Trustees give Dunn high marks

Praising WMU President John M. Dunn for his leadership, commitment and accessibility, WMU trustees voted unanimously Sept. 17 to extend his contract for an additional two years and increase both his base salary and deferred compensation.

The move extends Dunn’s contract through June 2014 and raises his base salary by 2 percent to $362,457. Dunn and his wife, Linda, plan to donate the full amount of the salary increase—just over $7,100—to student scholarship funds at the University. The couple made a similar donation in 2008 after the board increased Dunn’s salary.

Work-study hiring deadline nearing

Career and Student Employment Services reminds faculty and staff members that many federal work-study recipients as well as other WMU students are looking for campus employment. Federal work-study recipients must receive a University paycheck by Tuesday, Oct. 13, or their work-study awards will be removed from their financial aid packages. For more information, contact Brenda Case-Parris at 387-2725.

Staff award nominations due Oct. 31

Nominations for the fall round of WMU’s semiannual Make a Difference awards are due by Saturday, Oct. 31. Visit www.wmich.edu/hr/makeadifference for more information, or to submit a nomination online. Nominations may also be submitted by email to make-a-difference@wmich.edu or via campus mail to Mail Stop 5217.

Recreation center open house slated

University Recreation will host an open house from 2 to 6 p.m. From 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 29, for WMU employees and retirees. Attendees will be able to tour the SRC and use its facilities as well as obtain information about SRC memberships and the University’s Zest for Life wellness program.

From 2 to 6 p.m., those attending will be able to check out the SRC’s new WMU Athletic Training Lab/WMU Sports Medicine Clinic, which provides services for faculty and staff members. There also will be door prizes and refreshments.

College name change approved

WMU trustees have signed off on changing the name of the College of Education to the College of Education and Human Development to better reflect the diversity of programs that the college provides.

The college prepares students for roles in continuing education and conference operations, and international education. WMU’s six regional sites as well as its online, continuing education and conference programs.

WMU in forefront of sustainability efforts

As the campus becomes increasingly greener, WMU is gaining wider recognition. Most recently, Business Review West Michigan awarded its inaugural Green Award in the Greatest Green Initiative category to WMU. The University was one of 10 award winners and the only higher education entity honored.

WMU’s work was profiled in the Sept. 3 issue of the business magazine, and campus sustainability efforts will be honored today during an award ceremony in Grand Rapids that will also single out office furniture giant Herman Miller and the city of Grand Rapids.

The award recipients constitute a select group of West Michigan individuals and organizations that “exemplify the spirit of sustainability.” The publication cited the past year of work at WMU as “a significant point in Western Michigan University’s sustainability journey” and pointed to a number of green awareness initiatives.

Those initiatives included:

• Launching a comprehensive Web site at www.wmich.edu/sustainability.
• Initiating an LED pilot lighting project.
• Purchasing electric vehicles to begin transforming the campus maintenance fleet.
• Committing to the Southwest Michigan Region Sustainability Covenant.

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Holistic health exhibit opens

An art exhibit depicting new holistic healing methods is on display through Thursday, Oct. 15, in the College of Health and Human Services Building’s second-floor art gallery. The exhibit, “Journey to Self: An Illustrated Guide to the Inner Life,” stems from a book written by Tom Holmes and illustrated by Sharon Eckstein. It may be viewed from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Neutron star focus of physics talk

Physics colloquium titled “Journey to the Core of a Neutron Star” will be presented by Edward Brown from Michigan State University. The event will start at 4 p.m. Monday, Sept. 28, in 1110 Rood. Visit http://tesla.physics.wmich.edu/Colloquia.php?PG=1 for more information.

Provost leads off speakers series

Provost Timothy J. Greene kicks off the 2009-10 Keystone Community Bank Breakfast Speaker Series with an 8 a.m. talk Friday, Oct. 2, in the Dean’s Conference Room of Schneider. Titled “WMU—Providing Higher Education Leadership,” the free event will begin with a 7:30 a.m. breakfast and requires reservations, which may be made by calling 387-5050.

Dedication event showcases new Statistical Consulting Center

The Department of Statistics will showcase its new Statistical Consulting Center with a dedication and open house from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Friday, Sept. 25, in 3379 Rood. The dedication and open house from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Friday, Sept. 25, in 3379 Rood. The dedication and open house from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Friday, Sept. 25, in 3379 Rood.


Foundation to hold 50th meeting

The Paper Technology Foundation is celebrating its 50th annual meeting Thursday, Oct. 15. Activities observing this milestone include a keynote address by James A. Buzard, president of MeadWestvaco Corp.; meeting as internship and employment interviews with WMU students; and a luncheon showcasing Paper Tech Foundation scholarship recipients.

Most activities related to the celebration will take place in the Fetzer Center. Visit www.wmich.edu/wmpurf and click Annual Meeting for more information or to register for various activities.

BIS prof earns coveted certification

William Bonomo, business information systems, has been awarded the Microsoft Certified Trainer title. This prestigious certification from Microsoft recognizes trainers as being technical and instructional experts in Microsoft solutions and those individuals authorized to deliver training for Microsoft certification.

Bonomo had to pass three exams, two covering CRM information and a third covering operating systems and networking.

Students taking the Customer Relationship Management class this fall will benefit by having unrestricted access to the Microsoft Learning Library and will pay a reduced price on corresponding Microsoft Certification Exam.

Counselor elected to national board

Lonnie Duncan, counselor education and counseling psychology, has been elected to a three-year term on the Council of Counseling Psychology Training Programs Board of Directors. CCPTFP is the national organization of counseling psychology training programs, and its membership includes the training directors of U.S. and Canadian counseling psychology doctoral programs.

Duncan is co-training director for WMU’s counseling psychology doctoral program and a recipient of the University’s Griselda Daniel Award.

His professional interests include the role of race, class and gender on personality development; Christian psychology; black male development; outreach and prevention; scale development and validation; minority mental health; and supervision and training.

Coach named to national group

Head men’s soccer coach Stu Riddle has been selected as one of nine NCAA Division I head coaches to serve on the National Soccer Coaches Association of America Men’s National Rankings Committee. The NSCAA conducts the most widely recognized national and regional soccer ranking system in the country as a service to the general public and its members.

Based in Kansas City, Kan., it is the largest coaches’ organization in the United States.

The 203 participating NCAA Division I schools are broken down into eight regions. Riddle will serve as committee head for the 61-team Great Lakes Region, reporting weekly to National Chair Carl Rees with a national top 25 and regional top 10 vote.

Riddle has been at WMU since early last year. He has worked at institutions such as the University of Evansville, served as head coach for the Kalamazoo Kingdom PDL and developed the Kalamazoo Outrage soccer program.
The retirements of three faculty members and seven staff members were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees at its Sept. 17 meeting. Trustees also accepted the resignations of four faculty members and one staff member.

All of the faculty members who are retiring are doing so with emeritus status. Their names, positions, years of continuous service and effective dates of retirement are: Joseph J. Belonax Jr., professor of marketing, 31-1/2 years, effective Dec. 31; Jaimy Gordon, professor of English, 32-1/2 years, effective April 30, 2014; and G. Owen Raaberg, professor of English, 22-1/2 years, effective Dec. 31, 2011.

Enrollment dips slightly overall; up in some categories

More than 24,500 students have enrolled at WMU for the fall 2009 semester. The University’s official total enrollment is 24,576. That figure includes a main campus enrollment of 22,623. The fall total also includes an enrollment of 3,616 in online programs and at regional sites.

The enrollment data is from WMU’s fall census, conducted Sept. 15. This fall’s numbers are within 1 percent of the previous year’s enrollment of 24,818 and show:

• A 1.3 percent increase in graduate enrollment, including a 4.7 percent increase in the number of doctoral students. At 900, the number of students pursuing doctoral degrees reflects an increase of more than 65 percent in the past decade.

• An 18.2 percent increase in the number of nonresident undergraduates, pointing to successful recruiting initiatives in out-of-state areas such as Chicago and other countries. The overall increase in the number of nonresident students at both the graduate and undergraduate levels is 11.2 percent.

• A Universitywide increase in minority and international students by more than half a percent. Minority student enrollment stands at nearly 13 percent and international student enrollment at just over 5 percent.

University accelerating flu prevention efforts

In related news, the Fox-Eldridge residence halls have been readied to isolate students with the flu from others living in residence halls. This could spread very rapidly and affect more than half of those students with the H1N1 virus are isolated from others, this could spread very rapidly and affect a much larger percentage of the campus community than we have ever experienced with seasonal flu.”

Employees and students with obvious flu symptoms are being asked to voluntarily stay home. If they do not, supervisors and instructors are asked to send those individuals home.

Visit the Flu Information Web pages at www.wmich.edu/flu for more information and instructions for employees and students.

WMU marking 100th year in Grand Rapids with event

Next month will mark the 100th anniversary of WMU providing academic offerings in Grand Rapids.

To celebrate its centennial milestone, an open house for prospective students will be held 4:30 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7, in the Graduate Center Downtown, located at 200 Ionia Ave. SW. Visit www.wmich.edu/grandrapids/100 to make a reservation to attend the open house. WMU-GrandRapids will pay the application fee for attendees who apply to a program by Oct. 16.
Three to receive Distinguished Alumni Awards

The WMU Alumni Association has selected three prominent WMU graduates to receive its most prestigious honor, the Distinguished Alumni Award.

The 2009 award recipients are: Susan Martin Bunda, executive vice president of content development and strategy for CNN Worldwide in Atlanta; Nancy J. Diehl, recently retired chief of the Felony Trial Division for the Wayne County (Mich.) Prosecutor's Office; and Kenneth V. Miller, vice president, chief operating officer and co-owner of Havirco in Kalamazoo and chair of the WMU Board of Trustees.

This year’s recipients will be recognized during an on-campus reception and dinner starting at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 23, in the East Ballroom of the Bernhard Center. Reservations may be made by visiting www.wmich.edu/alumni and clicking Events or by calling (269) 387-8777. On-line reservations will be accepted through Friday, Oct. 9, and phone reservations through Oct. 16.

Green initiatives

- Achieving LEED-EB gold certification for the Health and Human Services building and transferring the practices and materials used in that building to facilities campuswide.

The Green Award honor follows closely on news received in August that the WMU Bookstore sold the University’s media guides for its 16 varsity sports.

The mug is sold in the WMU Bookstore and enables users to receive discounts at campus and local businesses. It was provided free to incoming first-year and transfer students.

To view the guides, go to the Sustainability Web site for details.