Deadline approaches for Innovation Fund applications

Applications for funding through President Judith L. Bailey's 2005 Innovation Fund are due by 5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 16.

The initiative, first announced by the president in her 2005 State of the University address, Sept. 27, will fund innovative ideas with the potential to transform some aspect of the University's core mission. Applications may be submitted by any member of the WMU faculty or staff. Guidelines for the fund were announced Oct. 31.

Faculty or staff members with questions about the application process or about writing a proposal for funding should visit the fund Web site at www.wmich.edu/president/innovationfund. The site includes links to the fund guidelines and the names of review panel members. Also included are frequently asked questions about the fund and the award process, many of which were gleaned from information sessions held on campus Dec. 12 and Jan. 11.

Proposals must be submitted in writing by Jan. 16 to Nicholas Andreadis, Extended University Programs, 1260 Elbertown Hall, mail stop 5230. Since WMU offices are closed Jan. 16, any proposals submitted after Friday, Jan. 13, should be submitted via e-mail to nicholas.andreadis@wmich.edu.

MEDC to hold jobs fund session at aviation college on Jan. 13

One of a series of statewide information sessions on the new 21st Century Jobs Fund will be held Friday, Jan. 13, at WMU's College of Aviation.

The Michigan Economic Development Corp. will act as host for the 10 a.m. meeting, which is designed to provide information about access to the new funds for researchers, potential new businesses and product developers. The meeting is one of a series of such sessions scheduled across Michigan in January.

The 21st Century Jobs Fund was created to jump start Michigan's economy and diversify the state's economy by encouraging the development and commercialization of new technologies and increasing capital investment and commercial lending activity in areas that will create or retain jobs.

A request for proposals is expected to follow the series of informational meetings.

Trustees set 2006 meetings

The University's Board of Trustees will meet five times during 2006, according to a schedule approved at the board's Dec. 9 meeting.

Meetings are usually held in the Bernhard Center and are scheduled this year for Thursday, March 9; Friday, April 6; Friday, July 14; Friday, Oct. 20; and Friday, Dec. 15.

WMU Foundation to purchase Pfizer research facility for use by University

By this time next year, the WMU Foundation is expected to take possession of a state-of-the-art Pfizer Inc. research facility in downtown Kalamazoo—a site for the University to expand its research portfolio and a magnet to attract additional private-sector development in the life sciences.

Building 126, on East Lovell Street in downtown Kalamazoo, will be purchased by the WMU Foundation for $3.8 million. The foundation, which receives private donor funds on behalf of the University, will make the facility available to the University to provide much-needed room for WMU scientists and a site where life science firms can lease research space.

Built by the Upjohn Co. in 1964, the 160,000-square-foot building currently houses unused laboratory space, maintenance and other offices, and a compound library in the process of being relocated to other Pfizer research sites. The building underwent a $35 million upgrade, completed in 2002. Pfizer will continue to use the facility through 2006.

"Pfizer is pleased to reach this agreement with WMU that will strengthen the educational and biomedical heart of the community," said Anthon Brusselmann, vice president for Pfizer Global Manufacturing in the Midwest and chairman of the company's Kalamazoo Site Leadership Team, during a Dec. 9 announcement.

"Pfizer and WMU share a vision as champions of innovation and biomedical research. This agreement solidifies that partnership to the benefit of students, scientists, patients and the community."

Acquisition of the building by the foundation will allow the University to provide needed research room for its scientists and student research assistants as well as a site that can be used to enhance WMU's efforts to attract additional research dollars to the region.

WMU selected as partner in LCC's Lansing University Center

Lansing Community College announced Dec. 15 that eight universities have been selected to be partners in the Lansing Community College University Center, which is scheduled to open in fall 2007 on Capitol Avenue in downtown Lansing.

The eight were selected to provide degree options for students who have completed their associate degrees. The new center is slated to provide more than 40 degree options at the bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels in disciplines ranging from engineering to social work.

In addition to WMU, the University Center partners will include the University of Michigan-Flint, Spring Arbor University, Siena Heights University, Northwood University, Lawrence Technological University, Ferris State University and Central Michigan University.

"Western Michigan University has a long track record of providing educational opportunity in Lansing, and we're looking forward to bringing our partnerships with the community and Lansing Community College to new levels so we can provide even greater service to students in the area," said Dr. Nicholas Andreadis, WMU dean of Extended University Programs. "We expect the University Center to be a boon to the entire region and serve as a catalyst that will change the face of higher education locally."

ONE STOP FOR EVERYTHING—Residence life staffer Emerka Charles, left, completed housing arrangements for freshman Alexandria Admon of Decatur, Mich., at a special One Stop student service center set up in the Bernhard Center to help ease students' entry into the spring semester. Ashmon headed for her residence hall after her stop at the popular center, reprimed after its introduction last fall. (Photo by Cheryl Roland)
JANUARY 12, 2006 WESTERN NEWS

be a Citywide Community Day of Service

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The final major events for this year will
be a Citywide Community Day of Service
and a Childen's Fair on Monday, Jan.
16—national MLK Day.

The University and the Northside Minis-
terial Alliance have teamed up for the fourth
consecutive year to put on a memorable
series of free events honoring the memory of
civil rights activist Dr. Martin Luther
King Jr.

This year's annual communitywide cel-
bration, called "Recovering a Lost Dream:
Community, Faith and Vision," began with a
Jan. 8 Kickoff Celebr-
tation, one of four major
events being sponsored
this year by the WMU-
NMA Martin Luther
King Jr. Committee.

Among the many
other events scheduled
are a variety of lectures,
workshops and discus-
sions that are being sponsored by individuals
and organizations throughout Kalamazoo.
A complete list of events is available online at
www.mlkcal.org and will continue throughout the year.

The next major WMU-NMA MLK
Committee event will be a Multicultural Celebration
in Miller Auditorium at 4 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 15, which is King's birthday.
This event will feature a presentation by
Frank H. Wu, dean of the Wayne State
University Law School and a noted diver-
sity specialist. Those attending also will be
treated to remarks by President Judith I. Bai-
ley, a community litany and performances by the
100-voice MLK Celebration Choir,
members of the WMU dance department
and a musical ensemble of Kalamazoo Public Schools
students.

Wu was named dean of the Wayne State
University Law School in 2004. He is
the author of "Yellow: Race in America
Beyond Black and White" and co-author
of "Race, Rights and Reparations: Law and
the Japanese American Internment." He
is a former civil attorney, was on the law
faculty of Howard University and has been
an adjunct professor at Columbia Univer-
sity, a visiting professor at the University of
Michigan and a teaching fellow at Stanford
University.

The final major events for this year will
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MLK celebration under way with events set through Jan. 20

Area residents are asked to honor King
by engaging in community service proj-
cets in the morning, starting at 9 a.m.,
and completing them in the afternoon.
Special activities are planned for the day including
30 a.m. march to MLK Park on North Rose
Street, where there will be a wreath-laying
and a noon luncheon at Mt. Zion
Baptist Church.

The Children's Fair will
be open from 2 through 5
p.m. at the Radisson Plaza
Hotel in Kalamazoo.
The event is for children of all
ages and will include activ-
ity booths staffed by WMU
students.

Devera Gardner, a WMU
staff member and chairperson of the WMU-
NMA MLK Committee, says the continuing
collaboration between the University and the
alliance has resulted in Kalamazoo's MLK celebration growing each year.

"We've planned a diverse series of events for
2006," Gardner says. "Our unique part-
nership continues to blare a trail of hope
and proves that all things are possible if we
focus on our commonalities instead of our
differences.

Kalamazoo is to be commended for form-
ning and growing that partnership, adds Min-
ister Doreen Gardner, NMA chairperson,
who expects more than 2,500 people to
attend this year's events.

"It's been an awesome experience for the
educational sector and the religious sector
to come together to celebrate the life
and legacy of Dr. King," she says. "The city
of Kalamazoo and surrounding communities
are blessed. You won't find too many cit-
ies with a collaboration of this nature or
magnitude."

Spring Frostic series begins next week with readings by two

Authors Deborah Digges and Ander
Monson will open the spring Gwen Frostic
Reading Series with a Thursday, Jan. 19,
reading beginning at 8 p.m. in the Little
Lounge. All readings in the series are free
and open to the public.

Digges, who teaches at Tufts University, is
the author of four books of poems, including
"Vesper Sparrows," which won the Delmore
Schwartz Memorial Prize from New York
University. She also has written two mem-
ors, "Fugitive Spring" and "The Stardust
Lounge."

Monson, who teaches at Grand Valley
State University, grew up in the Upper
Peninsula of Michigan. He edits the magazine
Diagram and the New Michigan Press,
among other projects. His poetry collec-
tion, "Vacationland," won the 2005 Tupelo
Press Editors' Prize.

Other Spring 2006 Gwen Frostic Read-
ing Series events are scheduled for 8 p.m.
on the following Thursdays in the Little
Theatre:

• Feb. 16—poet Nancy Eimers and novel-
ist Robert Evers
• March 23—playwright Lisa Dillman
• March 30—poet Mary Ruelle and author
Jane Brox
• April 13—poets Peter Covino and Paula
Mclain.

Author J.D. Dolan garners
$20,000 NEA fellowship

A WMU award-winning author will have more time to practice his craft, thanks to a
$20,000 award from the National Endow-
ment for the Arts.

J.D. Dolan, English and author of the critically acclaimed memoir "Phoenix: A Brother's Life," is one
of 50 recipients of the NEA 2006 Litera-
ture Fellowships in Prose. The fellowships are
the endowment's most direct investment in American creativity, encouraging the production of new
work and allowing writers the time and means
to write.

The agency received more than 900 ap-
lications for the fellowships. Each of the 50
recipients was awarded the same amount,
essentially without strings attached.

"I'm very excited," Dolan says. "And I'm particu-
larly happy to be one of this year's recipients of an NEA grant in creative
nonfiction, since these grants are solid
evidence that there is at least one arm of
our government that continues to value
the truth."

Dolan plans to continue working on a screenplay based on the extraordinary life of Ralph Greenleaf, who was world pocket
billiard champion for most of the period from
1919 to 1937 and who is regarded by many
as the greatest pool player of all time.

"There's hardly anything written about him," Dolan says. "There are some very old
newspaper articles, a few magazine articles,
but not much else."

Dolan is collaborating on the project
with an old friend and fellow writer, Mark
Kamine, who is currently the assistant unit
production manager on the hit HBO
series "The Sopranos."

Communication professor wins
Fulbright for work in Latvia

A WMU faculty member has won a
Fulbright scholarship to teach and lecture
in Latvia.

Michael Kent, communication, will visit
the Baltic nation February through May
2006 and will spend the four months at
the University of Latvia in Riga. Kent will
teach three classes: public speaking, an
introduction to public relations course and a
graduate class to be determined.

Though the scholarship is for teaching,
Kent also plans to conduct research while in
Latvia, begin working on a public relations
writing textbook and conduct interviews
with scholars and public relations profes-
sionals.

Kent has traveled extensively and lectured
in Eastern Europe. In 2001, he spent six
weeks traveling across the region, visiting
Bosnia, Croatia, Slovenia and Hungary
and lecturing in Sarajevo. Last winter,
Kent taught a graduate course in the Czech
Republic and spent three weeks there.

"I have never been to Latvia before and I
am looking forward to the experience very
much," Kent says. "Everyone I have spoken
to about Riga has said that the country is
very beautiful. I am very excited."
Obituaries

Ada E. Berkey, emerita in libraries, died Dec. 23 in Scottsdale, Ariz. She was 88.

Berkey joined the library faculty in 1947 and is credited with laying the foundation for WMU’s music library, which is located in the Dalton Center.

Active on campus and in the community, she was a member of the Faculty Senate and president of the Faculty Women’s Club. She helped form the Chamber Music Society of Kalamazoo.

Berkey earned her bachelor’s degree from Mount Holyoke College, a degree in library science from the University of Michigan and a master’s degree from the University of Iowa.

Bobby D. Burpo of Kalamazoo died Dec. 1. He was 64.

Burpo, who was a bindery operator in the University’s printing services area, retired in 1996 after 38 years of employment at WMU.

A resident of Kalamazoo for most of his life, Burpo was born in Troy, Tenn., and served in the U.S. Army before beginning his career at WMU.

Jobs

The following vacancies are posted through the Job Opportunity Program by human resources. Interested, benefit-eligible employees should submit a job opportunity transfer application during the posting period and may contact a human resource services staff member for assistance.

Employees may call the Applicant Information Service at 7-3669 to hear the weekly job postings 24 hours a day, seven days a week from any Touch Tone phone.

Those interested in faculty positions should submit a letter of application to the appropriate dean or chairperson.

- Office Assistant, 11, Extended University Programs-Grand Rapids, 05/06-5020, 1/9-11/16/06
- HR Assistant, 14, Human Resources, 05/06-5033, 1/9-11/16/06
- Budget Officer, 17, Office of University Budgets and Financial Planning, 05/06-5035, 1/9-11/16/06
- Project Lead, AE (Term ends 6/30/07), 19, Auxiliary Enterprises, 05/06-5041, 1/9-11/16/06
- Programmer Analyst (Term ends 6/30/07), 19, Auxiliary Enterprises, 05/06-5049, 1/9-11/16/06

N = New
R = Replacement
WMU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Board approves promotions, sabbaticals for faculty members

Acting Dec. 9, WMU’s Board of Trustees approved five faculty promotions that were effective with the start of the fall semester and sabbatical leaves for 29 faculty members.

Faculty members promoted and their new rank were Paul Corp, associate professor of comparative religion; Katherine Cummings, professor of teaching, learning and leadership; Frances Ramos, assistant professor of history; Viviana Ruello, assistant professor of foreign languages; and Caroline Webber, assistant professor of family and consumer sciences.

Faculty members awarded sabbatical leaves during the 2006-07 academic year are: Ariel L. H. Anderson, teaching, learning and leadership; Robert J. Balk, finance and commercial law; Ronald B. Chase, geosciences; Richard dePéan, art; Kristel E. Ehrhardt, educational studies; Warren "Chip" Heiser, elementary, middle and high schools.

WMU’s first Teaching American History Grant, a three-year, $986,000 award received in 2003, targets high school instruction while this year’s grant totals $993,000 over three years and targets middle school instruction. The University won both grants in partnership with KRESA—the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency—and several Michigan public history institutions.

 Warren, who is directing both grant projects, says they support summer institutes for area teachers taught by WMU history faculty as well as public history partners from the community. About 120 high school teachers will have participated in the institutes when the first grant project concludes next summer. Another 75 middle school teachers are slated to participate in the three institutes that will be funded under the 2005 grant.

Teachers attending the institutes receive “authentic” historical training, which Wilson says helps teachers engage students in learning by involving them in hands-on activities that focus on actual artifacts from the historical time periods being taught.

WMU history faculty who will work on the 2005 grant project along with Warren will be John Saillant, Lynne Heasley and Mitch Kachun.

Partnering with the University will be historians and museum educators from the Kalamazoo Valley Museum in Kalamazoo; Sojourner Truth Institute in Battle Creek, Mich.; and Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Mich.

Grant helps area history teachers improve instruction

The Department of History has received a second Teaching American History Grant of nearly $1 million to help area teachers improve U.S. history instruction.

“This is a big grant, and we’re one of only a handful of institutions in the nation to have received it more than once,” says Wilson Warren, history. “It’s truly a mark of distinction for the University.”

The three-year grant is part of the “Teaching American History Initiative” developed by West Virginia Sen. Robert Byrd and administered by the U.S. Department of Education. The goal of the initiative, which is in its fifth year, is to improve the teaching of U.S. history in the elementary, middle and high schools.

Exchange

For Sale—Antique Jacob’s Mfc. #14 wood parker stove. Good condition. 46” high by 18” wide by 14” deep. Cast iron. $200 or best offer. Call 269-686-4718.

For Sale—Four-bedroom, 2.5 bath. Porch home in Woodbridge. Includes master bedroom suite with walk-in closets. Main floor has kitchen, dining room, large living room and sunken family room that overlooks deck and private tree-lined backyard. More than 2,400 square feet plus 400 square feet of finished basement rec room. Recently painted, move-in condition, priced near SEV. Significant price reduction for early 2006 offer from WMU faculty or staff. Call 387-5857 or 527-8529.
Pfizer with the Kalamazoo community to expand the area’s growing presence as a center for biosciences commercialization and innovation. The facility will be used purely for research and will not include classroom space.

“This is an agreement that will pay dividends to the University and the community for years to come,” said President Judith L. Bailey. “Building 126 has been newly renovated specifically for the most sophisticated levels of biomedical research, and it is rare for any university’s researchers to have use of laboratory space of this caliber. We would not be able to construct even a fraction of the space at the price for which Pfizer has generously agreed to transfer this to the WMU Foundation.”

Bailey said the building will give the University a long-sought downtown Kalamazoo presence and will provide WMU’s research faculty an opportunity to expand its capabilities and work in proximity to Pfizer’s downtown campus and Bronson Methodist Hospital. And since the University will not occupy the entire building, WMU will work with Southwest Michigan First to attract companies for whom laboratory space is a critical need. Those could include growing companies already supported by WMU’s Biosciences Research and Commercialization Center as well as new firms hoping to move into the area to become part of Kalamazoo’s life-sciences neighborhood.

“This really is the perfect next step in our efforts to both expand key research areas at the University and promote Kalamazoo as a place that welcomes and encourages innovation and growth in the life sciences,” Bailey said.

Kalamazoo Mayor Hannah McKinney said the development will be a major asset to both the future of the downtown and the regional vision of Kalamazoo as a center for the life sciences.

“We’ve long wanted a WMU presence downtown, and this development accomplishes that goal in a significant way,” McKinney said. “Not only will this boost the vitality of our downtown life sciences commercialization and innovation. The facility will be used purely for research and will not include classroom space.

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LCC

With a groundbreaking scheduled for spring 2006, the 35,000-square-foot University Center will be located at the northwest corner of Capitol Avenue and Shiawassee Street. Current plans include incorporating the Carnegie Library as part of LCC’s newest facility. Like the rest of LCC buildings, the center will have wireless computer access and planned capacity for approximately 4,300 people.

The LCC University Center fits the goals outlined by Lt. Gov. John Cherry’s Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth. Michigan has a significantly larger share than the national average of adults who have taken some college courses and/or have some credits, but have failed to complete a degree or obtain another credential of value.

The University Center is expected to help eliminate the obstacles of traveling across the state to achieve the kind of academic goals that provide a path to high paying careers.

A car jump started Cindy Town’s lifelong career at WMU.

On Campus

A musical presentation inspired by a series of poems by Herbert Scott, WMU’s Gwen Frostic Professor of Creative Writing, will be presented on campus Wednesday, Jan. 18, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall.

“A Love Imagined” is an eight-song cycle composed by Frank Stempfer that uses poetry from Scott’s new book, “Sleeping Woman,” and is scored for tenor and piano. The performance will feature New York-based tenor Matthew Chellis and pianist Heidi Louise Williams, who heads the piano department in the School of Music at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

The performers will present part of the cycle at noon the same day for music majors in WMU’s School of Music. The complete cycle will be presented that evening at 8:15 and is free and open to the public.

Scott, long-time Kalamazoo resident and retired WMU English professor, is the founding editor of the literary press, New Issues Poetry & Prose. The recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs, Scott is the author of such acclaimed books of poetry as “Disguises,” “Groceries” and “Durations.” His most recent book, “Sleeping Woman,” was published by Carnegie Mellon University Press.

Frank Stempfer’s music has been performed in 16 different countries as well as at Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Of his new work, composer Don Freund wrote: “A Love Imagined is a masterpiece, a tremendously ambitious, deep, moving, all-embracing experience.”