Two commencement ceremonies set
WMU has scheduled two commencement
 ceremonies for Saturday, June 27, in Miller
 Auditorium. The first ceremony will be at 9
 a.m. for the colleges of Education and Fine
 Arts, Extended University Programs, and
 the Haworth College of Business. The second
ceremony will be at noon for the colleges of
 Arts and Sciences, Aviation, Engineer-
ing and Applied Sciences, and Health and
 Human Services.

Survey seeks input on Sangren update
WMU is seeking input on the Sangren
 Hall renovation. The brief survey will be
 available online until June 19 for public
 comment. Go to www.wmich.edu/wmu/
 news/2009/06/021.html for details.

WMU intensifies efforts to publicize
No Worker Left Behind programs
The University has intensified its efforts to
 publicize availability of its programs under
 Michigan's No Worker Left Behind program, launched
 by Gov. Jennifer Granholm in 2007 to support education and
 retraining for certain high-demand occupations.
WMU has purchased print and online ad-
 vertisements in public media and launched
 a Web site at www.wmich.edu/noworker
 specifically to address questions from those
 who qualify for the program. The Web site
 identifies more than 35 bachelor's, master's
 and certificate programs that qualify, with
 more University programs being added
 each week.

Two new road closures announced
Two campus roads near Read Fieldhouse
 have been closed for reconstruction until
 Wednesday, July 1. Closed are South Dormi-
tory Road and a other road on South Dormitory
 to Western Avenue.
Affected buildings include Davis, French
 and Zimmerman halls and the fieldhouse.
 Also closed because of the work on South
 Hays is access to two major parking areas,
 Lot 16 and Lot 94, located west of the
 fieldhouse.

Financial consultations available
Employees may go online to schedule ap-
 pointments for personal consultations with
 TIAA-CREF and Fidelity investment and
 retirement advisors. Consultations are usu-
 ally held on campus in the Bernhard Center
 on prearranged days. Go to www.tiaa-cref.
 org and click Meetings and Counseling or to
 www.fidelity.com/artwork/reservations
 to schedule an appointment.

Western News now going on hiatus
Today's issue of Western News is the last
 issue for the summer. Western News will
 resume its regular publication schedule in
 the fall semester. During the hiatus, go to
 www.wmich.edu/news to keep up with
 WMU news and announcements.

Math reform work earns national notice
The Core-Plus Mathematics Project, a long-term WMU effort to develop and help imple-
 ment a high school mathematics curriculum that will meet the nation's current and future
 needs, has won the praise of a nationwide organization made up of high-profile corporate
 CEOs, agency chiefs and university presidents.
The U.S. Department of Education previously named CPMP an exemplary program, and this
 month the Business Higher Ed Forum recognized it online at www.strategicedsolu-
tions.org as June's featured program and as one that can make a difference in the nation's
 schools.
The forum is made up of Fortune 500 CEOs, prominent college and university leaders and
 foundation leaders, who are "working to advance innovative solutions to our nation's edu-
ed challenges in order to enhance U.S. competitiveness."
CPMP is a high school mathematics curriculum that has been in development and evalua-
tion at WMU since 1992 with funding from the National Science Foundation. Directed since
 its inception by Christian R. Hirsch, mathematics, CPMP was originally developed as a three-year mathemat-
 ics program to prepare all students for
 college and the workplace.
The project has been integrating fundamental concepts and skills in
 algebra and functions, geometry and
 trigonometry, statistics and probabil-

Sindecuse, WMU part of model preparedness community
The Sindecuse Health Center and WMU
 are part of one of seven coalitions around the
 country that have been designated by the
 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 as a "2008 Model Community Linking EMS
 and Public Health."

The CDC's Terrorism Injuries Informa-
tion, Dissemination and Exchange announ-
ced the designation last year as part of
 its model community program, which
 identifies towns, counties and similar "com-
munities" that model how emergency medi-
cal services can work with other safety and
 public health agencies in times of disaster.

Two initiatives named state innovation finalists
WMU's outreach to students who have aged out of foster care and its dual-enrollment
 engineering initiative with Kellogg Community College are among the statewide finalists
 for the 2009 Innovation Michigan program sponsored by Michigan Business Review.
The two WMU efforts are among 39 innovative initiatives that will be featured in a special
 supplement to the publication July 16. That evening, the 2009 Innovation Michigan Exposi-
tion will be held at Grand Valley State University's Pew Campus in Grand Rapids, and eight
 of the 39 finalists will be named winners of the 2009 Innovation Michigan Award.
The annual exhibition recognizes the development or use of innovative products and
 services in Michigan. The event, now in its fourth year, was opened up to entries from
 across the state for the first time this year.
WMU's Foster Youth in Higher Education/Seita Scholars initiative is a Universitywide
 effort designed to combat historically low rates of college attendance and graduation rates
 among young people who have aged out of the foster care system. Now moving into its
 second year, the program offers free tuition to qualified students and makes academic sup-
 port services and year-round housing available as well.
The joint program between KCC and WMU will provide students with the best of both
 worlds by offering them joint admissions, efficient and flexible class scheduling, and the
 freedom to move seamlessly from the community college to WMU on their way to earning
 an associate degree at KCC and then a bachelor's degree at WMU.
The retirements of four staff members were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees at its June 9 meeting. Board members also acknowledged the change in one faculty member’s retirement date, signed off on another faculty member’s return to the faculty and accepted the resignations of two additional faculty members.

The faculty members retiring are: Laura M. Cottrell, Dean of the Graduate School; and John Tanis, physics.

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Math reform work

The WMU Board of Trustees approved the tenure of 23 faculty members at its June 4 meeting.

The tenured appointments for all 23 are effective with the beginning of the 2009-10 academic year.

New tenured faculty and their disciplines are:

- Ala I. Al-Fuqaha, computer science; Jeffrey M. Angles, foreign languages; JoAnn L. Atkin, marketing; Andrea L. Beach, educational leadership, research and technology; Daniel Jay Berkow, theatre; E. Bryce Dickey, family and consumer sciences; Allison Downey, teaching, learning and educational studies; Chad Edwards, communication; Steve Feffer, English; Gregory A. Flonne, speech pathology and audiology; Pavel G. Ilkonovom, industrial and manufacturing engineering; Edwin A. Martini, history; Lisa C. Minnick, English; Ilana Nash, English; Sheine O. Obure, chemistry; Carolyn R. Pavlik, dance; Cynthia, Pietras, psychology; Troy Place, industrial and manufacturing engineering; Kaseung Ko, mechanical and aeronautical engineering; Renee Schwartz, biological sciences; Helen M. Sharp, speech pathology and audiology; Bade Shrestha, mechanical and aeronautical engineering; and Zijiang James Yang, computer science.

Math reform work continues from page 1

It also maintains a Strategic Solutions resource site on which the Core Plus Mathematics Program evaluations show it boosts achievement on standardized tests and improves quantitative thinking skills among students using it, as compared to those in more traditional math programs. A second edition of the Core-Plus Mathematics series was recently published.

The Business Higher Education Forum set out a year ago to identify clearly effective educational programs that would help them and others improve their education philanthropy. It also maintains a Strategic Solutions resource site on which the Core Plus Mathematics Program is featured this month. Forum members include the leaders of such organizations as Boeing; the College Board and the American Council on Education; Columbia, Cornell and Ohio State universities; IBM, Pfizer, State Farm and the Wallace Foundation.

“Summer is among the busiest times, as faculty members have more time to conduct research, the fiscal year starts July 1 and WMU does a compliance audit of its major federal programs. “It gets busy, but there’s great teamwork in our office,” Dowd says.

When not in the office, he spends time with his two-year-old daughter, Maia, works on a master’s degree in business at WMU, and enjoys running, being outdoors, attending summer festivals and riding his custom Harley Davidson road bike.

Math reform work continues from page 1

After crunching numbers all week for the University as a grant and contract specialist, Kevin Dowd likes to relax with a game of golf—disc golf, that is.

The game, which is similar to traditional golf with a ball but played with Frisbees and baskets, is something Dowd learned while attending Ohio State University and still plays today. He began teaching a class on disc sports this summer in the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation. He also was a tournament director for the 2008 Disc Golf Championship.

“A typical hole is 300 feet, and most courses have 18 holes,” Dowd says. “So we play at a lot of parks. Kalamazoo has eight courses within 45 minutes of it, and we’re in the proposal process to have one at WMU.”

A native of Bay City, Mich., Dowd moved to Florida, when he was 18, then attended college in Columbus, Ohio. He earned a bachelor’s degree in finance and came back to Michigan in 2005 to take a job in WMU’s Department of Business Information Systems. He worked in that office for a year and a half and also had a brief stint in student financial aid and scholarships before landing his current position in March 2007.

Working in the grants and contracts office, which reports to the associate vice president for finance, makes for an interesting and varied job. Dowd primarily coordinates the financial administration of research-oriented grants and contracts and helps faculty and staff meet the guidelines that come along with such sponsored research.

“We’re looking at financial, contractual and regulatory requirements to ensure compliance with federal, state, agency and University regulations, policies and procedures,” Dowd says, noting that he’s juggling from 70 to 100 projects at any given time. “Basically, we do all the behind-the-scenes stuff for a grant that doesn’t have to do with the research.”

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