Grant focuses on STEM instruction reform

A $1.4 million grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute to WMU will be used to enhance undergraduate introduction to science, with the goal of attracting and retaining more students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics—the STEM disciplines.

The grant is one of just 37 awards made by the institute this year to American research universities invited to compete in the institute’s 2014 funding round. A total of 203 universities were invited to apply, and the eventual winners were selected after three rounds of peer review.

The five-year research and development effort will be co-directed by three biological sciences faculty members: Renee Schwartz, John R. Geiser and Graduate College Dean Susan R. Stapleton, a longtime science and education researcher who is a previous HHMI grant recipient.

WMU’s research effort, titled “Developing Scientists as Teachers: A Dual Approach to Transforming the Culture of Undergraduate Biology Education,” will be centered on the University’s introductory courses in biological sciences. The extensive work will focus on both reforming the curriculum and enhancing the professional development of the faculty members and teaching assistants who introduce

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WMU receives national Climate Leadership Award

WMU is one of six institutions nationwide selected to receive a 2014 Climate Leadership Award in recognition of innovation and leadership in sustainability.

The awards program, now in its fifth year, recognizes higher education institutions that “demonstrate innovative and advanced leadership in education for sustainability and climate mitigation and adaptation.”

The awards are presented annually to signatory institutions that are part of the American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment by Second Nature, a national nonprofit organization that works to transform higher education to create a healthy, just and sustainable society.

“The United States National Climate Assessment demonstrates that human-driven climate change is no longer a problem for the future—it has moved firmly into the present as campuses and communities across the country increasingly feel its impacts,” says David Hales, president of Second Nature.

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Sessions set to explain employee, dependent enrollment benefits

University employees who want to explore the idea of using their WMU tuition benefit for themselves or a family member to pursue a degree or to take personal enrichment classes will be offered a series of opportunities to

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Board of Trustees meeting slated

The next meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees will be held Tuesday, June 10. Starting times and information about the agenda will be released shortly before the meeting. Most board meetings are held on campus at the Bernhard Center.

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Financial planning visits canceled

The planned June 11-12 campus visits by TIAA-CREF representatives have been canceled. Instead, the representatives will be on campus Tuesday, June 10; Wednesday, June 11; and Thursday, June 11. To schedule a private consultation for investment or retirement planning, visit tiaa-cref.org and click Consultations and Seminars under Services. If unable to register online, call the scheduling group at (800) 732-8353.

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Repairs close SRC east entrance

The Student Recreation Center east entrance (facing Parking Lot No. 13) is closed for repairs through Sunday, Aug. 31. Patrons may access the building through the south (facing University Arena) and west (facing the Bernhard Center) entrances. ADA accommodations are available at both entrances. Visit wmich.edu/rec for more SRC news.

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Students rack up six DownBeat Awards for third year in a row

WMU students have done it again, landing six coveted DownBeat Student Music Awards for the third straight year.

“The efforts of our students and our faculty are simply world class,” says Tom Kniffe, director of the jazz studies program. “We could not be more proud.”

Results of DownBeat’s 37th Annual Student Music Awards are announced in the magazine’s June issue, as well as in an online searchable database. Visit wmich.edu/disabilitycenter for more information.

Exhibition features Rizzolo works

An art exhibit exploring recent works by Lou Rizzolo, emeritus art in art, as well as a group of students he taught while on the Frostic School of Art faculty in the painting area is on display through Friday, June 13. Titled “Lou Rizzolo: Lo Spirito in Volo,” the exhibit is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Richmond Center’s Monroe-Brown Gallery. Admission is free.

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DEADLINE: Items to be considered for publication should be submitted to the Office of University Relations by 5 p.m. Friday the week preceding publication. Publication dates for the summer sessions are May 8 and 22, and June 5 and 19. Items may be submitted to Jenna Baren via email at j.baren@wmich.edu. Mail: Campus Mail Stop 5433, phone (616) 387-4463, or fax (616) 387-8422.

WMU is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer consistent with applicable state and federal laws.

Chair serving on national committee

Jonathan Bush, English, has been appointed to serve on the College Board’s Advanced Placement Program English Language and Composition Development Committee. He may serve for up to four academic years.

The College Board AP program enables qualified students to pursue college-level studies while in high school. Members of the English development committee develop the AP English Language and Composition curriculum and examination and, among other duties, develop teacher-support materials.

Bush was selected from among several finalists. In addition to chairing the English department, he teaches courses in rhetoric, composition and English education. He also serves as the director of WMU’s Developmental Writing Program and the director of the Third Coast Writing Project, a site for the National Writing Project.

Prof elected to regional NCACES post

Stephen E. Craig, counselor education and counseling psychology, has been elected president-elect of the North Central Association for Counselor Education and Supervision. NCACES is one of five regional associations of the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision, the preeminent professional organization for counselor educators. Its members represent the 13 states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

Craig’s term as president-elect will begin Tuesday, July 1. Craig is an associate professor and unit director of the counselor education program. His professional interests include Adlerian psychology and its application to counselor supervision, contributing factors to child and adolescent social interest development, and theories of counseling.

Administrator to head industry group

Peter Strazdas, associate vice president for facilities management, has won the vote to become president-elect of the association known as APPA—Leadership in Educational Facilities, a leading industry group of facilities professionals at educational institutions. APPA represents 5,200 educational facility professionals at more than 1,500 institutions throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico and abroad.

Strazdas, APPA secretary-treasurer, will assume his new role July 1 during the association’s annual conference and 100th anniversary event. He has been involved with APPA for 20 years, is a Michigan chapter past president and a former Midwest regional group member. In addition, Strazdas has been a conference speaker several times for those organizations as well as sustainability and other facilities-related organizations.
Employees must replace Bronco Cards by Oct. 1

Faculty and staff members are encouraged to replace their Bronco Cards before the beginning of the 2014-15 fall semester. Cards must be replaced by Oct. 1, as a new card design has been introduced.

In addition, cardholders will need to have a new photo taken. Visit the Bronco Card office on the first floor of the Bernhard Center between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Friday to avoid crowds visiting campus for New Student Orientation.

Employees are encouraged to replace their Bronco Cards this summer rather than wait until the fall rush.

Trustees authorize nine new degree programs to be offered starting this fall

In response to student, work force and other evolving needs, WMU will offer nine new degree programs this fall, plus several new concentrations.

The University’s governing board approved the curricular changes in April. As a result, WMU offered more than 240 degree programs in 2013 but will offer more than 250 when the fall 2014 semester begins.

New degree programs
- The Master of Science in aerospace engineering responds to demands from students in the undergraduate aerospace engineering program, which has seen astounding growth in the past decade. It also should draw those who are already employed at Michigan aerospace companies and international students.
- The entrepreneurship major will be offered through the Haworth College of Business, but a university-wide entrepreneurship minor open to all students will be offered as well.
- The majors in secondary in- coursework.
- The Bachelor of Science in multimedia science reflect changes in state legislation and consumer master's program, allowing entrance to the audiology doctoral program through an accelerated graduate program.
- The Bachelor of Science in multimedia arts technology-music will give students the high-tech knowledge they need to enter exciting new fields of music production, which increasingly is being done on laptop computers.
- Recreation management and sport management are coded as majors and will eventually supersede the recreation major.
- Other curricular additions
  - An industrial/organizational behavior management concentration for the psychology doctoral program.
  - An audiology concentration for the interdisciplinary health services major, allowing entrance to the audiology doctoral program through an accelerated graduate program option.
  - A child life concentration in the family and consumer sciences master's program allowing for child life specialist certification.
  - A behavioral specialist concentration for the master’s in special education-master teacher option to train behavioral consultants who will help teachers manage students.
  - A trauma practice across the life span specialization for the social work major.

Researcher, grad advisor named associate dean

Christine Byrd-Jacobs, professor of biological sciences, will become the Graduate College’s associate dean, effective July 1 pending approval of the WMU Board of Trustees.

In her new role, Byrd-Jacobs will provide leadership in graduate curriculum and program development, assessment and review, and graduate student and graduate faculty success, among other areas.

A faculty member since 1996, she serves as her department’s graduate advisor and studies regeneration of the adult brain after injury, utilizing the zebrafish olfactory system as a model. She is an active researcher who has secured nearly $2 million in grant funding and has served as sole investigator on four major grants from the National Institutes of Health.

Byrd-Jacobs has mentored nine master’s level students, three doctoral students and 71 undergraduate students, and she has served on the thesis committees for an additional 42 students.

She teaches in the classroom at both the undergraduate and graduate level and has been involved in curriculum reform, including taking the lead to develop a professional development course for graduate students in biological sciences.

Among other campus and scholarly memberships, Byrd-Jacobs serves as vice chair of the Graduate Studies Council and is a member of the Academic Program Review and Planning Project Management Team.

Editor’s note: Service anniversaries for July and August will be printed in the first fall issue of Western News.

The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 35, 30, 25, 15, 10 and five years of service during June.

35 Years—Cheryl L. Swick, payroll and disbursements, and Mark S. Hall, building custodial and support services.
30 Years—Billie A. Blake, Haenicke Institute, and Jeanne Baron, university relations.
25 Years—Kirk B. Dillery, maintenance services; Robert Landeros, management; and Robert B. Everole, biological sciences.
15 Years—Angela M. Madden, student financial aid and scholarships; Cathy J. Johnson, Bernhard Center; Cynthia L. Seedoff, Medieval Institute; Donald J. Weber, College of Arts and Sciences; Eneida D. Cruz, multicultural affairs; Jayson D. Rose, development and alumni relations; John C. Cernius, civil and construction engineering; Kevin L. Darrow, West Hills Athletic Club; Nancy G. Dyksterhouse, president’s office; and Sandra Stephens, College of Education and Human Development.
10 Years—David W. Montgomery, music; Marinde Micheleau, Sincereus Health Center; Richard M. Greinell, Jr., social work.
Five Years—Amy S. Vlek, social work; Bruce E. Carpenter, chemistry; Louise Ann Wurst, anthropology; and Nick Alan Schmidt, building custodial and support services.

Obituary

William “Bill” Doolittle, a former WMU head football coach and athletics fundraiser, will be remembered during a memorial service from noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, June 22, in the Seeley Center.
Miller Auditorium announces lineups for Broadway, Spotlight series

Miller Auditorium’s 2014-15 season will include a variety of entertaining shows for young and old. Its PNC Broadway in West Michigan Series will include “Jekyll & Hyde,” “Sister Act,” “Elf The Musical” and “Disney’s Beauty and the Beast,” while the Broadway Plus Series will include the Blue Man Group and “Peter and the Starcatcher.” Big shows in the Lake Michigan Mailers Spotlight Series are the “The Nutcracker,” “Stomp” and “Pinkalicious.”

The best way to receive discounted tickets and priority seating is through subscriptions. WMU employees receive an additional 15 percent discount on tickets, but only for shows presented as part of a Miller Auditorium series. Subscriptions are available now. Single-show tickets will go on sale several weeks before each performance.

Subscriptions may be purchased for all four PNC Broadway in West Michigan Series shows, with an optional add-on of the Broadway Series Plus shows. To get a Flex Pass subscription, patrons must select at least four shows from any of the 2014-15 season offerings.

For more information about the upcoming season lineup, group discounts or subscription options, visit millerauditorium.com or call the Miller Auditorium Ticket Office at (269) 387-2300 or (800) 228-9858.

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Sessions set to explain employee, dependent enrollment benefits

Additional sessions for both employees and their offspring will be scheduled during August. Full-time and part-time benefits-eligible employees can use a 100 percent tuition-and-fee discount when they take an academic class for credit at WMU. The discount applies to both graduate and undergraduate courses.

Employees with full-time benefits eligibility also are eligible for 75 percent tuition and fee remission for undergraduate classes for a spouse, both graduate and undergraduate courses. Employees with full-time benefits eligibility also are eligible for 75 percent tuition and fee remission for undergraduate classes for a spouse, both graduate and undergraduate courses. Employees with full-time benefits eligibility also are eligible for 75 percent tuition and fee remission for undergraduate classes for a spouse, both graduate and undergraduate courses.

According to Scott Hennessy, admissions, who is coordinating the sessions, many employees use their tuition benefit to work toward a degree but others may not think about the idea of simply exploring a new degree area or taking courses for personal enrichment.

“Tuition benefits may be used to pursue or explore the idea of earning a new degree or simply to investigate an area of interest for personal or professional reasons,” notes Hennessy.

“We’ve set up these sessions to help people explore all their options.”

Those with suggestions about academic areas they would like to see covered in future sessions should contact Hennessy at scott.hennessy@wmich.edu.