Two CAS dean presentations changed

Last-minute changes have been made to the presentation schedule for two of the four arts and sciences dean candidates. Susan R. Stapleton will make her presentation at 4:30 p.m. today in 2028 Brown. James H. Hageman will make his presentation at 4 p.m. Monday, March 29, in 1028 Brown.

Faculty e-learning survey announced

WMU is evaluating its Learning Management System, generically known as e-learning, with the possibility of changing to a new licensed product. As part of the process, all faculty members are asked to go to www.wmich.edu/elearning/surveys and complete a short online survey. The actual product the University uses is Blackboard Learning Systems: Vista Enterprise, commonly called Blackboard Vista, WebCT or WebCT Vista. Vista Enterprise is being phased out and merged with a new product, making this an appropriate time to re-evaluate WMU’s e-learning platform.

Student responsibility events slated

An event today and one tomorrow, Friday, March 26, will help WMU students become more involved with their education. Both events will feature Art Keene, professor of anthropology and founder of the Citizens Scholars Program at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

Keene will present a public lecture at 3:30 p.m. today in 1121 Welborn on “Radical Service Learning: Students Taking Responsibility for Their Own Education.” Friday, he will have a dialogue with students on “Citizen Scholarship” at 10 a.m., also in 1121 Welborn. Keene’s visit is being sponsored by the Department of Anthropology and the Lewis Walker Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnic Relations.

April 1 deadline for grant applications

Faculty members are invited to submit applications for the International Education Faculty Development Fund. The deadline is Thursday, April 1, and this grant cycle is for application details.

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Waldo Library gets new collection

An opening ceremony for the new Chinese Instruction and Research Collection being established within Waldo Library, which will serve as the home for several thousand English and Chinese language books and instructional materials, is planned for 5 p.m. Thursday, April 8, in the Edwin and Mary Meader Room.

A broad spectrum of these pedagogical materials for Chinese language instruction and books introducing Chinese culture will be on display at a three-day exhibition set for Thursday through Saturday, April 8-10, at Waldo. Visit www.wmich.edu/confucius for complete details about breakout sessions and other exhibition-related events.

WMU hosting annual competitions

WMU will host the 2010 American Society of Civil Engineers North-Central Regional concrete canoe and steel bridge competitions Friday through Sunday, March 26-28. The competitions are being held in conjunction with the regional ASCE’s annual conference, which is taking place at the engineering complex on the Parkview Campus.

The bridge contest will be held at Parkview while the concrete canoe races will be held at Ramona Park in Portage, Mich. Eleven universities from Michigan and Ohio will be competing. Visit the ASCE student chapter at www.eso.wmich.edu/asce for more information.

WMU to host its first HR Games

For the first time since its inception, WMU’s Haworth College of Business will act as host of the HR Games, a statewide competition for human resources students. This year’s event will take place Saturday, March 27, in Schneider. Teams of students will participate in Jeopardy-style matches.

The annual event provides a fast-moving day of student competition and food, fun and prizes designed to test students’ knowledge of the human resources field. A total of nine colleges and universities will compete, including WMU and Eastern and Central Michigan universities.

Disnety to recruit student interns

The Walt Disney Co. will be on campus at noon and at 6 p.m. Monday, March 29, in 157 Bernard Hall to recruit interns for its Disney College Program. The program offers a paid fall semester internship at the Disney World amusement park near Orlando, Fla., or the Disneyland Resort in Anaheim, Calif.

Enrollment period opens for Camps Kids program

Faculty and staff as well as students and the general public are invited to enroll children in the 2010 Campus Kids Summer Program offered by WMU’s Children’s Place Learning Center.

The program will run from June 14 to Sept. 2, and each week will feature a different theme. It is open to children who have completed kindergarten, up to age nine. Parents may sign up their children by June 14 summer program start date, and regular learning programs are available for children age 18 months to 5 years.

To register or obtain more information, visit www.wmich.edu/childrensplace or call 387-2277.

Liou presentation slated

WMU’s 2009-10 Distinguished Faculty Scholar, William W. Lou, will make a public presentation at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 7, in the Fetzer Center’s Putney Auditorium.

Liou, mechanical and aeronautical engineering, will lecture on “Predicting the Perfect Storm: The Evolution of Complex Calculations.”

Exchange

For Sale—Beautiful park model in South Haven’s Depot RV Park. Inexpensive town, two bedrooms, living room, family room, loft and decks. Park has a pool; is easy walk to beaches and downtown. $68,000. Call 323-3198.

For Rent—Fully-furnished Lake Michigan beachfront condo in South Haven. Condo sleeps four to five and is within walking distance to downtown. Heated pool on site. $1,050/week. Call 323-3198.

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.

State’s top flight instructor named

Robert Bunday, aviation, was recently recognized for “significant contributions to aviation safety” by industry sponsors and the Federal Aviation Administration during a statewide General Aviation Awards Program.

The awards annually recognize outstanding individuals in the fields of avionics, flight instruction and maintenance, highlighting those who promote aviation safety, education and professionalism.

A former professional pilot, Bunday received Michigan’s Flight Instructor of the Year award. He has been a program manager in the College of Aviation for five years. He taught flying to British Airways, Aer Lingus and Gmajor, a former instructor in the college’s former international pilot training initiative.

Professor earns association award

The Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Association will present an Honors of the Association award to Sandi Glista, manager of audiology and audiology, during an awards luncheon Friday in Kalamazoo.

The award is MSHA’s highest honor. It recognizes sustained, outstanding accomplishments in the profession of speech, language and hearing and is conveyed to those who actively demonstrate their expertise through ongoing service that directly benefits MSHA and the field as a whole and has a significant impact on people with communication impairments.

Glista, a faculty member since 1993, has more than 30 years in the profession as a clinician, teacher and professor.

Campus Compact honors WMU duo

Timothy Palmer, management, and Colleen Smith-Slosberg, Lee Honors College, in February received the Michigan Campus Compact Faculty/Staff Community Service-Learning Award.

The prestigious annual honor is the highest MCC表彰on faculty and staff. In part, it recognizes the WMU duo for a service-learning course for business students that Slosberg and Palmer jointly created.

Slosberg, a reviewer who came to WMU and United Campus Ministry in 1988, has been teaching part time in the honors college since 2003. She has developed leadership and service-learning courses at WMU and Kalamazoo Valley Community College. Palmer teaches the Strategic Business Solutions class and was inspired by Slosberg to convert his class into a service-learning offering. His students choose from a variety of options, including Habitat for Humanity and shelter work in Chicago and Detroit.

Around Campus
Kalamazoo seeks community support

WMU’s hometown is competing to attract a Google infrastructure investment that could lure new businesses to the area and serve as the ultimate high-tech recruiting tool for top researchers and students. Kalamazoo and the Michigan municipalities of Portage as well as Kalamazoo and Oshtemo townships mounted a single bid to become the site of a Google fiber-optic installation that will be used to test an ultra-high-speed broadband network. The community project has been dubbed Kalamazoogle.

Community leaders must respond to Google’s Request for Information by tomorrow, March 26, to stay in the running against other cities around the nation. Winners will get a fiber-optic network capable of providing Internet access to at least 50,000 homes and businesses—access that is up to 200 times faster than what is now available. Citizen involvement is a critical part of the mix, says Kalamazoo Mayor Bobby Hopewell, and area residents and organizations can help by nominating Kalamazoo as a Google test site and contributing to the support materials being gathered.

To nominate Kalamazoo, go to www.google.com/appsserve/fiberrfi/public/op tions and fill out a brief Google nomination form or e-mail k200googlefiber@kalamazoocity.org to volunteer or get more information about Kalamazoo’s initiative.

A Facebook group, Google Fiber in Kalamazoo, also has been set up, at which artisitic residents are being encouraged to post videos in support of the city’s bid.

“We’d love to have videos from individuals or organizations who can tell their story about what Google Fiber might do for them,” Hopewell said of that effort. “We want people to really think and dream about how they could use such a high-speed connection.”

can an educated society be sustained solely by digitization? That question will be addressed Saturday, March 27, during “The Conference on the Future of Newspapers.” The event, which is open to the public, begins at 8:30 a.m. in the Fetzer Center and will end about 4 p.m. Attendees may register on site. Members of the WMU community may attend for free and pay a separate $15 fee for lunch. The $20 fee for other attendees includes the cost of lunch.

“This conference is probably the first of its kind in the nation,” says Andrew Targowski, business information systems and conference chairman. “We hope it will serve as a model for similar forums at other universities and colleges in other states.”


Campus blood drives set

Spring blood drives have been scheduled on the Western Michigan University campus starting Friday, April 2, in honor of National Volunteer Week, April 18-24.

The week celebrates the nation’s giving spirit, which the American Red Cross hopes will be put into practice locally by people rolling up their sleeves and donating blood or becoming a Red Cross volunteer.

Four blood drives will be held:

• Friday, April 2—10:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., main floor classroom, Richmond Center for Visual Arts.
• Friday, April 2—11 a.m. to 4 p.m., fountain area study lounge, Health and Human Services Building.
• Wednesday, April 7—11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Bernhard Center Ballroom.
• April 9—10:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., East Study Lounge (E-130), Engineering and Applied Sciences Building.

To schedule an appointment to donate, visit redcrossblood.org or call (800) RED CROSS.

Wellness champs help co-workers maintain good health

Tamara Bergman, engineering and applied sciences, is one of the University’s Western Wellness Champions—employees who inform other WMU employees about the resources available on campus to help them take charge of their health, improve energy levels and meet wellness goals.

Why would Bergman, a single mom with three active children, take on an unpaid position as a Western Wellness Champion?

“I had such a positive experience with my One-to-One wellness coach at a time when I really needed support, and I like to help others,” she says. “My children are my greatest motivation when it comes to having a healthy lifestyle. When I’m physically active, I have more energy and enthusiasm to share with them and others.

Bergman tries to do a quick workout at West Hills during lunch most weekdays. “It gets me through the rest of the day and makes me feel good about myself,” she says.

She is a former cheerleader and a gym teacher wannabe, who is excited about her new role as a Western Wellness Champion. “It’s not too time consuming, and it gives me a chance to meet others at our site and help them find ways to make health and wellness a priority. Being healthy is easier when it’s a group effort.”

To learn more about becoming a Western Wellness Champion, contact Danza Downing, Western Wellness One-to-One coordinator at ddowning@holynhpc.com or 779-5453.

Obituaries

George M. Eskro, Career and Student Employment Services, died suddenly March 13 in Mattawan, Mich. He was 49.

Eskro joined WMU’s Office of Residence Life staff in 1986 as a residence hall director and moved to Career and Student Employment Services in 1999. He had been serving as associate director of student development until his appointment earlier this month as director.

Memorial contributions may be made by check to the College Educational Fund Association as WMU’s most “popular professor of education” in 2003.

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A remembrance service will be held Saturday, May 22, in the Kiva of Friendship Village of Kalamazoo. Memorial contributions may be made through WMU’s Development Office to either the Sebaly Scholarship for theatre or education students, or to the Life Enhancement Department or Employee Scholarship Fund at Friendship Village of Kalamazoo.

Marie L. Stevens, dean emerita of students, will be honored during a memorial service at 2 p.m. Friday, May 14, in the Gilmore Alumni House, 1219 Short Road in Kalamazoo.

Stevens died March 7. Details about her extensive service to students and Kalamazoo are available in WMU News at www.wmich.edu/news by clicking the Obituaries link.

Peter VanDenBerg, a retired staff member, died March 15 in Kalamazoo. He was 79.

VandenBerg worked as a carpenter for more than 40 years. He was employed at WMU for 12 of those years, coming to the University in 1981 and retiring in 1993.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Second Christian Reformed Church, Kalamazoo Gospel Mission or Alamo Nursing Home.
HR launches retirement seminar series

Human Resources will be offering four retirement-related programs in a 2010 seminar series being called Putting it Together. The programs will be conducted by Sanford Advisory Services, which provides administrative and consulting services for the WMU retirement plan to all employees.

Each seminar will focus on one aspect of retirement planning. All four will take place in the Bernhard Center and be presented at 9 a.m. and again at 4 p.m. to accommodate differing schedules. Employees may attend all of the seminars or any individual seminar.

The first program will be held Thursday, April 8, and is titled “Protecting Your Assets in a Volatile Market.” It will explain asset allocation and diversification. Next up will be “Estate Planning for the Middle Class” Tuesday, May 18. This seminar will cover estate planning issues such as wills, trusts, powers of attorney and patient advocates.

The remaining programs have both been scheduled for this coming fall. “Strategies to Maximize Social Security Benefits” is set for Wednesday, Sept. 22, and will deal with survivor benefits, taxation and other Social Security Issues. “Retirement Withdrawals and Tax Planning” is set for Thursday, Oct. 28, and will deal with taking distributions at retirement and their tax implications.

In order to prepare handouts, reservations are required. Reminder notices will be sent. For more information or to register, call Sanford Advisory Services at 488-6900. Questions should be directed to Richard Schaper, Human Resources, by phone or e-mail. Visit www.sanfordfinancialservices.com/wmu_participants for information about Sanford.

Bates to be feted next month

The Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation’s Alumni Honor Academy is set for noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 17, in the Fetzer Center. Among those being honored is Halbert Bates, Haworth College of Business.

To reserve a place at the event, which costs $15, contact Muncelle Pientaka by Monday, April 12, at muncelle.pientaka@wmich.edu or 387-2688.

Event touts life sciences careers

WMU has scheduled its 2010 Life Sciences Opportunities Day for 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, March 31, in the Bernhard Center’s Brown and Gold Room.

Representatives from several Southwest Michigan companies will be on hand to describe science career paths, answer questions and accept resumes for summer jobs as well as internships.

Although open to the general public, the event is a learning and networking opportunity rather than a traditional job fair.

Kalamazoo matters continued from page 1

Washington, D.C., will draw upon national as well as Kalamazoo data to discuss health disparities in the city and practical strategies to address them.

Reservations are required and will be accepted until seats are filled. To make a reservation, contact Tanya Bellamy in the Walker Institute at tanya.bellamy@wmich.edu or 387-2141.

The day’s final events will be in the Fetzer Center. Reservations are not required. First up will be the showing of two videos from the Public Broadcasting Service TV series, “Unnatural Causes.” In Sickness and In Wealth” at 11:30 a.m. In Kirsch Auditorium will cover how social factors affect health. “Not Just a Paycheck” at 12:30 p.m. in Kirsch Auditorium will cover unemployment’s adverse health effects by examining what happened in one West Michigan community when a manufacturing plant closed.

For the last event, Smedley will lecture on “Building Stronger Communities for Better Health: Moving from Science to Practice” at 1 p.m. After the presentation, he will lead a discussion of community strategies to eliminate health disparities.

Retirement reception

Jeanne Bloemers, health, physical education and recreation, will be recognized for her 28 years of service to the University during a retirement reception from 3 to 5 p.m. today in the Oaklands.