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 387-2275.

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 e-mail 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 in the Student Recreation Center 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, at Ohio State University. Since his departure, EUP has been led on an interim basis by Darrell Johnson, who left WMU at the end of 2008 to accept a position at Ohio State University. Since his departure, EUP has been led on an interim basis by Craig Kami.

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.

Top Extended University Programs position filled
A seasoned administrator has been named to head WMU’s off-campus programs. Dawn M. Gaymer has been named associate provost for Extended University Programs, effective Oct. 1.

Gaymer has more than 20 years of experience in such areas as adult student recruiting, graduate program leadership and international education.

In her new post, she will lead the University’s six regional sites as well as its online, continuing education and conference programs.

Prior to coming to WMU, Gaymer was at Eastern Michigan University. She joined EMU in 1999 as assistant dean for credit programs in the school’s continuing education operations, and since 2005 has been assistant dean of graduate programs in EMU’s College of Business.

Gaymer also has been director of international admissions at the University of Toledo, a program coordinator at Golden Gate University and an admissions specialist at Brevard Community College. She succeeds Darrell Johnson, who left WMU at the end of 2008 to accept a position at Ohio State University. Since his departure, EUP has been led on an interim basis by Craig Kami.
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 event will start at 4 p.m. on 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.

Holistic health exhibit opens

A 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. on Monday, Sept. 28, in 1110 Rood. Visit http://tesla.physics.wmich.edu/Colloquia.php?PG=1 for more information.

Arts classes open to area youths

The Frostic School of Art is offering Saturday morning art classes to youths ages 7 to 18 from Oct. 10-Dec. 5. The deadline to enroll is Monday, Oct. 5, or until classes fill.

Neutron star focus of physics talk

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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 Mac-Westvaco Corp., meeting as internships and employment interviews with WMU students; and a luncheon showcasing Paper Tech Foundation scholarship recipients.

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Board of Trustees approves several faculty, staff retirements

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. Gwen 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 24,588 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 8.2 percent increase in the number of nonresident undergraduates, going 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.

In related news, the Fox-Eldridge residence halls have been readied to isolate students with the flu from others living in University housing.

Some students are questioning the seriousness of the situation, since H1N1 has many of the characteristics of seasonal flu, and the treatment is largely the same.

“We must make the public realize that this is a real threat,” says Lisa Marshall, WMU medical director, “while many of us have built up considerable resistance to seasonal flu. Unless those 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.

List of faculty and staff resigning

The following faculty and staff members are retiring:

Faculty:

• Edward L. Britten, grounds/trades in facilities management-landscape services, 39-1/2 years, effective Sept. 30; John Running-Johnson, sculpture technician in the Frostic School of Art, 20 years, effective Aug. 7; Kim D. Sauder, manager in facilities management-building and support services, 12 years, effective Jan. 4, 2010; Terry G. Spencer, manager of corporate reporting and taxation in accounting, 22-1/2 years, effective Sept. 6; and Connie L. White, second cook in Dining Services-Burnham, 19 years, effective Dec. 31.

The faculty members resigning are: Rebekah Farraga, assistant professor of communication, effective Aug. 9; Herb Fyneweber, assistant professor of chemistry, effective Aug. 14; Paul Nwulu, associate professor of communication, effective Aug. 8; and Sybil Rhodes, associate professor of political science, effective Aug. 9.

The staff member resigning is: Michael E. Hovland, head women’s soccer coach, effective Sept. 30.

University accelerating flu prevention efforts

WMU has placed signs at all entrances to its buildings urging those with flu symptoms to stay home and follow the instructions posted on the University’s Flu Information Web site.

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 from 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.

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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 Worldwide in Atlanta; and Kenneth V. Miller, Division for the Wayne County (Mich.) Prosecutor’s Office; and Kenneth V. Miller, 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. 9, and phone reservations will be accepted through www.wmich.edu/alumni and clicking East Ballroom of the Bernhard Center. 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 Princeton Review named WMU one of Michigan’s three most sustainable universities. That publication gave the University 92 points out of a possible 99 in measuring and analyzing its academic and operational commitment to sustainability. Grand Valley State University and Michigan State University were ranked as No. 1 and No. 2 in Michigan, respectively.

Among other recent green initiatives are the introduction of an EcoMug and the elimination of print versions of 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. 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.

The decision by intercollegiate athletics to post them on the Web also will reduce costs and favorably impact the environment. Visit www.wmubroncos.com to view the guides, which are posted as PDF files for all fall sports on the left side of each sport’s home page.

On Campus with Kathy Rix

Helping to keep WMU’s student information systems running efficiently occupies much of the day for Kathy Rix, who has been associate registrar since 2000.

Rix is responsible for generating reports for clients across campus and chairing the Institutional Security for Student Information Systems Committee, which oversees institutional security related to student data. She’s well versed in Banner, Cognos and WMU’s other key information management software, and uses her knowledge of the SQL programming language to tailor reports to meet specific client needs.

“IT is a primary purpose to serve campus constituents, be they student, faculty or staff, and ensure that University and federal policies are enforced,” Rix says of the Registrar’s Office, adding that information security is becoming increasingly important.

“IT encourage everyone to regularly review WMU’s security policies. To find them online, login to GoWMU and click the Security Access Policies link in the My Work tab.”

Rix has taken college-level programming courses, but developed her computer expertise in a roundabout way after serving a three-year stint in the Navy as a photographer’s mate. During that time, she worked on everything from official portraits to reconnaissance photos, but the high point was printing pictures of America’s astronauts as they took their first steps on the moon.

Next came several years of temporary work, then eight more as an administrative assistant in the Kalamazoo schools, where Rix started training her co-workers on the district’s software enhancements. She came to WMU’s Extended University Programs in 1996 as a secretary and worked her way up to publications coordinator. That job moved to the Registrar’s Office in 1999, and has morphed considerably since then.

“I’m now what you call a funky tech—functional person with a lot of technological understanding, someone who can bridge the gap between the really functional and the really technical,” Rix says. “The Registrar’s Office is a great place to work. Everything we do helps to maintain the integrity and value of a WMU degree.”

Rix resides in Kalamazoo with her two cats, Siri and Tanner. In 1999, she earned an MBA from WMU and last year, she completed a doctorate in higher education administration. In her free time, Rix enjoys working on puzzles and watching tennis and golf. For many years, she was “instrumental” in various church services, sometimes playing the guitar and singing and sometimes planning the musical program.

Large bequests reported

WMU received more than $12.7 million in gifts during this past fiscal year. The largest, $2.25 million, came from the estate of Edwin E. Meader. His wife, Mary, donated about $500,000 and left a bequest valued at $2.75 million. Two anonymous deferred bequests valued at $16 million combined were also confirmed.

Campus community invited to Tom Friedman simulcast

WMU students and employees are invited to view a live broadcast of a Wednesday, Oct. 7, lecture by Pulitzer Prize winner and best-selling author Thomas L. Friedman.

The free simulcast is set for 8 p.m. in the Fetzer Center’s Kirsch Auditorium. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. for the event, which is not open to the public.

Friedman will discuss his best-selling 2008 book, “Hot, Flat and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution—And How It Can Renew America.” His previous works include 2005’s “The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century.”

Go to www.worldmichigan.org to order tickets for the Grand Rapids dinner.

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