Dean candidates to give presentations

Two candidates for dean of the Haworth College of Business will make presentations to the WMU community later this month. Speaking Monday, Jan. 25, will be Nicholas van der Walt, professor of business administration and the dean responsible for the Dubois Campus of the Hugh International Business School. Speaking Wednesday, Jan. 27, will be Ajay Samant, WMU professor of finance and commercial law and interim dean of the business college.

Each candidate will speak on the topic, “Building on the Haworth College of Business Foundation in the Michigan and Global Economic Climate.” Their presentations will be from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. in 1040/50 Fetzer Center, with receptions following until 4 p.m. Visit www.wmich.edu/provost to review the candidates’ vitae.

Trustees approve AFSCME contract

Acting during a special conference-call meeting Dec. 9, the WMU Board of Trustees approved a new three-year contract with Local 1668 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. AFSCME represents about 420 custodial, dining services, grounds and maintenance employees at WMU.

Under the new contract, made effective Aug. 12, 2009, wages for union members will rise 2 percent across the board during the first year, with that raise retroactive to July 1. During the second and third years, there will be across-the-board wage increases of 1 percent each year. The contract also calls for union members to be covered by the same University closure language and Blue Cross/ Blue Shield self-funded preferred provider health plan as other employee groups.

W-2 forms for 2009 available online

W-2 forms will be available next week through GoWMU and be mailed Jan. 30 to the home addresses of those who do not choose to view them electronically. Employees are urged to confirm their home address in their employee records and provide consent for electronically viewing their W-2s. That consent must be renewed this year.

Visit https://gowmwwmich.edu, click the Employee Self Service Channel then click Payroll and Compensation and select the consent form from the drop-down menu.

Western News gets new nameplate

The Western News is starting out the new year with a new front page nameplate that features a block "W." The fresh look reflects guidelines developed for the University’s new Visual Identity Program, which will be available campuswide later this semester. The guidelines will impact the look of all University communications and address topics such as how to incorporate fonts and colors as well as how to use University marks such as the seal and "W."
Gov. Granholm signs legislation addressing three longstanding University property issues

Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm signed new legislation Jan. 5 that will enhance the Business Technology and Research Park, add a new asset to the University's Oakland Drive Campus and help bring a solution to a vexing vacant property problem.

• First, the bill's passage means the Legislature has lifted use restrictions from a 53-acre parcel adjacent to the BTR Park known as the Colony Orchard Property. The parcel has been identified as a site for future development of the BTR Park, which is now nearly full.

• Second, the bill removes use restrictions on the Northwest Hospital unit at 1501 Drive Campus and help bring a solution to the property. Although WMU secures the building, it consists of a 24,000-square-foot building on a 2.55-acre lot contiguous to the state hospital property transferred to WMU by the state in 1998.

• Finally, the legislation authorizes the state to sell to WMU for $1 property at the corner of Howard Street and Oakland Drive known as Noble Lodge. Built in 1919 as a dormitory for Kalamazoo Asylum staff, it was transferred to the Michigan Department of Corrections in 1991 and has been vacant for the past five years.

Acquisition of the property completes the 109-acre parcel known as the Oakland Drive Campus. The Noble Lodge property consists of a 24,000-square-foot building on a 2.55-acre lot contiguous to the state hospital property transferred to WMU by the state in 1998.

“While much of the attention has been on lifting the Orchard Property restrictions for BTR expansion, the other two parts of the bill are also enormously important to the University,” says Greg Rosine, senior vice president for university advancement and legislative affairs. “The Noble Lodge, in particular, has been on our radar for years. Acquiring it really completes that portion of the campus and opens up all kinds of possibilities for the future. Our local legislative delegation really stepped up and supported our ability to both create jobs and consolidate campus growth.”

Gov. Granholm signs legislation addressing three longstanding University property issues

Blood challenge slated

The spring 2010 WMU-CMU Blood Challenge will run from Tuesday through Thursday, Jan. 19-28.

Those wishing to donate blood on behalf of the University may attend one of the nine drives posted at www.wmich.edu/news/events. They should bring their Red Cross blood donor card or another form of positive ID.

To schedule an appointment to donate, call (800) 448-3543 or visit www.redcrossblood.org. Click Make a Blood Donation Appointment, click Sponsor Code and enter WMU, then complete the online form.

Event set for faculty researchers

A Friday, Jan. 22, open house for faculty researchers is being sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Research from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Fetzer Center. During the event, faculty members can learn about funding opportunities and strategies, connect with WMU colleagues and share ideas.

Daniel Litynski, vice president for research, and Paula Kohler, associate vice president for research and the event’s organizer, will be on hand to meet participants and discuss initiatives and resources.

The open house also will include resource stations and roundtable discussions. To register or obtain details, visit www.wmich.edu/research or contact Charlotte Kelley at charlotte.kelley@wmich.edu or 387-8205.

Gov. Granholm signs legislation addressing three longstanding University property issues

Multicultural posters on display

A poster exhibit depicting the social, political and aesthetic concerns of different cultures opened today in the Monroe-Brown Gallery of the Richmond Center for Visual Arts. Admission is free.

“The Graphic Imperative: International Posters for Peace, Social Justice and the Environment, 1965-2005” will be on display through Friday, Feb. 19. Elizabeth Resnick from the Massachusetts College of Art and Design will give a public lecture about the exhibit at 5:30 p.m. today in 2008 Richmond Center.

Festival to showcase Japanese films

The Japan Foundation’s spring 2010 film festival will feature four new films from Japan. All of the films being shown during the free, public festival are in Japanese with English subtitles. Screenings will be held in the Little Theater over four Wednesdays.

The festival schedule is as follows: Jan. 20, “The Girl Who Lepot through Time”; Feb. 17, “Always—Sunset on Third Street”; Feb. 24, “Memories of Matsuko”; and March 10, “I Just Didn’t Do It.” Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and the films will start at 7 p.m.

H1N1 vaccinations available

Vaccinations against H1N1 influenza are available to members of the WMU community through free clinics being held this month.

Vaccinations will be administered on a walk-in basis in the Sincdleuce Health Center from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. today as well as Jan. 20-22, 25 and 27-29.

H1N1 vaccinations are available at no cost to WMU students, employees and retirees, and to those legal dependents age 12 and older. A valid WMU photo ID card may be required to receive a vaccination. Seasonal flu vaccine is no longer available.

WMU is continuing the same practices used successfully during fall semester to reduce the spread of influenza-like illness on its campuses. Visit the Flu Information Center at www.wmich.edu/flu for details.
Thirty-eight feted at gala event to induct new members into 25 Year Club

A total of 38 people who began their service to WMU in 1984 were inducted into the University’s 25 Year Club during a Dec. 8 gala honoring longtime employees. The annual gala in the University’s Bernhard Center honors employees who have built their careers at WMU. With the new class of inductees in place, the club now has 419 active and 591 retired members.

This year’s ceremony included posthumous note of two inductees: former President Diether H. Haenicke, who died in February 2009, and Susan V. Pochcilla, who reached her 25th service anniversary in August, several weeks before her October death.

The 38 new inductees in the 25 Year Club are: Jeanne Baron, university relations; Billie A. Blake, Haenicke Institute for Global Education; Kristsa J. Cekola, Human Resources; Christopher S. Cho, mechanical and aeronautical engineering; Carol R. Dedow, public safety; Alyce M. Dickinson, psychology; Philip J. Egan, English; Marcella Ellis, Sindecuse Health Center; Frank M. Gambino, marketing; John W. Gesink, electrical and computer engineering; Nancy C. Grover, teaching, learning and educational studies; Rose A. Hathaway, Facilities Management-planning; and Fern Stewart, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services.

At the Dec. 8 gala, former President John M. Dunn, fourth from left, helped induct into the club were, from left: Ed Manion, Facilities Management-maintenance services; Annie Marton, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Philip J. Egan, English; Tammy Kiel, Facilities Management-landscape services; Ed Killingworth, retired, Facilities Management-maintenance services; and Alvin L. Phelps, Bernhard Center; Diether H. Haenicke, who died in February 2009, and Susan V. Pochcilla, who reached her 25th service anniversary in August, several weeks before her October death.

Among those President John M. Dunn, fourth from left, helped induct into the club were, from left: Ed Manion, Facilities Management-maintenance services; Charlotte Kelley, Office of the Vice President for Research; Rose Hathaway, Facilities Management-planning; and Christopher Cho, mechanical and aeronautical engineering. (Photo by Mike Lanka)

Gary Somerville, public safety; Donna St. John, admissions; Peter Thannhauser, mechanical and aeronautical engineering; Mark E. Tomlison, WMUK-FM radio; Sharon M. Van Dyken, College of Education and Human Development; Dennis J. VandenBrink, mechanical and aeronautical engineering; Nancy C. Watson, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Ronald A. Wester, information technology; and Hazel N. Williams, Dining Services-Valley No. 2.

Service

The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 45, 40, 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service during January.

45 Years—John S. Carr, WMU Bookstore.
40 Years—Karen M. Chapman, Development Office.
30 Years—Lynn Bigelow, accounting; Barbara S. Liggett, public affairs and administration; Darla J. Manion, Facilities Management-maintenance services; Miguel A. Ramirez, multicultural affairs; Thomas K. Ramsdell, logistical services; Marilyn K. Rowe, College of Arts and Sciences; and Dawn M. Southworth, student financial aid and scholarships.
25 Years—Sharon L. Carbon, University Libraries; Polly R. Graham, Facilities Management-maintenance services; Timothy Mader, Facilities Management-maintenance services; and Fern Stewart, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services.
20 Years—Iila M. Baker, Career English Language Center; Amy M. Birch, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Marc P. Easley, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Jodie A. Lewis, Facilities Management-maintenance services; and Suzanne M. Moorian, foreign languages.
15 Years—Ronnie K. Bell, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Patricia I. Hule, Office of the Associate Dean of Students; Thomas F. Penar, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Connie Slater, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; and Renee Smith, University Computing and Testing Center.
10 Years—Guill Allen, Dining Services-Davis; Eleanor G. Bowerman, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; James F. Burns, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Jim DeLong, Darrell Junkins, Steve Kete and Steve Root, landscape services; and Eric Kerney, maintenance services.

“Facilities Management team stepped-up to leverage the amount of grounds that need to be done on our campus and supported the youth in our community to get a good start in their working careers,” says Peter Strazdas, associate vice president of Facilities Management.

It was a great win-win. The extra effort by our management team in the landscape services unit is to be commended.

To become a host department for the summer 2010 program, contact Kelly-Allen at lynne.kelly-albertson@wmich.edu or 387-2145.

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25 Years—Sharon L. Carbon, University Libraries; Polly R. Graham, Facilities Management-maintenance services; Timoth...
From the University’s earliest efforts to protect students, faculty and staff from exposure to the H1N1 flu virus, Jackie Angel has been on the job.

Angel, business office manager at Sindecuse Health Center, was vacationing in Cancun, Mexico, in April 2009 when she received a call from Sindecuse Executive Director Carol Eddy informing her of potential travel restrictions, quarantine and other H1N1 concerns. When Angel returned to the United States, she was quarantined for a week and worked from home.

“It was a learning experience, and we all thought it went well,” she says. “When the fall started, we knew we had to be flexible. Certainly you plan a lot of things, but we needed to react as things happened.”

Part of those changes meant instituting separate registration and waiting areas for patients with flu-like symptoms, having masks available, and communicating with the University community about precautions and symptoms.

Although H1N1 planning and immunization clinics consumed much of Angel’s time this past year, it is just one of the 16-year WMU veteran’s many responsibilities. She also is responsible for personnel decisions in the business office, manages accounts receivable processes, manages the Express Pay payroll deduction program and coordinates customer service initiatives for the office employees.

“To remain current in health care management while providing excellent customer service is an ongoing challenge given the complexity and volume of our varied clientele and medicine as a whole,” Angel says. “The job can be different every day, and it can be different 100 times a day.”

Maintaining her accreditation as a Certified Medical Assistant helps her keep current in her profession.

Born in Jackson, Mich., Angel worked as a medical assistant for various private practices before coming to WMU. She and her husband, Dennis, enjoy boating on Lake Michigan and have two grown children.

Angel is a member of and has held executive positions in the Kalamazoo Chapter of Medical Assistants and WMU’s Administrative Professional Association.