Employees urged to update status
WMU is required to collect information regarding disability status and veteran status to comply with new federal government guidelines for individuals with disabilities and veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces. All faculty and staff members are asked to assist by reviewing and, if necessary, updating two aspects of their personal information.
To do so, visit the My Self Service channel in GoWMU, select Employee Self Service and then Main Menu. Next, select Self Service, Personal Information and Personal Information Summary. Scroll down to the Employee Information section to review your military and disability status. To make changes, select the Change Employee Information button and then place a “Y” for yes in the appropriate box and click Save.
Visit wmich.edu/hr/resources/selfservice for Employee Self Service Guides. Included are guides that provide additional information about disability and veteran status as well as a how to access and use Employee Self Service.

Winter closure extended to Jan. 2
President John M. Dunn notified employees in a campuswide email earlier this month that Friday, Jan. 2, has been added to the period designated as the 2014 winter closure. Dunn also thanked employees for helping to make the full semester a successful one.
In addition, he noted that there will be no need to use annual leave for Jan. 2, but with every closure period, some employees’ work schedules may differ from the posted winter closure schedule. Those whose schedules differ will be notified by their supervisors.

Holiday dining spectacular planned
Dining Services invites employees, students and guests to a Holiday Spectacular dining event from 4 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19, in the dining halls for dinner and from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 20, in the Bernhard Café and Market for lunch. Visit wmich.edu/dining/events for details.

Poinsettia orders due Nov. 24
The Professional Support Staff Organization is sponsoring its annual poinsettia sale and accepting orders through 4 p.m. Monday, Nov. 24. This year’s colors are glitter and red. Small and large poinsettias are available for $8 and $10, respectively. They will be available for pickup from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2, in 105 Bernhard Center. For an order form, contact cindy.zimmerman@wmich.edu or (269) 387-4570.

Only one more Western News this fall
Because of the Thanksgiving recess, the next Western News will be published Thursday, Dec. 4. That will be last issue in 2014. The paper will resume publication Thursday, Jan. 15, after the start of the 2015 spring semester.

CHHS department awarded $3.7 million
Four recent grants totaling $3.7 million have been awarded to the Department of Blindness and Low Vision Studies and are aimed at filling a severe shortage of specialists trained to help people with vision problems live fuller, happier lives.
The personnel training grants are from the U.S. Department of Education and span five years. They will help prepare orientation and mobility specialists, vision rehabilitation therapists, rehabilitation counselors, and teachers of children who are visually impaired.
Ultimately, they will help thousands of people who are blind and visually impaired by educating the next generation of specialists who will work with visually impaired youths and adults in schools and organizations, as well as by recruiting scholars who represent the diverse populations they will serve. The awards respond to severe personnel shortages nationally and statewide and address employment challenges faced by those with visual impairments.

Forums to discuss progress on diversity suggestions
Progress toward recommendations for WMU’s Campus Climate for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion study will be shared this month during two public forums.
Roger L. Worthington, campus climate study consultant, will lead the discussion from 4 to 5:30 p.m. today, Thursday, Nov. 13, and from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14, in the Multicultural Center of the Trimpe Building. Refreshments will be provided.
The WMU study was the product of a multiyear, commissioned effort that included a survey and focus groups. Among the survey respondents were 4,072 students, 493 faculty members, 924 staff members and 126 administrators. They amounted to nearly 20 percent of the campus community, double the rate typical for such surveys.
The forums will showcase the initiatives that are in progress and encourage attendeest to further engage and energize the campus community toward continued efforts. They are being sponsored by the Campus Climate for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Tactical Action Community, which is part of WMU’s strategic planning infrastructure.
Visit wmich.edu/diversity for the full study report or an executive summary.

Trustees extend president’s contract into 2017
Acting during a special session Nov. 7, the WMU Board of Trustees unanimously voted to extend the contract of President John M. Dunn for an additional year, with that term now to end June 30, 2017.
Dunn was lauded by board Chair James Hettinger, who praised the president’s performance and laid out the board’s commitment to leadership stability.

“We have made huge progress in the past five years,” Hettinger noted. “We are not only a Carnegie research institution, but we’ve now affiliated with a law school and added a med school, and we are playing at a whole different level than we were 10 or 15 years ago. Future leadership is going to be critical to this institution.”
Trustee William Johnston added his praise, thanking Dunn for agreeing to the extension and for “bringing great aspirations to the University, the University community and to the community at large.”

As part of its resolution, the board increased Dunn’s salary by 2 percent, the same percentage increase awarded earlier this fall to employee groups who do not have union representation.
Dunn’s 2 percent increase brings his annual salary to $390,431. Following his past practice, Dunn will donate back to WMU the cumulative amount of his pay increases since his 2007 starting salary of $345,000. This means that this year, he will donate more than $45,000 to be used for student scholarship aid.
Entrepeneurship Forum speakers set

The next two Entrepreneurship Forum speakers will be Norm Braksciak, a retired Foods Resource Bank executive, Friday, Nov. 14 and Matt and Renee Greff, of Arbor Brewing, Friday, Dec. 5. Visit wmich.edu/businessnews/calendar for details.

Public pregame event scheduled

Festivities will surround the home football game at Eastern Michigan University at 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 15, which is Education Day and the Hall of Fame game. This year will also be described as a day for WMU Cooley Law School and WMU Streyker School of Medicine community members to experience Bronco athletics. Visit wmulbronzos.com/pdf4/1442288.pdf for details about the pregame event.

Special movie screening set for WMU

The documentary film “Pilot Error,” which counts four WMU alumni among its cast and crew, will be screened during Western Night at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 18, in the Kalamazoo 10 theatre. WMU’s alumni will greet theatregoers and sign autographs before the movie, and there will be a talk-back session after the movie. Tickets will cost $5 for students.

Famous photographer to speak

Internationaly renowned photographer Garth Lenz will speak at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 20, in 208-09 Bernhard Center. Katrovases is the author of 14 books of poetry, fiction and nonfiction. Pulitzer Prize winner Tracy Kidder called one of his works “a potent, fascinating book.”

BTR Park update slated this month

Bob Miller, associate vice president for community outreach, will present an update on the Business Technology and Research Park during the Mercantile Bank of Michigan Breakfast Speaker Series Friday, Nov. 21. Visit wmich.edu/business/mercantile-rsvp for details.

APA schedules holiday gathering

The Administrative Professional Association will hold its annual holiday gathering from 6 to 10 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17, in the Music Tavern (the back room of Bell’s Brewery Eccentric Cafe). The registration deadline is 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 1. Visit mywmich.com/apaparty for cost and registration details.

Emeriti Council funds $9,200 in student scholarships

Twenty-three deserving undergraduate students have been awarded $400 Emeriti Council Book Scholarships to help them purchase textbooks and school supplies.

All $9,200 in book scholarship funds are awarded by representatives from student financial aid and scholarships to recipients based on financial need and academic merit. The Emeriti Council established the scholarships in 2004 to help students defray the high costs of textbooks. Since then, $84,000 has been awarded to 239 students, many of whom have thanked the council for this unexpected financial assistance.

The organization also oversees the Emeriti Council Medallion Scholarship Fund. At present, three students are benefiting from those scholarships, which are now valued at $50,000 over four years.

The council is a 12-person body elected to serve four-year terms. The council serves to maintain the highest standards of the University’s emeritus. Along with supporting all emeriti, its principal goals include fostering strong relationships between emeriti and the University as well as supporting the University’s growth and development.

Gifts to either the Book or Medallion scholarships are tax deductible and, regardless of size, important to WMU students.

To help support one or both of those scholarships, make a gift by credit card at mywmich.com/myscholarships or send a check payable to the WMU Foundation to: WMU Foundation, Gift Processing Office, Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5403. Be sure to indicate your gift designation.

Visit wmich.edu/emergency for more information about the council.

Jobs

Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources website at wmich.edu/hr/jobs. Please note that applications must be submitted online by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included with each posting.

Former trustee publishes book

George Franklin, a former WMU trustee and vice president of worldwide government relations for the Kellogg Co., is the author of “Raisin Bran and other Cereal Wars: 30 Years of Lobbying for the Most Famous Tiger in the World,” published by iUniverse LLC.

The 154-page book gives readers an inside look at the life of a corporate lobbyist. A fun and easy read, it provides unique insights into the widely misunderstood role of corporate government relations and how it affects public policy, with plenty of interesting stories along the way.

Franklin served as a WMU trustee from 1989 to 2001 and now is president of Franklin Public Affairs LLC in Kalamazoo, a government relations and public policy firm.

Math educator named ISDSTE Fellow

Christian Hirsch, mathematics, was recently appointed a fellow of the International Society for Design and Development in Education. Hirsch received the honor at the society’s annual conference held at the University of Cambridge in October.

The award recognizes scholars who have outstanding records as designers and project leaders whose work provides evidence of quality and innovation in the development of educational products for mathematics and science education, and in the design process itself.

Cited among Hirsch’s body of design and development work was Making Mathematics Accessible to All, a statewide, multiversity and multiyear professional development program that broke new ground. Among his curriculum-related works cited was Core-Plus Mathematics, a problem-based, inquiry-oriented and technology-rich four-year integrated high school mathematics program that has received national and international accolades.

Professor elected to national board

Michael G. Miller, human performance and health education, has been elected to the board of directors for the National Strength and Conditioning Association.

The association has nearly 42,000 members representing 72 countries and is the leader in the research and education of strength and conditioning professionals.

It offers certifications as Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist, Certified Personal Trainer, Certified Special Populations Specialist, Tactical Strength and Conditioning-Facilitator.

Miller is the director of WMU’s graduate athletic training program and a National Athletic Trainers’ Association Fellow. He chairs that association’s Research and Development Committee for the Executive Committee for Education and as such, is coordinating research activities in order to develop “a research agenda for the future of athletic training education.”
Experience a world of different cultures during one week

WMU will highlight various countries and cultures during its annual observance of International Education Week, set for Saturday through Friday, Nov. 15-21.

The week kicks off Saturday with the Kalamazoo Russian Festival from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Fetzer Center. The event includes a series of humanities lectures and readings.

WMU faculty members making presentations will be Scott M. Friesner, Lee Honors College; James M. Butterfield, political science; and Judith A. Rynaa, English.

Opening ceremonies at 9:30 a.m. with local

General education is event topic

Members of the campus community are invited to two remaining brown-bag lunch discussions concerning the University's general education program.

The events are set for noon to 1 p.m. in the University Center for the Humanities, 2500 Knauss Hall, Tuesday, Nov. 18, and Wednesday, Dec. 3.

They are part of a series being offered by the Faculty Senate's Ad Hoc Committee on General Education to provide a forum for faculty to explore the possibilities of imagining general education differently.

Topics will include exploring the guiding principles and goals of an exemplary general education program.

Retirement reception

Christian Hirsch, mathematics, will be honored for his 41 years of service during a retirement reception from 3 to 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 21, in the Oaklands. Visit www.mywmu.com/hirschfund to learn about an endowment alumni have created in his honor and to leave a congratulatory message or make a gift to the endowment.

Service

The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service during November.

30 Years—Loui Ann Grover, teaching, learning and educational studies, and Donna St. John, admissions

25 Years—Rex J. DeVries, landscape Services.

20 Years—Christine E. Jager, student affairs; Terri Sprague, Human Resources; and Penny Villadsen, building custodial and support services.

15 Years—Margie A. Glenn, cash operations; Paul E. Howell, University Libraries; Judith A. King, College of Health and Human Services; Robert G. Miller, associate vice president for community outreach; Linda S. Pipet, Bernhard Center Dining Services; and Timothy Howard Unangst, public safety.

10 Years—Jonathan Dennis, College of Aviation; Brenda S. Hamlyn, Registrar’s Office; Mark T. Scatara, Facilities Management; Wendy Jean Schutz, logistical Services; and William Whisman, information technology.

5 Years—Lenore Marie Bishop, Registrar’s Office; Denise Ann DeGraaf, building custodial and support services; James R. Fritz, information technology; Angelita Mary Kolodzieczyk, Valley #1 Dining Service; Renia Renee May, Davis Dining Services; James Philip Owalt, maintenance services; Raymond Thompson, College of Aviation; and Kathleen Sue VanFulpunten, Valley #2 Dining Service.

and WMU dignitaries will begin the day, which celebrates Russian culture and includes folk dancers, singers, musicians, Russian cuisine and children’s activities.

Also of note, there will be an American Thanksgiving Celebration from noon to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 20, in Kanley Chapel, during which international students can learn the history of Thanksgiving Day in the United States and enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving Day dinner.

Other events during the week include Brazilian Day and Cricket Mania Sunday, Nov. 16; Southeast Asian Cuisines Festival Monday, Nov. 17; Window to China and Malaysia Night Tuesday, Nov. 18; Calligraphy Workshop and Day of China Wednesday, Nov. 19; and Japan Festival, Dominican Festival and Legally Desi Friday, Nov. 21.

Special event tonight spotlights Native Americans

Anishinaabeg poet and novelist Gordon Henry Jr. will perform tonight as part of the Lee Honors College’s fall Mix It Up Thursdays series.

Henry will present Chippewa-style chants, recitation and storytelling set to the backdrop of musical improvisation at 7 p.m. in 1730 Lee Honors College Building.

During the free event, he will perform with founding members of the music group Northwoods Improvisors. His performance will focus on contemporary Native American storytelling and culture.

Academic offerings expanding in Battle Creek, metro Detroit

Starting with the 2015 spring semester, courses will be offered in Battle Creek that are tailored to the unit training weekend schedules of Air National Guard members.

Meanwhile, an internationally known graduate program for individuals who work with people with autism and other developmental disabilities will be offered in Royal Oak.

The new Battle Creek courses will feature the convenience of online learning blended with face-to-face meetings. For those tailored for Air National Guard members, the face-to-face meetings will be offered on unit training weekends at WMU’s College of Aviation, located just across the airfield from the Kellogg Air National Guard Base.

The first tailored course will be an English class that fills credit requirements toward an associate or bachelor’s degree. Various academic units and support staff will be on the base during the Nov. 22-23 training weekend to enroll students in the class, discuss additional course possibilities and assess the education needs of guard members.

The other new offering through Extended University Programs is a complete degree program, the Master of Arts in psychology-behavior analysis. It will be offered at WMU-MetroDetroit in Royal Oak.

The degree program is designed to produce qualified, engaged professionals and to move forward the fields of autism therapy and research. It satisfies the educational requirements for becoming a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst.

Theatre department food drive is supporting WMU students

The Department of Theatre’s annual “Acting Against Poverty” food drive is supporting the Invisible Need Project food pantry this year.

The drive will run in conjunction with the Friday, Nov. 14, through Sunday, Nov. 23, production of “Hair.”

Canned food and other non-perishable items should be brought to the Gilmore Theatre Complex during “Hair”s run.

All donations will go to the Invisible Need Project food pantry.
Activities staged in honor of veterans, military personnel

Several activities have been taking place this month to honor or assist WMU students, WMU employees and members of the broader community who are military veterans or are currently deployed.

Still to come is a celebration for veterans from all service branches from 2 to 4 p.m. today in the Activities Therapy Building. In addition to food and drink, various services will be provided during the event. Reservations were requested so organizers could get a food count, but they are not required to attend the celebration.

Friday, Nov. 14, is the Veterans Day 5K Run and Celebration beginning at 9 a.m. at the Campus Flagpoles by the Lee Honors College. The event features a 5K run followed by a celebration at the Wesley Foundation that includes a complimentary breakfast and motivational remarks by retired Brig. Gen. Michael C.H. McDaniels, professor of constitutional law at the WMU Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

Also, anyone who is a veteran or still active in the military may contact the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs and request up to four free tickets to the football game against Northern Illinois University (time has yet to be announced) Friday, Nov. 28, and up to two tickets to the hockey game against Colorado College at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12.

To assist deployed troops, items for holiday care packages are being collected. For a list of high-demand items, visit wmich.edu/military and click Events. Donations may be dropped off in the Student Veteran Lounge, 1304 Ellsworth Hall; at the Campus Flagpoles before the 5K run Nov. 14; and in the lobby of Lawson Ice Arena before the hockey game Dec. 12.

Application fee waived for MBA open house attendees

Those aspiring to earn a Master of Business Administration can get a head start this month by attending an MBA open house from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19, in 3230 Schneider Hall.

Applications are being accepted now for the University’s 2015 spring semester. WMU will pay the application fee for individuals who attend the open house and apply the same day.

During the event, attendees will be able to learn more about the MBA program from WMU faculty and staff members as well as alumni of the program.

A similar event also is being held today in the WMU-Grand Rapids facility on Beltline Avenue.

Email mba-advising@wmich.edu to make a reservation for the open house that is being held in Kalamazoo. Direct questions to barb.caras-tomcak@wmich.edu or (269) 387-5086. Free parking will be available in lot 72R by Schneider Hall.

On Campus with Cassandra Motycka

From scheduling to patient and doctor support, Cassandra Motycka wears many hats as an administrative assistant for both the Vision Clinic and the Van Riper Language, Speech and Hearing Clinic.

She admittedly does “everything except see patients” from her office on the fourth floor of the University Medical and Health Sciences Center, which houses WMU’s Unified Clinics as well as various WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine facilities.

In the five years since she joined WMU’s staff, she’s seen patient volume steadily grow and services expand as the Vision Clinic office hired an on-site optometrist in 2011 and added a retail frame and lens business.

Besides the convenience of having vision and audiology services available right on campus, Motycka says patients also appreciate the personalized care they receive.

“The doctors we have here will go above and beyond for their patients. The people who work here will go to people’s homes to help them set up equipment. They treat each patient with such care,” she says. “It is such a pleasure to come to work with people like that.”

Motycka earned two degrees from WMU—a bachelor’s degree in secondary education and a master’s degree in education and professional development. A native of Mendon, she now lives in Vicksburg with her husband Kevin and two children, daughter Eli, 15, and son Patrick, 10. The children’s activities keep the family busy, but Motycka also enjoys running, reading and being involved with her church, Family Bible Church in Mendon.

CHHS department awarded $3.7 million

The project will prepare teachers of children and Orientation and Mobility Instructors of Children, $1,248,723, for careers in secondary education and independent living goals. The project will prepare graduates with specialties in blindness and low vision than any other institution.

The highly competitive awards may be applied for every five years, says James Leja, department chair. This year, their funding cycles coincided and all applications were fully funded.

“They all hit at the same time,” Leja says. “So this happened to be, if you will, that perfect, positive storm. This creates a strong foundation for our five departmental programs over the next five years.”

At a time when many professionals in the field are retiring, the number of people with disabilities, including vision problems, is rising, Leja says. This includes many individuals with age-related sources of visual impairment, such as glaucoma and macular degeneration.

WMU’s Department of Blindness and Low Vision Studies is the oldest of its kind in the world. It attracts scholars from across the United States and internationally and annually produces more graduates and professionals in blindness and low vision than any other institution.