustees whose appointments will expire at the end of 2010.

Jan. 1, 2011, John T. Cakmakci of Schoolcraft, Mich., and George A. Franklin of Kalamazoo will join the board. Both men will serve eight-year terms that will expire at the end of 2018.

Cakmakci, who will replace William Martin, is executive vice president for the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 991. He is a two-time WMU alumnus, having earned a bachelor’s degree in political science in 1982 and a master’s degree in public administration in 1985.

Franklin, who will replace Kenneth Miller, is president of Franklin Public Affairs and previously served as vice president for public affairs at the Kellogg Co. He earlier served for 12 years on the WMU board when he was appointed in 1989 to fill an unsupplied term. Franklin then was reappointed to a full term and served until May 2001.

New entrepreneurial tools subject of Granholm visit

WMU was the site for a roundtable discussion March 25 with Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm (left) and entrepreneurs who run small- and medium-sized businesses. During the event, Granholm highlighted new tools that the state is making available to those entrepreneurs. Participating in the discussion were WMU President John M. Dunn (right) and other University and state officials. (Photo by Teresa Ventriglia)
Special Fall Welcome sessions offered to faculty, staff

Fall Welcome, a four-day program that assists first-year students with their academic and social transitions to college life, has grown to the extent that a series of information sessions will be held just to advise faculty and staff of all the opportunities for their participation.

“Our programming has expanded and improved to equip nearly 3,000 students with the skills and professionalism necessary to succeed and be involved during Fall Welcome. They include taking part in such Fall Welcome events as interest sessions, Pizza and the Pros, Project RSO and the Campus Resource Fair draws hundreds. (Photo by Michael Lanka)

Education career fair set for April 12

The Education Career Fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, April 12, in the Bernard Center East Ballroom. Hints to prepare for the event and a list of participating school districts are available at www.wmich.edu/education/career or in the career and student employment office.

Aviation college observing milestones

The College of Aviation is celebrating its 50-year anniversary as a college, with 70 years of aviation education at WMU, April 19-24 with daily events in Battle Creek and Kalamazoo. Go to www.wmich.edu/aviation for details.

Classicist explores radio propaganda

Classical scholar Amanda Wrigley will give a free, public lecture on public radio and propaganda at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 15, in 3025 Brown. Visit www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2010/03/102.shtml for more information.

Excel guru to give free WMU tutorial

WMU students and faculty and staff members can learn Excel skills when Bill Jelen, aka Mr. Excel, shares his knowledge from 3 to 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 20, during a free seminar in 1120 Schneider. Go to www.wmich.edu/business for details.

State geographic bee is tomorrow

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A reception will be held Monday, April 12, in conjunction with an exhibit of photographs portraying poverty in developing countries that has opened in the second-floor art gallery of the Health and Human Services Building. The free reception will take place from 4 to 6 p.m. in the gallery and is open to the public.

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Around Campus

Events slated for author’s visit

Thomas DeWolff will be on campus today and tomorrow, April 8-9, for screening and discussion of the film “Traces of the (Slave) Trade: A Story from the Deep North,” as well as other events surrounding the film’s making and his related book, “Inheriting the Trade.” Visit www.wmich.edu/news/2010/04/018.shtml for details about all the events.

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Make a Difference awards program

Twelve staff members have been selected to receive WMU Make a Difference awards for spring 2009-10.

The awards will be presented during a reception at 7:30 p.m., Monday, April 19, in 157-158 Bernhard Center. The University community is invited to attend the reception, during which the award recipients each will receive $250 and a commemorative certificate. The 12 recipients are:

- Donna “Kim” Ballard, director of the Writing Center.
- John Carr, receiving clerk for the WMU Bookstore.
- Lillian Love, office associate for First-Year Experience Programs.
- Thuy Martin, utility food worker for Dining Services-Bernhard Center.
- Eric McConnell, office associate for the Advocacy Office for Transfer Students and Military Affairs.
- Raymond Novess, construction administrator for Facilities Management-construction services.
- Gregory Peet, senior library assistant for University Libraries.
- Stephen Root, grounds supervisor for Facilities Management-landscape services.
- Dion VanAtter, athletic equipment coordinator II for intercollegiate athletics.
- Margaret von Steinen, manager of communications for the Haenicke Institute.
- Jesse Wagner, career advisor for the Haworth College of Business Career Center.
- Adam Wall, residence hall director for the Office of Residence Life.

The Make a Difference awards program is a campuswide peer-to-peer program that recognizes University staff members for their outstanding accomplishments and daily investment of energy and creativity.

The winners are selected by a committee of their peers from five participating employee groups.

Those groups are the Administrative Professional Association; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; Michigan State Employees Association; Police Officers Association; and Professional Service Employees Organization.

Visit www.wmich.edu/hr/make-a-difference for more information about the committee and the Make a Difference Award program.

Genocide survivor to talk on forgiveness during Respecting Differences events

A survivor of the 1994 Rwandan genocide will speak on “The Power of Forgiveness” during the University-wide Respecting Differences program Thursday and Friday, April 22-23.

The featured speaker, Immaculee Ilibagiza, wrote the New York Times Best Seller, “Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Horror.” Ilibagiza will present her Respecting Differences talk twice, as well as speak during an event being sponsored by the Kalamazoo-based Fetzer Institute.

WMU employees are encouraged to attend one of her three, free talks, all of which will be on a first-come, first-seated basis and include on-stage American Sign Language interpretation.

Graduate College to be assessed

Provost Timothy Greene will launch a campuswide discussion on the role and structure of the Graduate College over the next four to six weeks.

The college’s dean, Lewis Pyrsonn, is nearing completion of his four-year term as dean and has announced his intention to return to the faculty and teach in the Department of History, effective July 1.

Greene thanked Pyrsonn for his years of service as dean and, in an e-mail to academic leadership on campus, noted that the timing is right for conversations with members of the faculty and University leadership as to what the college’s future role and responsibilities should be.

Over the next few weeks, he will be soliciting input from multiple campus sources.

Service

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

30 Years—Vicki L. Con, logistical services; Judy K. Don, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Sandra A. Khan, Haenicke Institute; Norma J. Lockway, Dining Services-Burnished; and Roger K. Mills, Facilities Management-construction.

25 Years—Dona L. Secondi, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services, and Patricia L. Short, registrar’s office.

20 Years—George A. Boston, University Life; James M. Brown, Facilities Management-maintenance services; Raymond V. Keanius, Facilities Management-maintenance services; Linda Opalewski, logistical services; Mary E. Palmer, admissions; and Donald VanderRoest, Facilities Management-maintenance services.

10 Years—Barbara Ann Ballard, Dining Services-Bernhard Center; Stephen G. Hawkins, intercollegiate athletics; Carrie A. Soule, student financial aid and scholarships; and Judy A. Tice, Haworth College of Business.

Five Years—Cheryl A. Butler, registrar’s office; Timothy J. Greene, Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; William B. Harrison III (as an emeritus researcher), geosciences; Jean A. Hibbard, Extended University Programs-Grand Rapids; Jeffrey D. Long, Facilities Management; Smith M. Moore III, Catering; and Carrie J. Puckett, accounting.

Honors college slates summer programs for talented youth

The Academically Talented Youth Program in the Lee Honors College is again offering summer programs for local students entering grades 7-9, and in one case, grades 6-9.

Summer programs are half-day classes that run for one to two weeks, and cost $100 per week. Space is limited, so students are encouraged to enroll early. The deadline to register is June 1.

The 2010 offerings include: Web Page Design, Graphic Novels and a Poetry Workshop. New this year is a course in Pinhole Photography, which allows students to create their own camera and learn the science behind taking pictures.

For more detailed information on the programs, instructors, schedule and a downloadable registration form, visit www.wmich.edu/honors/atyp and click the Register Now link under Summer Programs or contact the ATYP office at atyp-info@wmich.edu or 387-3230.

Technology expo ends today

Today is the last day of TotalTech’s expo.

Attendees can check out the newest computers and gadgets—and enter to win prizes. The free expo runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Textbook Alley in the Bronco Mall.

Oblituary

Jack Culp, a longtime WMU employee, died June 2, 2009, of cancer, which was recently learned. He was 67.

Culp became a full-time employee in 1970 and worked in what is now Facilities Management as assistant manager of electrical operations. He retired in 1998 after nearly 30 years of service to the University.

In addition, he worked out on a regular basis, and for the last 25 years of his life, did extensive lap swimming. He also was dedicated to weightlifting, which earned him multiple titles from 2002 to 2007 as the Michigan Senior Olympics Bench Press (300 lbs.) Champion.

Visit www.lifestorynet.com/memories/48705 for more information about Culp. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Make a Difference semiannual staff award winners announced
Enforcing the law and keeping the WMU community safe sometimes requires the high-tech help of equipment that can read information out loud from a squad car or paperless recorders that electronically send tickets to court offices. This and even more equipment is maintained and updated by U. Scott Coy, who manages the Department of Public Safety’s communication systems and a wide range of gear for its campus police unit.

Coy joined WMU almost 10 years ago as a police officer and was promoted to sergeant in 2008 and lieutenant in 2009. A self-professed “technology geek,” he says he tries to stay ahead of the trends in technology.

“You have to think outside of the box as far as what the needs of the University police department are,” Coy says, “and I like to keep things ahead of the curve.”

The toughest part is striking a balance between looking to the future and maintaining a budgetary bottom line. University officers last year tested new equipment such as Segway personal scooters, but those devices are still too expensive.

Changes, however, are always being made. Police officers on bike patrol are using new uniforms this spring, allowing officers to withstand cooler temperatures and use bicycles longer during the year. The department’s cars are also being replaced with SUVs, which last longer and ultimately end up being greener than cars.

“Because of the nature of law enforcement, it doesn’t lend itself to good gas mileage for any vehicle. A lot of people don’t realize our total costs are lower and we actually get a lot more out of SUVs,” Coy says.

Besides being responsible for updating technology for the department, Coy also is involved with projects across the campus. He is on the committee for the University’s new emergency alert system—the Mass Notification Program—which is a campus-wide speaker system that has been installed for emergency notification. He also is responsible for compiling the annual campus crime report for the federal government as well as the Clery Report, which every fall publishes statistics and information about crime on campus for the previous calendar year.

A native of Kalkaska, Mich., Coy is a 2001 graduate of WMU’s criminal justice program. Prior to working at the University, he ran the marine division for the Antrim County Sheriff’s Department.

Coy is married to Rebecca, a WMU police officer for nine years. The couple has two young daughters and lives in Kalamazoo Township.

Calligrapher to talk about his craft, Chinese culture

A gifted Chinese calligrapher will speak about his craft and Chinese culture from 2 to 4 p.m. April 16, in 2037 Brown.

Yue-chuan Wang, a full-time professor from Beijing University, will present the free, public talk, which is being sponsored by the Confucius Institute at WMU.

Wang is a leading academic in the field of literary studies and an accomplished artist in calligraphy, painting and music.

He lent his calligraphic expertise to the creation of the script for “The Light of Chinese Civilization” documentary TV series and provides commentary on several topics for the series. His calligraphic works and paintings are included in a wide variety of international collections and published volumes.

Sangren Hall input sought

Hamilton Anderson, a landscape architect consultant for WMU, will present two workshops for the campus community on the planned development of the site around the new Sangren.

The sessions will be in the Fetzer Center from 7 to 9 a.m. Thursday, April 15, and from 3 to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, April 21.

WMU students and faculty and staff members are welcome to attend and view current drawings of the project and discuss such planning issues as parking, service access, the expansion of the West Michigan Avenue pedestrian mall and future buildings.

Ideas from the workshops will be developed into a concept and presented to the University community in May. For more information, contact Christopher Pyzik at chris.pyzik@wmich.edu or 387-8549.

University research highlighted

Forty-one graduate students and 20 faculty members will showcase their scholarly work during the fourth annual WMU Research and Creative Activities Poster Day.

The free event includes poster presentations of research from 9 to 11 a.m. Keynote addresses will follow in Kirsch Auditorium by WMU’s 2009 Emerging Scholars, Michael Grammer, geosciences, and Takashi Yoshida, history. Lunch begins at noon with an awards presentation from 12:45 to 1 p.m.

Mandated ethnicity survey being conducted at WMU

New federal guidelines mandate that WMU begin collecting race and ethnicity information for all of its faculty and staff members.

The Department of Education is requiring all universities to use a two-part question and to allow the selection of more than one race. WMU employees are asked to assist the University in meeting the new mandate by completing two questions found in GoWMU by the April 30 deadline.

To report race and ethnicity, login to GoWMU and click Employee Self-Service—the same link used to view paychecks—then click Personal Information and finally, Ethnic Groups. There are only two questions and it takes less than one minute to answer them.

Aggregate campus demographic data is needed for reporting requirements of federal and state agencies and civil rights laws and regulations. It also affects how prospective students and faculty and staff members view the University.

WMU administrator selected

Stapleton joined the WMU faculty in 1989 and has conducted extensive high-profile federally funded research in biochemistry. Her focus has been on gene expression and understanding diabetes and insulin resistance.

She has served as a visiting scientist at Pharmacia Corp., and since 1997, she also has been director of co-op and internship opportunities in chemistry.