WMU launches student apartment complex

University officials announced Feb. 4 that they had been meeting with student groups since Jan. 26 to get input and put the finishing touches on plans to build a new student apartment complex on the main campus beginning this summer.

Phase 1 of the planned two-phase construction program will result in four buildings being constructed south of the Trompe Building between Kohrman and Knollwood Avenue. Site work on the project will begin in April, and actual construction is slated to begin in July. The one-, two-, three- and four-bedroom units are designed to house upperclassmen. They will provide new on-campus housing to more than 300 students, beginning in fall 2011.

The second phase of the project will provide beds for more than 500 students and is scheduled for construction within the next four years. It will add units to the Phase I site as well as involve new construction behind the Bernhard Center and Sangren.

The decision to update housing stock and tailor new construction for upperclassmen resulted from market research and an analysis of recent on-campus housing demand, including the ongoing existence of a long waiting list for campus apartments.

Eaton, WMU join forces for hybrid-electric research

Eaton Corp. and WMU have signed a five-year agreement to invest in and jointly staff a testing lab to focus on hybrid drive systems for commercial and military vehicles.

A memorandum of understanding, finalized in late December, calls for Cleveland-based Eaton to invest $150,000 for lab startup, and then about $300,000 annually to maintain the facility at the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences on the Parkview Campus. Research at the lab will involve Eaton’s hybrid electric drive business group and WMU researchers in the University’s Center for Advanced Vehicle Design and Simulation—CAVIDS.

The 1,000-square-foot lab, which is expected to be up and running by June, will be used to evaluate electric motors and other critical components and to test batteries and develop power electronics equipment. It will be staffed by both Eaton engineers and WMU student interns, who will be taught how to operate the test equipment and analyze results. WMU also will provide faculty advisors and technicians.

“This Hybrid-Electric Drive Applied Research Lab represents a unique opportunity for WMU to enter the emerging field of hybrid vehicle systems integration research,” says CAVIDS Director William Liu, mechanical and aeronautical engineering. “It will serve as the foundation for future academic programs in hybrid vehicle engineering research at our University.”

Heart to oversee strategic enrollment management

Keith M. Hearit, who has managed WMU’s recruiting and enrollment functions on an interim basis for nearly three years, has been named permanent vice provost for strategic enrollment management.

Hearit’s appointment, effective Feb. 1 and contingent on approval of the WMU Board of Trustees, will place him in charge of initiatives central to the University’s enrollment planning and recruitment activities. He will focus on:

• aligning enrollment goals with academic programs and campus physical capacities, and determining the best size of the student body at both the undergraduate and graduate levels,
• continuing to build a student body with an academic profile and broad diversity characteristics reflective of WMU’s status as an international research university,
• developing new programs and community college partnerships that create dual enrollment and seamless transfer opportunities for prospective undergraduates, and
• co-chairing a campuswide strategic enrollment management committee aimed at enhancing retention and recruitment activities for all segments of the University community.

A communication professor, Hearit has been a WMU faculty member since 1996 and has served as both dean of the Lee

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Public comment period near for self-study report

Since October 2008, WMU has been engaged in a process of self-reflection and analysis in preparation for its 10-year evaluation review by the Higher Learning Commission. The results of that self-study have been compiled into a first-draft report that the University’s HLC self-study steering committee will release tomorrow.

The committee invites members of the WMU community to read the draft report for accuracy, errors of fact and fulsomeness. Readers are encouraged to share their observations regarding fulfillment of the self-study goals of performing a data-driven, analytical and future-oriented self-study. Descriptions of self-study themes will accompany the report, and readers also are asked to comment on goals of performing a data-driven, analytical and future-oriented self-study. Descriptions of self-study themes will accompany the report, and readers also are asked to comment on fulsomeness.

The draft report and a log of comments will be available at www.wmich.edu/hlc. Comment sessions are planned for Thursday, Feb. 25, and Tuesday, March 9. Both sessions will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in 204 Bernhard Center.

Comments, questions and suggestions also may be sent to wmu-hlc@wmich.edu by Monday, March 15.

Talk to examine God, Google

Similarities between modern-day media and religion will come to light when John Durham Peters, an internationally renowned media historian and social theorist, speaks on “God and Google” from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 18, in 2028 Brown. Peters will discuss how both media and religion provide ways of making sense of life that transcend individual boundaries.

The talk is free and open to the public.

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.

Around Campus

Terrorism, torture workshop slated

A free two-day workshop today and tomorrow, is examining the many questions raised by terrorism, counter-terrorism and torture. The “Terrorism, Ticking Time Bombs and Torture” workshop is based on the upcoming book of the same title by Fritz Allhoff, philosopher.

Registration is required by sending an e-mail to vishak.gary@wmich.edu and full workshop details are posted at www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2010/02/012.html. Tomorrow, the public event will include four lectures in 3014 Moore and conclude with a panel discussion in 204 Bernhard Center that is part of the Center for the Study of Ethics in Society spring lecture series.

Top music students to compete

The University’s top music students will take center stage in the final round of this year’s Concerto Competition at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 22, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. There is no admission charge, and the public is invited to attend competition performances.

Mayor to speak at leadership event

Kalamazoo Mayor Bobby Hopewell will deliver the keynote address at the second annual Multicultural Leadership Luncheon, set for noon to 1:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 22, in the President’s Dining Room of the Bernhard Center. Hopewell’s talk, titled “From Leadership to Legacy,” will address how students can leave their legacy as leaders, both on campus and in the community.

The luncheon is free, but registration is required by Monday, Feb. 15. Limited seating will be available for WMU faculty and staff members. To register or obtain more information, send an e-mail to melissa.green@wmich.edu or sherrrie.fuller@wmich.edu.

Muslim students to host event

The Muslim Students Association will host the next installment of its free dinner-lecture series starting at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 19, in the Bernhard Center Ballroom. The event is open to the public, but online reservations are required at www.eso.wmich.edu/maa by Wednesday, Feb. 17.

The evening will include a multicultural dinner and multiracial exhibition as well as a keynote address titled “One God, Many Names: Muslims, Christians and Jews all Call Upon the Same God.” The address, which explores similarities among those faiths, will be presented by Umar Faruq Abd-Allah, a former teacher at universities in the United States, Canada and Saudi Arabia.

W’ Club selects 2010 award winners

Josh Brylnsky, health, physical education and recreation, and Fred Sitkins, industrial and manufacturing engineering, have been named the Varsity “W” Club’s 2010 Woman and Man of the Year.

Brylnsky coordinates the University’s Master of Arts Degree in Sport Performance and is a former WMU school coach and college athlete, coach and athletic director.

A Special Olympic volunteer coach, she is a past president of the National Association for Sport and Physical Education, an inductee into the NASPE Sport Hall of Fame, and chaired the writing team for the first and second revision of the “National Standards for Sport Coaches.”

Sitkins serves as director of Cooperative Education for the College of Engineering and Applied Science and is a 1959 alumnus who was briefly a member of WMU’s track team.

He has been a caller as well as a team and campaign chair for the Mike Gary Athletic Fund’s annual fund-raising efforts. He also is the faculty athletics representative to the NCAA, Central Collegiate Hockey Association and Mid-American Conference, and has been a member and chairperson of the WMU Athletic Board.

Doctoral student wins poetry contest

Gary L. McDowell, a doctoral student studying poetry and American literature, has won the 2009 Orphic Prize for Poetry from Dream Horse Press, an independent publishing firm. McDowell earned a $112 cash prize and will have his first full-length poetry collection, “American Amen,” published late this year. He also wrote “They Speak of Fruit,” published in 2009, and co-edited “The Rose Metal Press Field Guide to Prose Poetry: Contemporary Poets in Discussion and Practice,” due out in April 2010.

Prof named state’s best string teacher

Bruce Uchimura, music, has been selected as Teacher of the Year by the Michigan chapter of the American String Teachers Association. Uchimura was presented with the honor at the Michigan Music Conference Jan. 21-23 in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Uchimura joined the WMU faculty in 1987. He directs the University Orchestra and is a member of the Meeling Trio, a faculty chamber music ensemble. He is the principal cellist and associate conductor of Georgia’s Augusta Symphony Orchestra and has performed as a member of the Sera- phim String Quartet and as a soloist and conductor throughout the United States.

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WMU’s Everyone Counts Learning Community on Diversity and Inclusion officially kicked off Feb. 3 with a daylong orientation session in the Fetzer Center for its inaugural participants.

Launched this past fall, the Everyone Counts pilot initiative is a campuswide professional-development opportunity that addresses issues relevant to WMU’s Diversity and Multicultural Action Plan. It has been embraced across campus, and a full complement of faculty and staff members are participating in the initiative’s first year.

During the orientation session, Everyone Counts’ 33 group members and six facilitators were welcomed by Lowell Rinker, vice president for business and finance, and Diane Anderson, vice president for student affairs, who also represented Provost Timothy Greene.

They spent most of the rest of the day getting acquainted, engaging in team-building exercises and listening to informational presentations. The participants ended the day by dividing into three smaller communities to continue team-building as well as to set their agendas for the coming year.

“Diversity and inclusion are essential to the fulfillment of our institutional mission,” says Martha Warfield, associate vice president for diversity and inclusion.

“Everyone Counts provides us with an opportunity to again enact the Diversity and Multicultural Action Plan to promote and value inclusiveness in learning, curricular and co-curricular programming, campus climate, recruitment, admissions, hiring and retention.”

The three smaller Everyone Counts communities will be meeting twice a month from now through December to discuss literature on diversity, listen to guest speakers, attend workshops and conferences, and talk about the challenges and opportunities they face in their work. In addition, group members will receive a small amount of money to create projects that directly integrate what they are learning into their daily work.

Everyone Counts is a collaboration between the offices of Diversity and Inclusion and Faculty Development and is sponsored by the offices of the Provost, Diversity and Inclusion, Vice President for Student Affairs, and Vice President for Business and Finance. Zarina El-Amin Naeem from the diversity and inclusion office and Andrea Beach from faculty development are co-coordinating the overall initiative.

Visit wmich.edu/diversityandinclusion for more information about Everyone Counts.

**Bowl games showcase BTR Park product**

Holiday collegiate football bowl games this year showcased a new product from a division of Tekna Inc., a Kalamazoo-based company located in the University’s Business Technology and Research Park.

Introduced last year, the MEDIC mobile athletic training table already is a standard part of home and away games for teams including WMU and Clemson, Princeton, Purdue and Michigan State universities.

With the close of football season, the product has moved indoors to the nation’s basketball courts. In addition, interest has been triggered among NFL, NBA and X-Games trainers.

The MEDIC takes injury assessment and treatment off the ground or bench and onto a sturdy and rugged unit that can serve as a base of operations near the playing field or court.

**Service**

The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 40, 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service during February.

- **40 Years**—Frederick G. Schulz, Facilities Management-construction.
- **35 Years**—Margaret J. Corbin, Dining Services-Davis.
- **30 Years**—Daniel D. Miller, Facilities Management-maintenance services.
- **25 Years**—Barrie J. Tabb, accounts receivable.
- **20 Years**—Sheila Bair, University Librari-ess; Sherrill D. Busboom, physician assistant; Rebecca S. Cook, Facilities Management-maintenance services; Carla V. Joyner, Facilities Management-landscape services; and Malcolm R. Malott, Human Resources.
- **15 Years**—Kathy Dziepak, disability services center; Stephanie L. Jones, Registrar’s Office; and Susan A. Standish, sociology.
- **10 Years**—Brenda L. Chapman, Student Health Center; Currick D. Craig, Office of the Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel; Beverly J. Edwards-Thompson, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Charles Heynig, Office of Information Technology; Kristin E. Kenz, Facilities Management-Maintenance Services; Michael E. Osborn, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; David H. Schrader, College of Aviation; Robert E. Taylor Jr., Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Contrina D. Thomas, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; and Amy M. Vorpahl, information technology.
- **5 Years**—Mark Delorey, student financial aid and scholarships; Hollis B. Locke III, Facilities Management-associate vice president’s office; Michael S. Sharer, Office of the Vice President for Research; and Michael J. Walenga, Facilities Management-transportation services.

**More H1N1 clinics offered**

H1N1 vaccinations are available at no cost to WMU students, employees and retirees, and their legal dependents age 12 and older.

Walk-in clinics have been set for 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 16-17, near the Student Recreation Center Service Desk as well as 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 24-25, in 1320 Sincdeuce Health Center.

No appointment is necessary, but a WMU Bronco Card or other valid photo ID may be required.

Visit the Flu Information Center at www.wmich.edu/flu for more information about flu prevention and treatment. Questions should be directed to the Sincdeuce Health Center at 387-3295.

**Dining hall to close until Sept. 3**

The Davis Dining facility will close Friday, Feb. 26, to begin significant renovations. The project will continue until the end of August, and the dining hall will reopen Sept. 3. For more information, visit www.wmich.edu/dining/davis or contact Judy Gipper at judy.gipper@wmich.edu or 387-4846.

**Obituary**

Lillian T. Wilcox, a former staff member at Western Michigan University, died Jan. 31. She was 79.

Wilcox came to WMU in 1980 as a secretary in the Department of Geography and subsequently held several secretarial positions at the University. She retired in 1993 as a secretary executive II in Media Services after 12 1/2 years of service.

The family will receive friends on Friday, Feb. 12, from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Life Story Funeral Home, 409 S. Main Street, Vicksburg, Mich. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, Feb. 13, at 11 a.m. in St. Joseph Catholic Church, 936 Lake St., Kalamazoo.

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Diversity subject of student-led discussion series

A student-led discussion series called the Real Talk Diversity Series will kick off at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23, in the Trimpe Building's Multicultural Center.

The first program in the monthly series is “Campus ISMS.” It will feature students as well as faculty members discussing student attitudes about racism, sexism, homophobia and classism. Audience members will be able to participate in the discussion.

Real Talk is geared toward raising awareness, eliminating false ideologies, and stimulating dialogue on diversity and inclusion among WMU students.

The group of students that organized the discussion series invites other students at the University to help plan future events by attending the meetings that need.”

During the Real Talk Diversity Series, students will have the opportunity to discuss the importance of diversity and inclusion on campus. The series is open to all students, faculty, and staff.

WMU launches apartment complex

Phase I is the first part of a multi-year effort to address changing student needs as well as replace on-campus apartments that have been demolished or are slated for future demolition.

“We know many students still want to live on campus after their freshman year, and we know that students who live on campus are more successful academically,” says Diane Anderson, vice president for student affairs.

“Our current residence halls are designed for beginning students and are meant to encourage interaction and the establishment of a circle of friends. As students mature, they prefer the kind of privacy and independence apartment living provides. Our waiting list tells us that there is an unmet need for such housing, and Phase I of this project is our first step toward meeting that need.”

The estimated $2 million for Phase I will be financed by floating a bond issue for that purpose. Annual debt service for the bond will be paid from the rents derived from operation of the facilities.

The apartment complex will be the first undergraduate student housing built on WMU’s West Campus in nearly half a century. The new complex will feature three-story buildings with two-color brick facades and a traditional look similar to WMU’s East Campus. Parking for resident students will be included as part of the complex.