Two calls for proposals announced

Those wishing to give presentations during the Teaching With Technology Symposium have until Friday, Oct. 30, to submit their proposals. The annual symposium, which will be held Wednesday, Feb. 10, provides an opportunity for faculty members and graduate teaching assistants to showcase their use of technology.

Visit wmich.edu/facultydevelopment for submission details about either call for proposals or to register for an upcoming Cool Tools session. Sessions are scheduled for Friday, Oct. 30; Monday, Nov. 16; Wednesday, Nov. 18; and Thursday, Nov. 19.

Time to help recognize WMU staff

Nominations for the spring semiannual Make a Difference awards are due Saturday, Oct. 31. The awards recognize staff members for their daily investment of energy and creativity. Visit wmich.edu/makesadifference for more information, including guidelines and the nomination form.

PSSO annual fundraiser underway

The Professional Staff Support Staff Organization is selling popcorn from Kalamazoo Kettle Corn as part of its annual fundraiser. Orders are due by 4 p.m. Monday, Nov. 23. Proceeds support PSSO, which is able to make an order.

Faculty scholar nominations sought

Nominations are due no later than Friday, Feb. 12, for the Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award, the highest honor WMU bestows on its faculty members. The award is based on outstanding professional achievements. It recognizes those whose work is widely known beyond campus and constitutes a significant body of achievement. Submissions are being accepted for PSSO members and their dependents. Visit wmich.edu/pssoholidayfundraiser to make an order.

Numerous events scheduled to honor veterans

Students and employees will be engaging in a weekend-long celebration of Veterans Day, which is officially observed Wednesday, Nov. 11. A summary of major events honor- ing members of the military and veterans from all countries as well as their families follows. Visit wmich.edu/military and click the Events link for a comprehensive listing along with event details.

Saturday, Oct. 31

• Service project—Cleaning of nearly 4,000 headstones by business students, 10 a.m. to noon, Fort Custer National Cemetery, Augusta.

Friday, Nov. 6

• Career Conversations for Veterans—Roundtable discussions, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Schneider Hall, Dean’s Conference Room.

The program also will include music provided by the Bronco Marching Band and a flag-raising ceremony by the Army ROTC Bronco Battalion. That ceremony will feature a U.S. flag that once flew over the U.S. Capitol and was sent to WMU for the occasion by Congressman Fred Upton. The flag pole on site was a gift from the WMU Class of 1942 and was “Dedicated to all men of Western in the Armed Services of the United States in World War II.”

Following the ribbon cutting, self-guided tours of the building will begin and last until 4 p.m. In addition to touring the building, those attending the ceremony will be able to visit a number of stations around the building. In addition to a hospitality tent, they will

Continued on page 4
Healthy Living Campus is talk topic
Marilyn Schlack, president of Kalamaazoo Valley Community College, will discuss “The Bronson Healthy Living Campus” at 8 a.m. Friday, Oct. 30, in 2150 of Schneider Hall. Her talk is part of the Mercantile Bank of Michigan Breakfast Speaker Series. Reservations are required for the free event and can be made at wmich.edu/business/mercantile-rsvp or by calling (269) 387-6059.

Scholar Scare 5K fun run, walk set
The annual Scholar Scare Hallowe’en-themed run and walk are set for Thursday, Oct. 29, in front of the Lee Honors College building. The 1K fun run begins at 5:30 p.m. and the run and walk at 6 p.m. Online registration is at https://transignup.com/wmuscholarscare. Strollers and leashed dogs are welcome.

Biennial ICHITA events scheduled
A convener advisor for training and advanced analytics at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine headlines the speakers at this year’s International Conference on Healthcare Information Technology Advancement. The biennial conference is set for Friday and Saturday, Oct. 30 and 31, at the WMU Stayer School of Medicine in downtown Kalamazoo. Register at wmich.edu/ichita.

Speaker to focus on race relations
Ta-Nehisi Coates, a national correspondent for The Atlantic, famous blogger and author of two critically acclaimed books, will deliver a message on race relations in America at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 3, in Miller Auditorium. The event is free, but registration is required at kalfound.org or (269) 381-4416.

Chinese films to be screened
Three Chinese movies will be screened for free during the Made in China Film Festival: “Farewell My Concubine,” 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 5, in 1260 Chemistry Building; “The Grandmaster,” 6 to 9 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 12, in 1260 Chemistry Building; and “Confucius,” 3 to 5 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 17, in 2452 Knauss Hall.

Three Chinese movies will be screened for free during the Made in China Film Festival: “Farewell My Concubine,” 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 5, in 1260 Chemistry Building; “The Grandmaster,” 6 to 9 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 12, in 1260 Chemistry Building; and “Confucius,” 3 to 5 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 17, in 2452 Knauss Hall.

Fall programs highlight tuition-related employee benefits
Informational sessions being held this semester will help WMU employees and their eligible children take advantage of the University’s tuition-related benefits, which include a new benefit launching this fall.

Brown-bag sessions for employees who are considering enrolling at WMU are set for set for 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 29; Wednesday, Nov. 11; and Wednesday, Dec. 9, in the President’s Dining Room of the Bernhard Center.

They will include presentations by Human Resources, the Office of Admissions, the Graduate College, Extended University Programs, the Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships, the Center for Academic Support Programs, and the University Studies degree-completion program.

Sessions for employees’ children who are considering enrolling at WMU are set for 8:30 a.m. Friday, Nov. 13 and Dec. 4, in the President’s Dining Room of the Bernhard Center. Students and parents are welcome to attend these sessions, which are being held just before regularly scheduled admissions office open houses.

The prospective students and their parents who attend will be able to obtain information about the tuition-related benefits open to employees as well as about getting admitted to the University. Immediately afterward, they will be able to attend the admissions office open houses. For details about the open houses, visit wmich.edu/admissions/openhouse.

Future dates for both types of programs have been set and can be found, along with more information about tuition-related benefits for employees, at wmich.edu/admissions/guest/employees. WMU departments that would like this information presented to their staff directly should contact Scott Hennessy at scott.hennessy@wmich.edu or (269) 387-2017.

Retirement reception
Paula Armstrong, speech pathology and audiology, will be honored for 30 years of service to the University during a retirement reception from 1 to 3 p.m. today in 4010 Health and Human Services Building.

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.

Brez

Chef brings home the bacon
Tom Giles, Dining Services, won a silver medal at the American Culinary Competition hosted by the Michigan Restaurant Association Oct. 13 in Novi. The show was sanctioned by the American Culinary Federation and Michigan’s Chef’s Choice.

Giles prepared a colorful cold food display for the event. He is a member of the Great Lakes Regional Culinary Olympic Team and is preparing to compete in the Culinary Olympics in Erfurt, Germany, in fall 2016.

Giles came to WMU in August and has worked at Bronson Healthcare Group, Meijer Corp., Premium Food service, and the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee. He was a member of the culinary team that represented Michigan at the 2014 Culinary World Cup in Luxembourg, and he has won numerous awards.

Physicist elected APS Fellow
Thomas Gorczyca, physics, has been elected a Fellow of the American Physical Society. Gorczyca was nominated for “advancing our fundamental understanding in the photoionization, spectra, and opacities of atomic ions in astrophysical plasmas.” He was nominated by APS’ Division of Atomic, Molecular & Optical Physics. Fellowship is a distinguished honor signifying recognition by one’s professional peers. The criterion for election is exceptional contributions to the physics enterprise, such as outstanding physics research, important applications of physics, leadership in or service to physics, or significant contributions to physics education.

Gorczyca is a professor with expertise in atomic and molecular physics.
University getting ready to adopt next generation email system

The verdict is in: Microsoft Office 365 for Education—O365—will be WMU’s next email system.

The version of O365 for educational institutions is a suite of email and other applications available free of charge that will replace WMU’s current Webmail Plus email and collaboration system.

The tentative plan is to do test migrations for @wmich.edu email users in December and January. The remaining users will be migrated in February and March, with everyone expected to be switched over by the first week of April.

Edward Kluk, NextGen Email Project manager, says by adopting the O365 suite, WMU will be able to provide new and improved services. Many of the popular features from Webmail Plus are included, and lifelong email accounts, address books and a calendar have been added for all WMU alumni who want to remain engaged with the University.

“Email is only a part of the overall expectation people have of electronic communication,” Kluk says. “When we looked at the pros and cons of Google Apps for Education and Microsoft O365 for Education, we found significant strengths in both. We found that O365 allows sharing of email folders and had other compelling features that swayed the decision.”

He adds that WMU will see numerous benefits from adopting a single suite rather than a hybrid system that incorporates a combination of features from different packages. Notably, a non-hybrid solution helps ensure a smooth transition for both PCs and Macs as well as most tablets and cell phones.

Many of the collaboration tools found in Webmail Plus are available in O365, both on the Web and as stand-alone applications. Webmail Plus’ email, Calendar, Address Book, Tasks and Briefcase will be replaced in O365 by Outlook Mail, Outlook Calendar, Outlook Address Book, Outlook Tasks and Outlook Drive for Business, respectively.

Under the new system, each user will be able to store 50 gigabytes of email data, archive an unlimited amount of email data and have 1 terabyte of OneDrive cloud storage. In addition, information technology will be supporting rule-based forwarding and rule-based redirection.

“Rule-based forwarding will forward email, with the ‘from field’ showing the account that the email was forwarded from,” Kluk explains. “Rule-based redirect keeps the original sender’s email address in the ‘From’ field.”

The O365 suite includes on-the-Web versions of Word, Excel, PowerPoint Access and OneNote and OneDrive. It also includes Microsoft Office apps for mobile devices (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote, OneDrive); Microsoft Office desktop versions for installation on work and home personal computers (five installations per individual); and Skype for Business (Instant Messaging and video chat).

Kluk says when the actual migration date gets near, documentation will be available regarding how to use O365, and the information technology Help Desk will be available if employees have questions. For more information, visit wmich.edu/nextgenemail.

Longtime student affairs official new dean of students

Susie Nagel, associate dean of students, was named dean of students, effective Aug. 4.

Nagel replaces Diane Anderson, who remains WMU’s vice president for student services.

“Since 2010, Dr. Nagel has served as associate vice president for student affairs and has been a tireless advocate for students,” says Anderson. “She has extraordinary insight and compassion and addresses each student concern with the utmost care and professionalism. We are so pleased she now carries the title most closely aligned with the work she has been doing for many years.”

She earned a bachelor’s degree from Valparaiso University, a master’s degree from Miami University and a doctoral degree in higher education leadership from WMU.

Robotic ‘temp worker’ will soon be roaming corridors in Waldo Library

A telepresence robot is putting in an appearance at Waldo Library for a few hours every weekend, but soon will be roaming the facility’s corridors during weekdays.

The robot is being tested for its potential use as a way for library patrons and staff members to communicate with one another when they are not in close physical proximity. Patrons can learn more about the robot and even take it for a test drive from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturdays and 4 to 6 p.m. Sundays through Nov. 29.

On loan from WMU Communication and Social Robotics Lab, it is part of a collaborative project between University Libraries and CSRL, which is overseen by the School of Communication. During the course of the project, library staff will test how telepresence robots could enhance service while CSRL researchers will study how people interact with the bots.

“Telepresence robots are beginning to show up in organizational and educational settings. These robots can help facilitate social interaction when there is physical distance between people,” says Dr. Autumn Edwards, communication, who leads CSRL. “Libraries are large, intricate and sometimes intimidating spaces in which having easy access to assistance may really benefit users. We’ll be watching how our ‘roaming librarians’ and users of the library are able to navigate their interactions with one another.”

At some point this fall, the robot will begin “working” on weekdays so library officials and staff members can explore its potential uses. Librarians will use a video-capable computer to project their image and voice to the bot. Patrons, in turn, will project their image and voice to the librarians via the bot.

“We’re still researching and want see how our users react and engage with the robot,” says May Chang, University Libraries. “Some students have already reported that they find the robot a fun way to interact and particularly helpful when they just have simple questions.”

WMU pays tribute—The life and accomplishments of the late Elson S. Floyd, WMU’s sixth president, were celebrated at two Oct. 16 events. The building housing the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences was formally dedicated as Elson S. Floyd Hall. After the ceremony, WMU President John M. Dunn and former WMU first lady Carmen Floyd posed by the portrait of Floyd that was unveiled in the building’s main lobby. A community video video shown at a later public event is posted online at http://bit.ly/1VRkX1X (Photo by Mika Landa)

Obituary

John D. Sheppard, emeritus in accountancy, died Oct. 15. He was 83.
Sheppard retired in 1992 after 27 years of service. There is visitation from 5 to 8 p.m. today and a memorial service at 11 a.m. Friday, Oct. 23, in the Langeland Family Funeral Homes, Portage Chapel, 411 East Centre Ave. Visit langeland.com for more details.

Obituary

Sheppard
As an environmental specialist at WMU, Lu DeBoef has the opportunity to work with just about everyone on campus, assuring facilities, grounds and construction projects comply with federal and state environmental guidelines.

“We’re a pretty tight-knit group and get along extremely well,” DeBoef says of the five-person staff in the Office of Environmental Health and Safety. “We help each other. Someone will jump in if a colleague needs it. We care about the University, and we are all here to help.”

Her job supporting environmental compliance at WMU covers a wide net, including submitting required reports, training staff members and students, and managing project compliance.

“We make sure the University is following the rules handling biomedical waste, hazardous waste and universal waste,” DeBoef says. “In the end, it’s still Western’s waste. We are still responsible for it even if [a contractor] dumps it somewhere.”

Another large part of her responsibilities involves erosion and storm water management, areas in which the University is seen as on the forefront. Public and private companies and organizations visit WMU regularly to tour projects related to storm water management practices, and soil and erosion control measures. Some have even used WMU as a training ground.

“The key is keeping Western’s environmental footprint the same or better when planning projects. Sometimes, I have to make decisions that are unpopular,” DeBoef says. “It might set back the project a bit, but it’s protecting the University. My job is to make sure we stay in compliance, we preserve what we can environmentally, and we make it better than it was.”

While training the campus community, she makes the connection that everyone is responsible for handling waste that can affect the environment, from a large construction project to disposing of chemicals and everyday items at home.

DeBoef joined WMU in 2010 in her current position after working at Pfizer Inc. She started her career with the Illinois EPA and has been in the environmental compliance profession for over 30 years, working in the areas of air, hazardous waste and water compliance. Originally from Muskegon, she and her husband, Mik, live in Kalamazoo and have five children, one of whom is a senior at WMU. DeBoef enjoys spending time with her children, especially impromptu family dinners when schedules spontaneously align. She keeps active biking, standup paddle boarding, swimming and walking her chocolate-colored Labrador Retriever.

Continued from page 1

Heritage Hall grand opening details set

include locations where event attendees can obtain information on life in 1905, pose for commemorative photos, learn about the building’s design and construction process, ask questions of personnel from the University Archives and Regional History Collections, and find out how to locate the bricks and pavers they purchased for the cast-iron patio that overlooks downtown Kalamazoo.

The Friday grand opening and two succeeding days of tours are expected to attract thousands of area residents eager to be among the first to tour the facility. A special commemorative pin will be distributed to the first 3,000 people in attendance.

During open enrollment, employees and retirees have the option of adding eligible dependents to their health care coverage. Elections made now are effective Jan. 1.

If no action is taken, benefit elections rollover to 2016, except for FSAs. Employees who choose to contribute to an FSA in 2016 must enroll or re-enroll.

Those who complete WMU’s wellness program requirements by the end of 2015 will receive the wellness incentive for all of 2016. Visit wmich.edu/hr/openenrollment to review materials sent to employees and retirees or access the necessary enrollment forms.

WMUK launches fall fund drive

WMU’s public radio station WMUK kicked off its annual fall campaign Oct. 17, and hopes to cut off on-air pledging in half.

WMUK will again feature a shortened pledge drive format designed to raise all of the dollars needed in half the live on-air pledge hours.

Membership contributions and additional gifts directly support local program production and to purchase national programs. WMUK encourages members to support the programs they value by sending in their gifts, contributing online at wmuk.org or calling in a pledge during the live portion of the pledge campaign.

Continued from page 1

Numerous events scheduled

for U.S. Marine Benjamin Busch, noon to 1:30 p.m., Putney Auditorium, Fetzer Center. Many know Busch for his roles on HBO’s “The Wire” and “Generation Kill.”

• Military Appreciation Night—Bronco football game, 8 p.m., Waldo Stadium.

Thursday, Nov. 12

• Listen to the Vets—Panel discussion, noon to 1:30 p.m., 157-159 Bernhard Center.

• ROTC luncheon—for all veterans, on and off campus, 2 to 4 p.m., 1310 Activity Therapy Building.