



Western NEWS

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For and about WMU faculty and staff

Campus set for 'holiday mode'

Except for essential and emergency services, WMU offices will be closed Monday, May 28, in honor of Memorial Day. In addition, only selected offices and services will be operating during the Saturday and Sunday, May 26-27, weekend.



To reduce energy costs during the three-day period, automated heating and cooling systems will be in "holiday mode." As a result, air handlers will run only if the building space is exempt from the program.

Trustees slated to meet in June

The next WMU Board of Trustees meeting will take place Thursday, June 7, tentatively at 11 a.m. in the Bernhard Center. Agenda highlights and additional information about WMU Board of Trustees meetings are posted on the WMU News Web site at www.wmich.edu/wmu/news in advance of each meeting.

Audiology services available

May is Better Speech and Hearing Month, and audiologists in WMU's Unified Clinics remind faculty, staff and retirees that audiology services at the clinics are covered under the University's Blue Cross/Blue Shield insurance plan. The Audiology Clinic offers a full range of hearing evaluation and hearing aid services for people of all ages.

E-portfolio contest winners named

Six students have been named winners of the University's second electronic portfolio contest and will receive cash awards (see www.wmich.edu/wmu/news for full story). WMU encourages students to participate in its electronic portfolio initiatives. Portfolios often are created for a class, an academic program or just for fun and may be shared with prospective employers, family members and others located anywhere in the world.

Sky Broncos take fourth in nation

The University's precision flight team, the Sky Broncos, placed fourth at the National Intercollegiate Flying Association championship, which concluded May 12 at Ohio State University. The Sky Broncos finished behind three of the team's long-time rivals, including Embry Riddle Aeronautical University-Prescott, which captured first place. The six-day competition attracted more than 400 pilots from 31 of the top aviation schools in the nation, making the 2007 event the largest in NIFA's history.



Office to support transfer students, veterans

A new office is being established to smooth the transfer of students into WMU from community colleges and other four-year colleges and universities as well as deal with exit and re-entry problems that military personnel sometimes experience.

The Advocacy Office for Transfer Students and Military Affairs will open June 1 and be housed on the upper floor of the Bernhard Center.

Two seasoned academic advisors, Steven Miller and Geraldine "Gerry" Schma, will serve as the office's advocates. Miller is an advisor in the College of Arts and Sciences while Schma is the General University Studies advisor in Extended University Programs.

Creation of the office was announced May 15 in an e-mail letter to faculty and staff from Interim WMU President Diether H. Haenicke. Initially, the new unit will report directly to the president.

"We have met with staff from various University offices who are engaged in transfer activities and are pleased to know that we shall have broad cooperation for this attempt to increase the numbers of transfers to our campus and to ease their transition," Haenicke said in his letter. "The advocates will regularly and frequently visit Michigan community colleges to inform our colleagues and their students on these campuses of the many transfer options available at WMU."

Miller and Schma will study the articulation agreements the University has with its sister institutions in terms of how they impact transfers, make sure students on other campuses have early information about transfer requirements, work with academic units across cam-

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WMU community lends a hand to clean up East Campus



Interim President Diether H. Haenicke, (left, top photo) joined in the "Clean Up East Campus" event that he organized May 12 for the campus community and even footed the bill for dozens of pizzas. Numerous students turned out to help spruce up the grounds of WMU's historic original campus, including many who are part of Haenicke's Facebook community of friends. (Photos by John Lacko)



WMU students staying in town as Monroe-Brown Interns

Twenty college students, including 15 from WMU, are jump-starting their careers with local companies this summer through the Monroe-Brown Internship Program.

Launched last year, the program provides internships, scholarships and an invaluable network of business contacts. It is being offered in conjunction with a Web-based career development program managed by Southwest Michigan First called the Southwest Michigan Talent Network.

The programs are designed as intellectual capital retention tools to keep the region's most talented students in Kalamazoo after graduation by connecting them with scholarships, internships, job openings and networking events.

"After several months of planning and preparing, we're very excited to see this program really come to fruition with these interns beginning their new roles with our local companies," says Ron Kitchens, chief executive officer of Southwest Michigan First. "The local, regional and national interest in this program has been fantastic since we launched it in November. I'm sure we'll see an increase in that interest as the interns make their ways through the summer."

Similar enthusiasm is expressed by Bob Brown, Monroe-Brown Foundation president and a member of the Southwest Michigan First Board of Directors.

"We wanted to put together an internship

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Trustee Miller to discuss WMU's successful presidential search

The search process that led to the appointment last month of John M. Dunn as WMU's president will be explored in a public address tomorrow by the man who led the effort.

Ken Miller, vice chair of the WMU Board of Trustees and chair of the Presidential Search Advisory Committee, will describe the search process when he speaks on campus as part of the Keystone Community Bank Breakfast Speaker Series.

The event is set for 8 a.m. in 2150 Schneider, home of the Haworth College of Business. Reservations are required and may be made by calling the Haworth Office of the Dean at 387-5050.

In a presentation titled "Process + Politics = President," Miller will describe the events and issues that led to the selection of Dunn, who will assume the presidency July 1. Miller plans to provide background, dispel myths, clarify facts and explore the underlying reasoning behind the process that was used as well as the makeup of the search committee.



SPIRITED FUN—Staff from across the University donned their WMU garb and displayed their sense of Bronco pride when they gathered May 18 for the annual Spring Awards Luncheon sponsored by the Administrative Professional Association and the Professional Support Staff Organization. The theme for the event was "Wonderful World that is Western!" It included the presentation of the two employee groups' annual awards. This year's honorees posed for a picture with WMU's Buster Bronco. They are, from left: (back) Sally Laws, accounts receivable, PSSO Service Award; Lynda Hunt, Development Office, APA Outstanding Professional Award; Jennifer Bailey, Student Recreation Center, APA Outstanding New Professional Award; (front) Tammy Boneburg, university relations, APA Tony Griffin Service Award; and Janet Lieben-dorfer, electrical and computer engineering, PSSO Service Award. Sue Green, Bernhard Center, (front, right) received a WMU spirit award from the luncheon's organizing committee members. (Photo by Jeanne Baron)

Several issues dealt with at April 27 Board of Trustees meeting

- **Room and board**—A 2.4 percent increase in room and board rates was approved, effective with the beginning of the fall 2007 semester. This was the lowest increase in room and board rates since 2004 and appears to be the lowest increase in room and board rates proposed this year for any of Michigan's public universities. There was no change in rental fees for on-campus apartments.

- **Union contract**—A two-year labor agreement with the University's newly established, 600-member Teaching Assistants Union was approved. The contract was effective immediately and will run through

Aug. 18, 2009. The TAU represents WMU's doctoral associates and graduate assistants who hold teaching appointments. Provisions in the pact included a slight pay raise and increases in the amount that the University contributes to health insurance for teaching assistants as well as in the tuition waiver for graduate teaching assistants.

- **Gift report**—A report was accepted showing the University received \$9,289,703 in gifts from the July 1, 2006, start of the current fiscal year through March 31.

- **Grant report**—A report was accepted showing the University has received more than \$26 million in externally funded grants from the July 1, 2006, start of the current fiscal year through March 31.



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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Economist travels to Madagascar

Christine Moser, economics, was named a U.S. Embassy Science Fellow last year and has been functioning as an agricultural policy advisor to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries in Madagascar. Moser has been working on a U.S. Department of Agriculture-funded study to improve agricultural production technology and market capacity in the rice and potato markets.



Moser

She came to WMU in 2005 and has a primary interest in economic development, but at present is researching markets and market integration over space, impact analysis of infrastructure, and public goods and deforestation in Madagascar. She also has been a consultant to the World Bank, helping design an impact analysis of its infrastructure projects in Madagascar, and the World Wildlife Fund, collaborating with an international team to model, predict and map forest loss in Madagascar.

Book signing set for May 26

Troy Place, industrial and manufacturing engineering, will hold the first local book signing for his novel "Pizza Pie and Politics: How Mitchell Moon Lost His Childhood" from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 26. at



Place

the Barnes and Noble on South Westnedge in Portage. Publish America of Baltimore, Md., announced the release of Place's debut novel in January.

Place is a faculty specialist who teaches technical communication and report writing. "Pizza Pie and Politics" is a coming-of-age story that takes place in Battle Creek, Mich., and Chicago. The novel may be purchased at PublishAmerica.com, Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com or ordered at any Barnes and Noble location.

History prof receives fellowship

Eli Rubin has received a fellowship from the Humboldt Foundation. Rubin will use the two-year Humboldt Fellowship to



Rubin

work on a project titled "Material Memory: Marzahn, Socialism and the GDR." The project will focus on the communist-era housing projects of the East Berlin suburb, Marzahn, and will form the basis of his second book.

A WMU faculty member since 2004, Rubin is interested in consumption, industrial design, architecture, urban geography, material culture, oral history, the history of technology and science, and the connections between generations, memory objects, and ideological and political legitimacy. He is working on ultimately producing a three-book "arc" covering material destruction and replacement in postwar Germany, and will help frame a developing "new materialist" history of Germany.

Numerous longtime staff members retiring from University

The retirements of 18 staff members were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees at its April 27 meeting (staff resignations as well as faculty retirements and resignations, were reported in the May 10 *Western News*).

The staff members retiring are: **Yvonne W. Asken**, director of campus planning, 17-1/2 years, effective May 31, 2007; **Patricia A. Banks**, medical technologist in the Sindecuse Health Center, 27-1/2 years, effective April 23, 2007; **Margaret A. Binns**, medical technologist in the Sindecuse Health Center, 25 years, effective April 27, 2007; **Judith A. Canaan**, coordinator of monographic acquisitions in University Libraries, 23 years, effective June 30, 2007; **Judith-Kay Chase**, coordinator of the Music and Dance Library, 27 years, effective June 30, 2007; **Leigh W. Fitzgerald Jr.**, sergeant in the Department of Public Safety, 33 years, effective June 30, 2007; **Jane E. Kramer**, certification officer in College of Education, 29 years, effective July 29, 2007; **Linda J. Lumley**, coordinator gender education in the Sindecuse Health Center, 17-1/2 years, effective May 31, 2007; **Yolanda C. Mihalko**, office associate in the Department of Special Education and Literacy Studies, 17 years, effective June 30, 2007; **Carol A. Owel**, custodian in physical plant-custodial, building and support services, 10-1/2 years, effective February 14, 2007; **Judith K. Phelps**, senior administrative assistant in the Office of Admissions, 21-1/2 years, effective June 30, 2007; **Loren F. Purk**, preventive maintenance planner in physical plant, 24-1/2 years, effective June 30, 2007; **Curtis Steward**, pipe fitter in physical plant-maintenance services, 20 years, effective June 30, 2007; **Julie A. Tabbia**, coordinator insurance services in the Sindecuse Health Services, 11 years, effective Jan. 31, 2007; **Gayle L. Van Sweden**, custodian in physical plant-custodial, building and support services, 17-1/2 years, effective April 30, 2007; **Susan L. Wade**, custodian in physical plant-custodial, building and support services, 15-1/2 years, effective Feb. 26, 2007; **Gladys A. Wierenga**, supervisor of medical records in the Sindecuse Health Center, 15-1/2 years, effective July 18, 2007; and **Kathleen M. Young**, master faculty specialist-professional specialist in the Bronson School of Nursing, 12 years, effective April 30, 2007.



Asken



Banks



Canaan



Chase



Fitzgerald



Kramer



Lumley



Mihalko



Phelps



Tabbia



Wierenga



Young

2007 Research and Creative Activities Day big success

Some 200 faculty, staff and students attended the inaugural Research and Creative Activities Day held April 20.

The event featured posters and displays by faculty and senior graduate students. Lectures by two WMU Emerging Faculty scholars capped off the day, which was sponsored by the Faculty Senate's Research Policies Council and the Graduate Student Advisory Committee in cooperation with the Graduate College and the Office of the Vice President for Research.

Twelve \$200 awards were granted to 13 graduate students for their scholarly endeavors. The students and their faculty mentors are: Adam Clay—Nancy Eimers, English; Valerie Hampton—Marion "Buddy" Gray, history; Catherine Elizabeth Hart—Todd Kuchta, English; Chin-ju Hsiao—Susan Stapleton, chemistry; Christopher Jones—Mohamed Sultan, geosciences; Zille Huma Kamal—Ajay Gupta and Leszek Lilien, both computer science; Sridevi Krishnamuthy—Massood Atashbar, electrical and computer engineering; Thilak Kumara Mudalige—Subra Muralidharan, chemistry, and Brian Tripp, biological sciences; John J. Panos—Lisa E. Baker, psychology; Donald G. Stevens—Robert Leneway, educational leadership; Ammar Zalt and Vijay Megathan—Sherif Yehia, civil and construction engineering, and Ikhlas Abdel-Qader, electrical and computer engineering; and Imad Zyou—Ikhlas Abdel-Qader, electrical and computer engineering.

Advocacy office

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pus to improve the ease of transferring to WMU, and advocate for all WMU transfer students, with the goal of making transfer to the University smooth and seamless.

In addition, the two will facilitate the exit and re-entry of all students who are called into military service by providing relevant information to these students and advocating for them should individual problems arise.

Curricular changes approved

Acting at their April 27 regular meeting, WMU trustees approved discontinuing two undergraduate programs due to typically low student demand for these majors. The affected programs are the Bachelor of Business Administration Interdisciplinary Major in Statistics and the B.B.A. in Public Administration.

At the graduate level, trustees created a Master of Science in Exercise Science and Sports Medicine with concentrations in athletic training and exercise physiology to replace the Master of Arts in Physical Education emphases in athletic training and exercise science they discontinued.

Two other modifications resulted in the master's program in education and professional development with a concentration in reading becoming the Master of Arts in Literacy Studies and redesigning the master's degree in education and professional development and renaming it the Master of Arts in the Practice of Teaching.

Obituaries

Betty Deshler, emerita in social work, died May 4 in Arizona. She was 80.

Deshler came to WMU in 1974 as an assistant professor of social work and retired in 1986. She taught graduate and undergraduate classes, and conducted research in a wide range of social work areas.

She was involved with many local, state and national organizations as a trainer, workshop presenter and consultant, and was known for helping others as well as for her community service on campus and in the Kalamazoo and Green Valley, Ariz., communities.

Deshler received the WMU Alumni Association's Distinguished Teaching Award and Child and Family Services of Michigan's Distinguished Volunteer award.



Deshler

Elizabeth "Libby" Lennon, emerita in blind rehabilitation, died May 11 at Bronson Methodist Hospital in Kalamazoo. She was 97.

Lennon was recognized for her advocacy for the blind and disabled. She lost sight in one eye at an early age, and her determination to become an educator for the blind eventually led her to WMU in 1967. She retired from the University in 1978.

Active in many organizations, boards and committees, Lennon was named the Handicapped Professional Woman of the Year in 1971 and received the prestigious Irving S. Gilmore Lifetime Achievement Award in 2002. She had a longtime involvement with the Michigan Commission for the Blind.



Lennon

On Campus with Michael Deblecourt



SETTING THE SCENE
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

Successful conferences and flawless weddings don't just happen at the Fetzer Center. A lot of people work behind the scenes to make sure these functions go smoothly, and Michael Deblecourt is one of them.

As Fetzer's only house staff member, Deblecourt maintains all of the meeting center's rooms. He provides custodial services and set-up for functions involving such areas as the banquet hall, lecture hall, auditorium, lounge and exhibition space, patio and classrooms. He also maintains Fetzer's audio/visual equipment, which includes such amenities as videoconferencing, an LCD projection system and a computer lab.

With the help of a few students, Deblecourt makes sure those who rent Fetzer's facilities get the room arrangements and technology they need. He's on the job at 6 a.m., remaking rooms used the previous night and sprucing up the facility for a new round of events. And throughout the day, he handles dozens of details that keep his walkie-talkie chirping and him on the move.

"Everybody here works hard to make sure the clients get what they want. We put a big emphasis on making customers happy because they've invested a lot of their time and money," Deblecourt says. "There's just a constant turnaround with some of the rooms. But I like being busy, and I like the variety."

Deblecourt came to WMU in 1997 as a member of the Bernhard Center house staff. He held that position for seven years, then served as a custodian for three months before landing his present job.

"Weddings are a thing of their own—you know people are going to be wound pretty tight. The people attending the Medieval Congress are the most interesting as far as uniqueness and entertainment value," he adds with a smile. "They come from all over the world and want their presentations to be as perfect as possible. But the event is like spring break for scholars."

Deblecourt and his wife, Heather, have three children, ages 7, 4 and 3, and one due in July. He spends most of his personal time "doing whatever my kids like to do," and enjoys outdoor activities, especially bow hunting and going to the beach.

Brown interships

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program that would reward students for staying and growing in Kalamazoo, and I believe that's what we've done," Brown says. "The Monroe-Brown Internship Program has successfully introduced at least 20 students to career opportunities in Kalamazoo. These are talented individuals who may have otherwise spent their summers working in other cities, but they have chosen to stay here. We hope they make that decision again after graduation."

The Monroe-Brown Internship Program

has developed a network of several Kalamazoo-based businesses to participate in the program. They include Stryker Instruments, A.M. Todd, Landscape Forms, CSM Group, and local life science startups such as Jasper Clinical Research and Development, Pro-NAi, Proteos and ADMETRx. The latter three companies are located in WMU's Business Technology and Research Park.

Each business has agreed to hire one to two interns and pay them at least minimum wage to work a total of 400 hours between May 1

and Aug. 31. Upon successfully completing their internships, the students receive two \$500 bonuses—one from the employing company and one from the Monroe-Brown Foundation. The students also will receive \$2,500 scholarships at the end of each of the first and second semesters following their internships.

With the Michigan minimum hourly wage currently at \$6.95 and changing to \$7.15 July 1, each participating student will receive a minimum total of \$8,800 in scholarship money, bonuses and hourly wages.

The program is open to all incoming juniors, seniors or graduate students at WMU and Kalamazoo College, as well as students going into at least their second year at Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

The Southwest Michigan Talent Network augments the program by providing comprehensive databases of local internships, available scholarships and job openings at some of the Kalamazoo region's largest companies. Additionally, the Web site provides information, resources, news and announcements about building a career in southwest Michigan.

"At a time when a large majority of the country is losing its postgraduate intellectual capital to the major metropolitan areas," Kitchens says, "we've developed a model that is not only revolutionizing our education system, it's cultivating a talent base that will redefine southwest Michigan's economy and future."

Improvements made to WMU's intranet portal; more to come

WMU launched a series of major functional improvements May 20 to GoWMU, the University's secure intranet portal, that respond to faculty, staff and student needs.

Among the first improvements users will notice are: consolidation of key services previously found in multiple locations into one My Self-Service channel; one-click access to course



registration and other frequently used services; and new universal

icon access to academic catalogs and e-learning, previously called WebCT Vista.

For faculty and staff, a new Faculty/Staff Home tab combines the previously separate Home and Faculty/Staff Services tabs. A single My Self Service channel includes a variety of single sign-on employee services previously available in multiple locations, including personal information, payment and account information, benefits elections, vehicle registration and WebCheck.

Faculty and staff also will find a single channel that contains many of the most-used self-service tools for advising, instruction and University business, including detailed class lists and final grade worksheets. Dozens of additional channels are still available through an improved Channel Guide, so users can customize their "personal portal to WMU."

A Bronco NetID and password are needed to access GoWMU. More information is available online at www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2007/05/036.html.



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