Trustees to meet in Battle Creek

The WMU Board of Trustees will meet at 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 22, at the College of Aviation campus. The agenda will be announced several days before the event. Answering the request of two trustees with Battle Creek ties, the board is reviving its past practice of holding occasional meetings in cities where the University has a strong presence. Such meetings have been held in Detroit, Grand Rapids and Battle Creek.

Commencement ceremonies set

Four commencement ceremonies will be held Saturday, May 2, in Miller Auditorium for WMU graduates. They are: 9 a.m., colleges of Education and Human Development and Fine Arts; 12:30 p.m., College of Aviation, Extended University Programs and the Haworth College of Business; 3:30 p.m., colleges of Engineering and Applied Sciences and Health and Human Services; and 7 p.m., College of Arts and Sciences.

Discounts available to faculty, staff

Employees receive 20 percent discounts on tickets to the Gilmore Piano Masters recitals. The next concert is at 8 p.m. today in Chenery Auditorium. It features pianist Hélène Grimaud. Mention the discount code “PianoMasters” when ordering online or at the Miller Auditorium box office.

Sealed-bid vehicle sale coming up

Bids are due by 5 p.m. Monday, April 20, for Surplus Sales’ sealed-bid vehicle sale. Visit wnmich.edu/logisticalservices/stores for viewing times and other details.

Free employee photo sessions set

Faculty and staff may have their official University photos taken between 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Thursday, April 23, in Waldo Hall’s Heinig Emeriti Lounge. Employees may have electronic copies for personal use at no charge. Contact Sue Beougher at sue.beougher@wmich.edu or (269) 387-8402 to confirm your session or receive your photo.

Faculty, staff mixer slated for May 5

A Fridays With Friends mixer for faculty and staff members will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 5, in the Ferter Center to celebrate the end of the academic year. It will feature complimentary light hors d’oeuvres and a cash bar.

Consider helping out at fall events

Faculty members and administrators are asked to save the evening of Thursday, Sept. 3, for the fall Matriarchation Ceremony and Buster’s Buffet. Staff members also are encouraged to get involved in fall Welcome Week by volunteering to help out at an event. Online registration is open at wnmich.edu/eye/fallwelcome/register for all events. Direct questions to adrienne.fraaza@wmich.edu or (269) 387-2332.
Around campus and beyond

Mélange of art types on display
A WMU alumna is showcasing her work through the end of April in the College of Health and Human Services second-floor art gallery. Suzanne B. Siegel describes herself as a perpetual seeker, transdisciplinary mentor, perennial philosophy devotee and interpretive realist. Her exhibit, “Back to the Garden,” reflects those varied elements of her identity in what she calls “a mélange of various kinds of art in markedly differing styles.”

Panel presentation on ISIS slated
There will be a panel presentation on “The Islamic State: Its Origins, Aims and Capabilities” from 3 to 4 p.m. Friday, April 17, in 105-107 Bernhard Center.

Variety of youth summer programs being offered
A variety of programs are available in a wide age range, from sports and music camps to in-depth writing experiences and opportunities to explore careers in aviation, video game programming and other fields. Among the camps available are:

- **Programs for youngsters offered by the Department of Central Eurasian Studies, and Carol Choksy, an adjunct lecturer of strategic intelligence in the Department of Information and Library Science.**

- **The Keith Hall Summer Drum Intensive, which is open to students of all ages.**

- **A variety of programs are available in**
  - **Academically Talented Youth Program, which also will offer a high school class called Writing the College Admissions Essay. Class registrations are due Monday, June 1.**
  - **Thirteen themed Campus Kids weeks held at the Children’s Place Learning Center.**
  - **The Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Summer Camp conducted near Niles:**
  - **The Keith Hall Summer Drum Intensive, which is open to students of all ages.**

- **A listing of all camps, with new listings added as information becomes available, can be found at wmich.edu/admissions/camps.**

Event showcases student inventions
WMU students will showcase and demonstrate their senior projects at the 56th Conference on Engineering and Design from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 21, at the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

The event, on WMU’s Parkview Campus, is free and open to the public. During the day, seniors will present the projects they have completed to solve problems facing business and industry. For more information, visit wmich.edu/engineer and click Events and News.

Sustainability expert to speak
A leading authority on sustainable value chains will be discussing the complexities of sustainable manufacturing and using Fairphone, a social enterprise and top-five global crowdfunding campaign, as an example. Sean Ansett will speak at 2 p.m. Thursday, April 23, in 2000 Schneider Hall. Ansett is chief sustainability officer at Fairphone.

Graduate students to strut their stuff
This year’s Research and Creative Activities Poster and Performance Day will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, April 24, in the Bernhard Center Ballroom. Visit wmich.edu/research for details. A continental breakfast and buffet lunch will be provided.

Retirement receptions
Thomas W. Blackmon, Unified Clinics, will be recognized for his service to the University during a retirement reception from 3 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 29, in the third floor conference room of the Unified Clinics Building.

Donna L. St. John, admissions, will be recognized for her service to the University during a retirement reception from 3 to 5 p.m. Thursday, May 7, in 157-159 Bernhard Center. Formal recognition will take place at 4 p.m.

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.

English chair selected as ACE Fellow
Jonathan Bush has been named an American Council on Education Fellow for the 2015-16 academic year. Bush, English, was one of 47 emerging college and university leaders selected by ACE this year. Fellows are nominated by their presidents and chancellors and selected following a rigorous application process.

The program strengthens institutions and leadership in U.S. higher education by identifying and preparing promising senior faculty and administrators for responsible positions in college and university administration.

Bush joined the WMU faculty in 2001. He was named an interim associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in February and has served as English department chair since 2011. He also is director of the Third Coast Writing Project and coordinator of WMU’s developmental writing program.

Social worker receives state award
Linda Reeser received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Michigan chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

The award was presented during the National Association of Social Workers-Michigan annual conference April 9-10 in Kalamazoo.

It is the most prestigious award given annually by the organization to social workers who have spent a career advocating for the profession and their clients. Nominees must demonstrate a continued commitment to the principles of social justice through leadership, education and advocacy.

Reeser joined the School of Social Work faculty in 1981. Her interests include social work ethics, professionalism, activism, field education and women’s issues. She served as director of field education for 18 years and as coordinator of the Bachelor of Social Work. In addition, Reeser is credited with helping to found a massive coordinated effort to register voters and has a long history of supporting recipient rights.

Dean’s photography utilized in book
Joseph G. Reish, dean of University Libraries, has had his photography incorporated into the cover art of a newly published volume titled “In the School of Prophets: The Formation of Thomas Merton’s Prophetic Spirituality” from Liturgical Press.

A retreatant at the Abbey of Gethsemani in Trappist, Kentucky, Reish has taken photos of the monastery and grounds where Merton lived for 27 years. The book director selected Reish’s views of the west exterior of the abbey and the roughly hewed cross and wagon wheel near the monk’s hermitage.

Reish sits on the board of Cistercian Publications, which is now affiliated with Liturgical Press. A professor of French, he joined the faculty in 1972. He has been dean of University Libraries since 2000 and previously was the Lee Honors College dean.
Lighthouse logbook project sheds light on 1800s coastal life

Whether an account of a shipwreck in rough waters, a body washed ashore, or an inferno on the mainland, the life and times of South Haven lighthouse keepers are coming to a wider audience through the digitization of three carefully preserved logbooks by University Libraries technicians.

Called the South Haven Michigan Lighthouse Logs, the new digital collection is being created to give a lifelike representation of lighthouse journals spanning the years 1872 to 1880. The project represents one of the first comprehensive digital lighthouse logbook collections to be publicly available online anywhere.

The handwritten logbooks are being painstakingly digitized in high-resolution, tagged image file format—TIFF—images, giving as close a representation of the original logbooks as possible. The processed images are then made available in an onscreen, page-turning “BookReader” format.

The team of library science professionals also is adding complementary metadata to the three-book collection to aid in searching for or finding online resources to complete or fill in data required for scholarly research.

The digital-image capture is being conducted to illuminate the daily activities of the lighthouse station on South Haven's Lake Michigan shoreline.

Equal opportunity is talk topic

A senior fellow in economic studies at the Brookings Institution will present a talk on how America is drifting away from the ideal of equal opportunity.

Richard V. Reeves will speak on “The Opportunity Ecosystem” at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 30, in the Fetzer Center. The event is sponsored by WMU's Lewis Walker Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnic Relations in collaboration with the City of Kalamazoo’s New Shared Prosperity Kalamazoo Initiative.

Reeves will discuss what local communities can do to close the gap so children who are poor, especially children of color, will have a more equal chance of climbing the economic ladder to prosperity and security.

The entries run the gamut from mundane observations about the weather or notations about schooners being unloaded to dramatic notations of danger, death or imminent peril.

The three logbooks were donated by the Van Buren County Historical Society and have been held in the WMU Archives and Regional History Collections for many years, says Sharon Carlson, the unit’s director.

She says library staff put the logbooks on microfilm, but the microfilm copies did not lend themselves to thorough examination of the logbooks in all their complexity.

The lighthouse logbook project comes on the heels of the University Libraries’ recent digitization of Civil War diaries and letters. The project also dovetails nicely with the digitization of Civil War diaries and letters.

To view the lighthouse collection, visit wmich.edu/library/collections/digital/ and click on South Haven Michigan Lighthouse Logs.

Spring Make a Difference award winners to be honored

Twelve staff members will be honored as outstanding employees during a reception at 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 21, in 157 Bernhard Center.

The University community is invited to attend the event, which recognizes the spring 2015 recipients of WMU’s semiannual Make a Difference Award. The recipients will each receive $300, before taxes, and a commemorative certificate.

They are:
• Rachael Bower, business information systems advisor
• Jonathan Dennis, College of Aviation
• Maria French, cash dining operations
• Jerry Fulbright Jr., landscape services
• Thalia Guerra, Center for Academic Success Programs
• Timothy Holycz, landscape services
• Kevin Knutson, College of Arts and Sciences advising

Medieval Congress free for local residents who register early

Kalamazoo residents and WMU community members may attend the International Congress on Medieval Studies for free if they register online or in person by the Wednesday, April 29, deadline for early registration.

This year’s congress, the 50th, will be held Thursday through Sunday, May 14-17, at venues on the main campus in Kalamazoo.

Organizers expect some 3,000 people to register for the event. Early registrants pay no fee if registering online or in person at the Miller Auditorium ticket office and only a nominal handling fee if registering by mail or fax.

For more information or to register, visit wmich.edu/medieval/congress or call (269) 387-8745.

Obituaries

John Badgerow, who had frequently taught part-time for the environmental studies program since 2006, died Feb. 12.

A public memorial is being held at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 25, in St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 247 W. Lovell St. in Kalamazoo. A reception will follow in the church. Visit joldersma- klein.com for the complete obituary and to share condolences or a memorial gift.
Center shares training videos on autism nationwide

A series of free videos on autism assessment and intervention techniques is now available to a national audience of educators and practitioners, thanks to WMU’s Autism Center for Excellence.

The video series includes interviews with experts in applied behavior analysis, referred to as ABA; autism; and behavioral pediatrics. They were developed by Wayne Fuqua, psychology, with support from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. To view the videos without charge, visit wmich.edu/autism/resources.

“The videos also include supplemental materials and clinical simulations that demonstrate the application of essential features of an assessment or intervention technique,” Fuqua says. “The videos are designed to enhance the ability of ABA practitioners and ABA students in academic training programs to understand and to implement important behavior analysis assessment and treatment techniques with children, especially those with developmental disabilities such as autism.”

Additional videos are under development. When ready for distribution, they will be posted to the same website, so those interested in the videos should check back periodically for updates.

WMU course recognized at Americas summit

Coca-Cola Foundation. Through Santander Universities, Santander Bank, N.A. funded grants to the other competition winners, which included California State University, Los Angeles; Northwestern University; and the University of California, San Diego.

Both Sides of the Fence

The 100,000 Strong innovation fund grant will allow for significant expansion of the Both Sides of the Fence study abroad program piloted last summer by the College of Health and Human Services and funded by the Fetzer Institute in Kalamazoo.

The four-credit course exposes college students from the United States and Mexico to the challenges of migration and its impact on personal and community health. Both Mexican and U.S. students will learn, live and work together in migrant communities in Michigan and rural villages in Guanajuato, Mexico, gaining insight into the immigrant experience, particularly as it relates to nutrition.

This summer’s course will begin at WMU June 29 and finish in Mexico Aug. 1. The deadline to apply is Thursday, April 30. For 2015, the program will involve students from WMU and the Universidad DeLaSalle Bajo in Leon, Mexico. The Community Foundation of the Bajio, a Mexican nonprofit organization working in rural communities affected by migration, will play a supporting role in the project.

“The purpose of this program is to better understand the challenges of Mexican migration from both sides of the fence,” says the program’s co-director, Maureen Mickus, occupational therapy.

Mickus explains that students will take part in field visits to Mexican migrant camps and hear presentations from professionals working in migrant services. During their time in the state of Guanajuato, Mexico, they will engage in community-service activities in two small, impoverished communities. These activities will include an intergenerational day camp focusing on traditional cooking, healthy eating and exercise.

Critical educational need

The growth in America’s Latino population continues to outpace the growth in all other minority groups, reports Both Sides of the Fence’s other co-director, Denise Bowen, physician assistant. Moreover, she says, the vast majority of immigrants to the United States are Mexican, with the highest percentage coming from the Mexican state of Guanajuato.

“That’s one of the most important U.S. demographic trends, so there’s a critical need to educate students, particularly future health care professionals, about the cultural, economic and social impact of migration. Health disparities among Latinos, coupled with a lack of trained, culturally sensitive, Spanish-speaking professionals, already present serious problems in the United States,” Bowen says.

“Both Sides of the Fence tries to bridge that gap by preparing students to be informed, compassionate leaders in this complex societal arena. It offers students a two-pronged approach to learning about the challenges of migration, both from people living in Mexico and those who have already migrated to the United States. And, at the heart of this program, is the opportunity for U.S. students to develop cultural humility.”