Forum to address PCB cleanup

WMU is hosting a public forum tonight for Kalamazoo-area residents and officials to discuss the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s plans to excavate and locally dispose of toxinc-contaminated wastes from the Kalamazoo River. The forum will be from 7 to 9 p.m. in 209 Bernhard Center.

Panelists will include WMU’s Duane Hampton, geosciences, and Charles Ide, biological sciences and Environmental Institute; EPA and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality representatives; A. Lee Kirk, Kalamazoo city attorney; Bruce Merchant, Kalamazoo public services director; Jeff Spoelstra, Kalamazoo River Watershed Council coordinator; and Dayle Harrison, Kalamazoo River Protection Association president.

Four graduation ceremonies set

The University will hold four spring commencement ceremonies Saturday, April 28, in Miller Auditorium. The ceremony times are: 9 a.m., College of Aviation and Haworth College of Business; noon, College of Education and Extended University Programs; 3 p.m., colleges of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Fine Arts, and Health; and 6 p.m., College of Arts and Sciences.

Board of Trustees meet this month

The next meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees will take place Friday, April 27. Board meetings are also scheduled for June 7, July 13, Sept. 14, Oct. 12, Nov. 16 and Dec. 14. The meetings generally are held in the Bernhard Center. Agenda highlights and additional information will be posted online in WMU News in advance of each meeting.

Coffee house to open in mall

WMU has signed a lease agreement to open BEANERS Coffee in the Bronco Mall. The gourmet coffee house is set to open before June 1, and will serve a full range of specialty coffee drinks, brewed coffees, assorted teas and pastry selections. The facility will feature a comfortable seating and lounge area, plus an inviting fireplace. For more information about BEANER’s, visit www.beaners.com.

Last Western News for spring

This is the last issue of Western News to be published this semester. Western News will resume its regular publication schedule on Thursday, May 10, after the start of the Summer I session. During the hiatus, faculty and staff can keep up with everything happening around campus by visiting the WMU News Web site at www.wmich.edu/wmu/news.

Three presidential candidates visiting campus

Senior administrators from three Midwest universities began arriving on campus last week in their bids to be selected as WMU’s eighth president.

The candidates are John Dunn, interim chancellor of Southern Illinois University, Carbondale; John Folkins, chief executive officer of the Bowling Green State University Research Institute; and Avijit Ghosh, dean of the College of Business at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. A fourth contender, Bruce Shepard, chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, withdrew his candidacy on April 9.

Both Dunn and Folkins already have met with members of the University and local communities and participated in an on-campus “meet the candidate” forum. Ghosh will make his presentation at 5:15 p.m. Friday, April 13, in Brown Auditorium.

Those who missed the earlier presentations were able to view them later on both WMU EduCable Channel 28 and on various Community Access channels. Ghosh’s forum appearance will be televised at 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. April 16 and 17 on EduCable, 7 p.m. April 16 on Community Access Channel 95, and 2 p.m. April 17 on Community Access Channel 19.

The final candidates were selected from among more than 50 early candidates who were considered by the search committee, which is made up of representatives of the campus and extended University community. The four were chosen after a round of off-campus interviews conducted earlier this month.

Richmond Center dedication taking place at 2 p.m.today

A dedication ceremony and ribbon cutting at 2 p.m. today will mark the completion of the University’s $13 million art building.

The ceremony will take place in front of the new James W. and Lois I. Richmond Center for Visual Arts. Tours of the building will begin immediately after those speaking at the event conclude their remarks.

The 44,000-square-foot art center was designed by SmithGroup’s Detroit office to be a vessel that brings together light, art and people.

Deans appointed for Lee Honors College, Haenicke Institute

Provost Janet I. Psanochki has announced two dean appointments, pending approval by the WMU Board of Trustees.

Keith M. Hearit, interim dean of the Lee Honors College, has been named to a two-year appointment as the college’s dean, effective July 1, while Donald Grant McCloud Sr., executive director of the Malaysian-American Commission on Educational Exchange in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, has been selected to head the Haenicke Institute for Global Education, effective Aug. 27.

Hearit was appointed associate dean of the Lee Honors College in January 2006, then tapped to serve as interim dean from Jan. 1 through June 30 of this year. A WMU faculty member since 1996, he is an associate professor of communication and an expert in crisis communication and issue management.

McCloud, who consulted and taught overseas, has led the Malaysian-American Commission since 2001. Previously, he was an adjunct associate professor of political science at Ohio State University for 19 years and a top executive with the Midwest Universities Consortium for International Activities Inc. at Ohio State for 12 years.
Around Campus

Several big events tonight

• A “Take Back the Night” rally and march will be held on campus beginning at 7 p.m. at the Fountain Plaza near Miller Auditorium. This communitywide event will include a candlelight ceremony and an ending celebration with refreshments and music.
• There will be a free, public showing of the award-winning documentary “Forgiving Dr. Mengele,” by WMU alumnus Bob Hercules, at 7 p.m. in the Fetter Center’s Kirsh Auditorium.
• In Fedorov, music, will perform music written for viola and piano by 20th-century Russian-Soviet composers at 8:15 p.m. in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. Visit www.millerauditorium.com for ticket costs.

Chemical society rep to speak

W. Christopher Hollinshead, director of the Office of Research Grants for the American Chemical Society, will speak about “Preparing for Research and Development Employment in the 21st Century” at 4 p.m. Friday, April 13, in 1260 of the Chemistry Building.

Diversity program coming up

The annual “Respecting Differences” program will take place at 1:30 p.m. Monday, April 16, and 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 17, in Kalamazoo’s Chenery Auditorium. The 2007 presentation, “Indigenous PC: Political Correctness or Plain Courtesy,” is free but faculty and staff should request the postcard-size “ticket” they received in campus mail earlier this month.

Engineering projects presented

The 40th Conference on Senior Engineering Design Projects is set for 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 17, in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences building. This free event showcases graduating seniors’ capstone projects, many of which are sponsored by business and industry. Members of the public are invited to attend.

Day of Silence rally scheduled

WMU will host a rally in observance of the national Day of Silence from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 18, in the Wesley Foundation. The day brings high school and college students together to protest the bullying and harassment faced by lesbian, bisexual, gay and transgender youth in school. The event will feature guest speakers, including Kalamazoo Mayor Hannah McKinney; information tables; and refreshments.

Finals Help desk opens

Volunteers are still needed to help out at the 11th annual Finals Help desk from 6 to 11 p.m. Tuesday, April 24. To sign up to work a two-hour shift in the Student Recreation Center from either 6 to 8 p.m. or 8 to 10 p.m., visit the Web site at www.finalsfinish.wmich.edu.

Horne retirement reception set

Carolyn Horney, Career and Student Employment Services, will celebrate her 11 years of service to WMU during a retirement reception from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, April 26, in the Oaklands.

Catering services offering Staff Appreciation Luncheon

A Staff Appreciation Luncheon will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 25, in the Bernhard Center Ballroom. The festive dining experience gives staff a chance to sample Executive Chef Nick Peltzus’ menu at a reduced price. The cost is $10 per person in advance. Reservations are due by 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 18.

To make a reservation or obtain more information, visit www.wmich.edu/catering/luncheon, e-mail wmu-catering@wmich.edu, or call 387-4868.

Jobs

Current job opportunities at WMU are announced every Monday on the human resources Web site at www.wmich.edu/hr/job.htm and the Applicant Information Service phone line at 387-3669. Applications are accepted for posted jobs only and must be submitted by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included on each posting.

Exchange

For sale—One Selmar Rico Royal clarinet, used for 3 years. $50. Call 343-6919.

Wanted—Two reasonably priced items: small used utility trailer, does not have to be in perfect condition; fairly easy to start rear-tine rototiller, 14-17” wide. Call 744-6549 or 353-6527.

For sale—Faculty home. Three-bedroom Cape Cod on double fenced lot. Move-in condition, leaving continental U.S. All appliances, many furnishings can stay, $110,000 ($10,000 below market). For details, photos or showings, e-mail elaine johnsoby@yahoo.com or call 873-1458.
Job market looking up for WMU students graduating in April

Students graduating with a bachelor degree this month will have some good things to look forward to, according to the University's leading employment specialist.

Lynn Kelly-Albertson, executive director of Career and Student Employment Services, reports that employers expect to hire considerably more new college graduates this year than compared to last year.

“The National Association of Colleges and Employers found that employers nationally expect to hire 17.4 percent more new college graduates in 2006-07 than they hired in 2005-06,” Kelly-Albertson says.

“Our campus, we have signs of similar improvements in the market. Our annual Career Fair was the largest in history, with many companies recruiting for out-of-state positions. The Teacher Education Job Fair planned for (Wednesday) April 18 also has seen an increase in employer participation, with 142 school districts registering so far. And for the first time, a Chinese organization will be at the fair recruiting our grads to teach English in China.”

Kelly-Albertson says regardless of the discipline, employers agree on some of the skills and traits their ideal job candidates must have, such as teamwork skills, verbal and written communications skills, integrity, initiative and a strong work ethic.

“This is good news for WMU students. Our campus culture promotes these values, and our students are hard workers,” Kelly-Albertson says.

“In addition, many of our undergraduate programs require or recommend an internship or co-op experience as part of a degree. This puts our graduates in the starting gate as soon as they graduate.”

Evaluation Center study finds segregated, unequal schools

A final report in a three-year, $150,000 evaluation of Delaware's charter school movement shows the schools have resulted in resegregation and disparities between mostly white and minority charter schools, the WMU Evaluation Center has found.

The report was presented recently to the Delaware State Board of Education by Gary Minon, the Evaluation Center's chief of staff and the study's project director. It is one of the most rigorous studies of student achievement in charter schools in the nation.

The full final report along with an executive summary can be downloaded at www.wmich.edu/evalctr/charter.

Career fair scheduled

Job opportunities for teachers will be featured during the 18th Annual Teacher Education Career Fair from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, April 18, in the East Ballroom of the Bernhard Center.

The event, which is free and open to the public, is designed to recruit teachers for K-12 educational systems for the 2006-07 school year. No pre-registration for teaching candidates is needed.

Helpful hints to prepare for the event and a complete listing of school districts attending are available in the Career and Student Employment Services office on the first floor of Ellsworth Hall and online at www.broncojobs.wmich.edu.

For more information, contact Deveta Gardner or Grisel Puertos in Career and Student Employment Services at 387-2745.

Service

The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 40, 35, 25, 15, 10 and five years of service during April.

40 Years—Peter W. Krawutschke, foreign languages.

35 Years—Lowell R. Rinker, business and finance.

25 Years—Robert J. Aardema, College of Aviation.

20 Years—Terry B. Bettiga, physical plant-maintenance services; Arlene K. Buchanan, physical plant-building, custodial and support services; Timothy M. Holsay, physical plant-landscape services; Jacqueline R. Mills, cashiering; Richard Nabors, physical plant-maintenance services; Rosalie J. Nelsen, Development Office; Valerie K. Simmons, physical plant-landscape services; Curtis Steward, physical plant-maintenance services; and Jacqueline Wadsworth, dining services-Bernhard Center.


10 Years—Kathy D. Gerow, University Libraries; Charlotte L. Griscombe, Center for Academic Support Programs; and Janice K. Quakenbush, student affairs.

Five Years—Sue Brodsky, Office of the Provost; Mary J. Krause, dining services-Burnham; Thomas R. Marquardt, Student Academic and Institutional Research; Thomas Meldrim, information technology; Carlotta E. Thomas, Extended University Services; Thomas Meldrim, information technology; and Carlotta E. Thomas, Extended University Services.

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Three presidential candidates

Folkins, who took over as head of Bowling Green’s Research Institute in January, served for seven years as provost and vice president for academic affairs at BGSU. He also is a tenured professor in the Department of Communication Disorders there.

Prior to moving to Bowling Green, Folkins held a variety of positions at the University of Iowa, beginning as assistant professor of speech pathology and audiology in 1977 and ending in 2000 as associate provost for undergraduate education, a position he held for three years.

Dunn was named provost and vice chancellor of Southern Illinois in 2002 and elevated to interim chancellor in 2006. Prior to that, he served the University of Utah for seven years as dean of the College of Health and served Oregon State University for 20 years in several positions, including that of associate provost from 1990 to 1995.

In addition, Dunn has completed stints as Oregon’s assistant dean of Health and Human Performance, chair of the Department of Exercise and Sport Science, and director of the Special Physical and Motor Fitness Clinic.

Ghosh has been dean of business at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign since 2001. Previously, he held academic and administrative positions at New York University’s Leonard N. Stern School of Business, including deputy dean, vice dean for professional programs, director of entrepreneurial studies and professor of marketing.

Before entering academia, Ghosh was a market research analyst for Clarion McCann Advertising Services, a subsidiary of the McCann Erickson global advertising agency network, which has offices in more than 130 countries.

A curriculum vitae for each candidate is posted on the presidential search Web site at www.wmich.edu/president/search/.

Marketing team third in nation

WMU marketing students placed third March 29 in a national American Marketing Association competition held in New Orleans to showcase ways to bring back tourism to the Crescent City.

A team from WMU’s AMA chapter was one of eight groups chosen earlier this year to present its plan before representatives of the New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau and its ad agency during last month’s AMA Collegiate Conference.

A total of 155 teams from Canada, Puerto Rico and the United States competed in the contest’s first round. The top eight were selected by judges in a blind review.

The University of Pennsylvania placed first and the University of Nevada-Las Vegas came in second.

Lynda Hunt has a head for figures.

As director of gift processing in the Development Office, Hunt manages her unit’s $4 million budget, oversees $20 million to $30 million in annual commitments received through the WMU Foundation and the Paper Technology Foundation, and helps keep track of the University’s $188 million endowment system.

Most of Hunt’s time is spent making sure gift receipts are processed properly and in a timely manner, generating financial statements, writing gift-related reports for the Development Office and other University departments, balancing the department’s budget and working with WMU’s independent auditors at the close of the fiscal year.

“We serve the University community by getting funding for things departments can’t or don’t get through their general funds,” Hunt says of the Development Office. “We’re like the icing on the cake. One of the things I like best about my job is that I get to work with so many people across campus—and they tend to like me because I give them money.”

Hunt came to WMU in 1983 to pursue a bachelor’s degree in accounting and never left. She worked for the Development Office’s phonathon while a student, then took a part-time post with the office as a data entry clerk in its advancement services unit after graduating in 1989.

One year later, Hunt was hired in full time. She soon moved to the office’s accounting area, and was promoted to her current position in 1996.

“I really like the higher education atmosphere and the people I work with, particularly in the Development Office,” she says.

From day one, Hunt has shared that sense of camaraderie, and a fun-loving sense of humor, with her campus colleagues. She’s been a member of either the Professional Support Services Organization or Administrative Professional Association, the University’s two nonbargaining employee groups, since joining WMU’s professional staff.

Hunt and her husband Norm live in Kalamazoo with their cat Guido, who was named after a donor. She enjoys traveling, boating, swimming and playing as well as watching golf and is a huge fan of the Master’s golf tournament.

“WORTH EVERY PENNY”