Computer Repair Shop expands

The Office of Information Technology has expanded its computer repair services. In addition to Apple and Dell computers, OIT is now also repairing Compaq, Fujitsu and Hewlett Packard computers.

The Computer Repair Shop has undergone significant restructuring in the past couple of years. This has resulted in the shop expanding the line of computers it services while significantly reducing the average turnaround time to five days, which beats the industry average of seven days.

Pay for students to rise in July

Effective July 1, the A1–A4 student pay rates will increase to $7.40 per hour to comply with the new state minimum wage requirements. Supervisors do not need to complete an online transaction form; adjustments will be made automatically.

All other student employee pay rates will remain the same. Those with questions or comments may contact George Eskro at george.eskro@wmich.edu or 964-2745.

WMU President John M. Dunn has appointed Timothy J. Greene the University's new provost and vice president for academic affairs, effective Aug. 1.

Greene, dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, was one of four finalists named in April in the national search to select WMU's second in command.

"Our campus community came together to thoroughly examine the finalists and provide feedback to me during this critical appointment process," Dunn says.

"The caliber of the candidates was extremely impressive, but in the final analysis, Dr. Greene proved to be the right candidate for WMU. His energy, proven leadership abilities, commitment to our values and strong knowledge of our University resonated with members of our faculty, staff and student body. He is well qualified to serve as our provost."

Greene, whose appointment is subject to approval by the WMU Board of Trustees, replaces Bassam Harik. Harik has been the University's interim provost since last July, when he stepped in following the retirement of Janet Psanieschi and agreed to serve while the national search was conducted.

"I am honored the president has selected me as WMU's next provost. I am very pleased that the University faculty, staff and students were supportive of my candidacy, and I'm eager to get started in my new role," says Greene, a tenured faculty member in the Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering.

"During the next few months, I will spend a considerable amount of time meeting with faculty, staff and students across the University. Many things drew me to the provost's position, but clearly the most important one was the dedication our faculty and staff have to our students and university."

Greene has been the engineering and applied sciences dean since April 2005. During his public presentation on campus as the search narrowed to the finalists, the veteran administrator stressed the importance of developing strong internal and external partnerships to extend the University's ability to meet its goals and serve the larger community.

Before coming to WMU, Greene was at the University of Alabama, where he was serving as assistant vice president for research and academic affairs. Prior to accepting that position in 2004, he had served as engineering dean there since 1999.

Research collaborators sought

A series of meetings have been scheduled in June to explore ways WMU can increase its involvement in research related to homeland security and patented technologies that can be used to identify criminals and other terrorists.

Any faculty or staff members who are engaging in that type of research, or who are interested in doing so, are invited to contact Charles Dawes, Development Office. Dawes is coordinating meetings from Tuesday through Thursday, June 10-12, between Cross Check Technologies and WMU units and employees representing a variety of academic disciplines.

Cross Check, formerly named Secure Logixtigx, owns the patents to a human body scanning, typing and profiling system as well as other security-related technologies. During their visit, the company's founders will discuss the potential for WMU and Cross Check to collaborate on research and other projects.

Dawes also will assist with setting up campus meetings, as requested, among departments interested in exploring additional security-related research opportunities. To learn more or make arrangements to attend one of the scheduled meetings, contact Dawes at charles.dawes@wmich.edu or 964-5697.

For WMU Day at the Capitol May 28 to highlight the University’s successes as a premier research institution.

For WMU Day at the Capitol, employees set up some two dozen exhibits and displays, showcasing such distinctive units and projects as the Digitization Center; Department of Geosciences; six-foot robotic horse, Robo Broncos; and Sunseeker solar car. There was even a replica of a Cirrus SR-20 plane—the same model as the two from WMU’s fleet that flew over the Capitol at noon.

Other displays and activities included vocal performances by College of Fine Arts students, as well as vocal performances by College of Fine Arts students.
APA, PSSO award educational scholarships to five WMU students

Five staff members or their dependents have received 2008 scholarships this spring from the Administrative Professional Association and Professional Support Staff Organization. The APA’s annual $500 scholarships, which support APA members’ children who attend WMU, went to Chelsea Keck, the daughter of Patricia Keck, university budgets, and Ryan Crawley, the son of Rosanna Metoyer, auxiliary enterprises.

The spring scholarships sponsored by the PSSO, which go to PSSO members or their dependents who attend WMU, totaled $170 and were divided among Tracie Scherbe, accounting services; Steven Siwik, son of Cheryl Siwik, payroll office; and Gregory Flynn, son of Joyce Flynn, College of Education.

The scholarships were announced independently by the two groups after the annual APA/PSSO Awards and Spring Luncheon held May 16.

APA’s two annual $500 scholarships, which support APA members’ children who attend WMU, went to Chelsea Keck, the daughter of Patricia Keck, university budgets, and Ryan Crawley, the son of Rosanna Metoyer, auxiliary enterprises.

The PSSO’s co-chairs Terri Culver, accounting services, and Mary Ramlow, Evaluation Center; Jackie Angel, Sindecuse Health Center; Mary Escobedo, University Counseling and Testing Services, Carol Morris-Mier, College of Education; Peggy Miller, Human Resources; Connie Penachetti, Fetzer Center; Kandice-Toi Ross, Human Services, Carol Morris-Mier, College of Education; Peggy Miller, Human Resources; Connie Penachetti, Fetzer Center; and Cynthia L. Trout, intercollegiate athletics.

Five Years—Tania L. Echavarria, King/ Chavez/Rosa Parks Program; Catherine L. Fosse, biological sciences; Melissa V. Green, Student Activities and Leadership Programs; and William E. Post Jr., Development Office.

Correction

In the photo captions for this year’s Poker Walk, the May 22 Western News incorrectly identified Cinda Swinick and Emily Kilan as nurses. They are medical technologists.

Jobs

Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources Web site at www.wmich.edu/hr/careers-at-wmu.htm. Please note that applications must be submitted online by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included with each posting.

Film examines issue of torture

The Little Theatre will feature “Taxi to the Dark Side” Friday through Sunday, June 6-8. This 2008 Oscar-winning Best Documentary examines the U.S. use of torture in the war on terror. Go to www.wmich.edu/wmich/news/2008/06/001.html for more information.

Retirement receptions slated

The campus community is invited to attend two events being held this month for retiring staff members.

Carl Newton, energy manager in physical plant maintenance services, will be recognized for 12-1/2 years of service to WMU during a reception from 2 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, June 11, in the President’s Dining Room of the Bernhard Center.

Bill Breur, logistical services, will be recognized for 32 years of service to WMU during a reception from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Friday, June 20, in the President’s Dining Room of the Bernhard Center.

Open house set for ombudsman

An open house has been scheduled for Thomas Bailey, English and environmental studies, who will be stepping down from his second stint at University ombuds. The event is slated from 1 to 3 p.m. Friday, June 13, in 218 Bernhard Center.

Prof named research associate

Robert Bensley, community health education, was appointed earlier this year as a research associate with the Netherlands-Michigan Metropolitan University. Bensley is pursuing several community and research-related opportunities in South Africa with his NMU colleagues.

He previously spent six months in South Africa supported by the Fulbright Senior Scholar Award. Since then, he has been actively involved in internationalizing the community health education curriculum and exploring avenues for collaborative research between WMU and NMU.

An active researcher, Bensley joined the WMU faculty in 2004. He has led numerous research projects during his academic career, and to date, has been awarded more than $1.1 million as a principle investigator.

Graduate dean pens new book

Lewis Pyenson, dean of the Graduate College, has written “the first full-length study” of the life and work of George Sarton, one of the founders of the history of science in America. Titled “The Passion of George Sarton: A Modern Marriage and Its Discipline,” it was published by the American Philosophical Society.

The book focuses on the sometimes tempestuous marriage between George Sarton and his wife, English artist Mabel Sarton. It uses their relationship and correspondence as the backdrop for Sarton’s vision of the history of science as a discipline that serves as “a bridge between the cultures of the humanities and natural sciences.”

Pyenson earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in physics from Swarthmore College and the University of Wyoming, respectively, and a doctoral degree in the history of science from Johns Hopkins University.

Administrator to be feted June 7

Martha B. Warfield, assistant vice president for student affairs, has received the local NAACP’s 2008 Humanitarian of the Year Award for her decades of contributing to helping students pursue their dreams through education.

Warfield will receive the award from the Metropolitan Kalamazoo Branch of the NAACP at its 28th Freedom Fund Banquet at 6 p.m. Saturday, June 7, in the Bernhard Center Ballroom.

She came to WMU in 1992 as a psychologist and associate professor. She directs the Division of Multicultural Affairs and the Presidential Initiative on Diversity and Multiculturalism.

Go to www.wmich.edu/wmich/news/2008/06/005.html to learn more about the Freedom Fund banquet, including tickets costs.
Nonbargaining employee groups select leadership for 2008-09

The University’s two nonbargaining employee groups, the Administrative Professional Association and the Professional and Support Services Organization, have elected new leaders for 2008-09.

The APA officers are: president, Wil Emmert, Research and Sponsored Programs; vice president, Amy Seth, Student Recreation Center; treasurer, Joe Odehnal, physical plant-utilities; corresponding secretary, Mary Ramlow, Evaluation Center; and recording secretary, Faith Wicklund, Miller Auditorium.

The PSSO Executive Board includes: Byron Glock, Academic Technology and Instructional Services; Sharon Van Dyken, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences; Laura Ciccantell, College of Education; Susan Ketchum, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences; Julie Screvenner, Graduate College; Lynda Hunt, Development Office; Mary Anne Sydlik, Office of the Vice President for Research; Gail Kurtz, investment and endowment management; George Bromell, information technology; Joan O’Bryan, information technology; Jacqueline Angel, Sincdeuce Health Center; Sue Kohlert, Sincdeuce Health Center; and Michele McLaughlin, Student Academic and Institutional Research.

Orientation gets under way

More than 3,300 beginning students, along with many of their parents, are book- ing it to Kalamazoo this month to participate in two-day orientation sessions at WMU. The influx of visitors began June 2 and will continue through June 27 as the University puts on 14 two-day orientation sessions for incoming freshmen.

Hundreds more transfer students will attend one-day transfer orientation ses- sions scheduled closer to the start of the fall semester.

During new-student orientation, incoming freshmen are divided into small groups led by orientation student leaders—current students who have been specially trained to help the newcomers get acquainted with campus and what WMU has to offer.

Dissertation fellows selected

Five doctoral students have been selected to receive Dissertation Completion Fellow- ships for the 2008-09 academic year.

The annual competition for the fellow- ships is sponsored by the Graduate College. Those receiving the honor, along with their programs of study and dissertation advisors’ names, are:

- Brian Becker, history, Larry Simon.
- Tony Frazier, history, Judith Stone (emeritus in history).
- Michaela Rastei, political science, James Butterfield.
- Jai Thomas, industrial and manufacturing engineering, Mitchell Keil.
- Libuo Wang, physics, Sung Chung.

Obituaries

Betty L. Fouch, retired TV traffic co- ordinator for media services, died May 24. She was 86.

Fouch came to WMU in 1951 and worked until 1953 as secretary to the chair of the Department of English.

She served as secretary to the director of the Audioscopic Center from 1964 to 1970 before joining Media Services in 1973. Fouch earned a bachelor’s degree from WMU in 1985, earned a bachelor’s degree from WMU in 1971. She was an active community volunteer, and received the Woman of the Year Award from WMU’s Commission on the Status of Women in 1981.

Cremation has taken place, but friends will be assembling at a memorial gathering on Sunday, June 8, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Portage home of Robert and Barbara Havira. Memorial contributions may be directed to Rose Arbor Hospice Program.

Nathaniel McCaslin, emeritus in social work, died May 31 in Phoenix. He was 78.

McCaslin, a former vice president of the Kalamazoo Public Schools Board of Educa- tion, came to WMU in 1971 and retired in 1991. He began his University career supervising field instruction. During his time in Kalamazoo, McCas- lin was active in the community and held numerous leadership positions, including chair of the county so- cial services board.

He received the Humanitarian of the Year award from the Metropolitan Kalamazoo Branch of the NAACP in 1987. The Nathaniel McCaslin Early Intensive Scholar- ship Program is named in his honor.

Unified Clinics offering hearing screenings

Behold the sounds of summer—crickets and birds chirping, the chatter of children at play, the distant drone of lawnmowers.

But for many, those sounds get lost in the mix because of hearing problems.

Knowing that many people suffer from undiagnosed hearing loss, the Van Riper Language, Speech and Hearing Clinic encourages people to schedule a hearing exam.

WMU hosting national event to improve ‘STEM’ education

The conference will bring together 40 of the leading and up-and-coming scholars in diverse research areas and will build on the multi-disciplinary literature synthesis completed by the organizers.

Among the featured presenters will be Nobel laureate Carl Wieman, director of the Carl Wieman Science Education Initiative at the University of British Columbia and Distinguished Professor of Physics and director of the Science Education Initiative at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

The national conference is being funded by two National Science Foundation grants, with additional support from WMU’s Mallinson Institute for Science Education and Office of the Vice President for Research.

The annual competition for the fellow- ships is sponsored by the Graduate College. Those receiving the honor, along with their programs of study and dissertation advisors’ names, are:

- Brian Becker, history, Larry Simon.
- Tony Frazier, history, Judith Stone (emeritus in history).
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**On Campus with Betty Jo “B.J.” Caldwell**

Work is going swimmingly for B.J. Caldwell, swim lesson coordinator at the Gabel Natatorium in Lawson Ice Arena. “The job is a lot of fun. Everybody supports everybody around here,” Caldwell says. “We all contribute in our own ways and help each other out.”

Gabel is used for WMU’s Zest for Life wellness program, community swimming classes and open swimming. In addition, it’s home to two high school swim teams and may be rented for private parties. WMU provides the lifeguards and offers scholarships to low-income households.

A part-time employee, Caldwell is on the job 15 to 20 hours a week. She coordinates Gabel’s program of classes for swimming, diving and water safety, as well as for gaining certification in CPR, lifeguarding and swim instruction. Swimming classes range from beginning to advanced and are available for infants through adults. Faculty and staff receive a 10 percent discount on class fees.

Caldwell supervises a staff of seven to nine students, schedules classes, assists with in-service training, fills in when instructors or lifeguards aren’t available, and does whatever else is needed, such as creating bulletin boards and helping to maintain the pool and locker areas.

“Learning to swim isn’t an option—it’s a life skill,” she says. “Everyone should be able to swim, save themselves or help someone else who’s struggling.”

Caldwell “fell into” her current job about 10 years ago, soon after she enrolled herself and two of her children in swimming classes at Gabel. “It’s not something I ever thought I’d be doing. I was a stay-at-home mom looking for a flexible job and it turned out to be swimming lessons and lifeguarding,” she says. “The best part is working with WMU’s student instructors and lifeguards. I’m very proud and pleased to see the maturity of our instructors and watch them grow, but when they leave, you miss them so much.”

Caldwell, who previously worked in the banking industry for a decade, lives in Kalamazoo with her husband, a WMU alumnus. They have one grown son and two others ages 13 and 15. Caldwell is a professional yoga teacher, exercises daily, and enjoys cooking, gardening and other hands-on creative activities.

**Broncos stampede Michigan Capitol**

Arts students, demonstrations of Bronco Biodiesel and other environmental initiatives, and blood pressure and hypertension screening along with interactive analysis of posture and shoe-wear.

WMU is the first university to have a front-lawn capitol presence for such a broad spectrum of programs and groups, including those from its main Kalamazoo campus and its eight branch campuses across the state.

The purpose of the event was to engage legislators and policymakers and demonstrate the importance of WMU and the contributions the University makes in providing an educated workforce and advancing the state’s economic development.

First lady Linda Dunn, left center photo, joined the hundreds of proud faculty, staff, students and others who made the most of the WMU Day activities. (Photos by Mike Lanka)