Dunn gives back salary increase

During a special conference call meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees Dec. 18, President John M. Dunn's salary was increased, triggering a major gift by Dunn and a boost in scholarship funds for students.

Praising Dunn's accomplishments and performance, trustees awarded Dunn a 2 percent salary increase consistent with the percentage awarded to nonbargaining University employees early this fiscal year. The increase is retroactive to July 1 and boosts Dunn's base salary from $390,431 to $398,240.

Dunn's practice since the start of his presidency has been with each salary increase to donate back to WMU the cumulative amount of his pay increases. This year's gift from Dunn and his wife, Linda, totals more than $53,000. They have designated the funds to be used for student scholarships.

Last year, the board extended Dunn's employment contract to June 30, 2017. The contract also provided a provision that the president's salary would be reviewed at least annually and adjusted as determined by the board.

General education sessions set

WMU students and employees will have a chance to ask questions and learn about recommended changes to the general education curriculum during three brown bag sessions offered by the Faculty Senate's Ad Hoc Committee on General Education from noon to 2 p.m. this month. Sessions are set for Thursday, Jan. 14, in 157-158 Bernhard Center; Wednesday, Jan. 20, in 2500 Knauss Hall; and Thursday, Jan. 26, in 2500 Knauss Hall.

Trustees name new secretary

During its Dec. 8 meeting, the WMU Board of Trustees named Kahler B. Schuemann secretary to the board, effective Jan. 1. He replaces Betty A. Kocher, who will retire in June. Schuemann had been serving since 2008 as assistant to President John M. Dunn.

He earned a doctoral degree from WMU in 2014, and before coming to the University, served in such posts as director of student services at the University of Alaska, Prince William Sound Community College as well as both director of student and residential life and director of housing and residential life at Lake Superior State University.

APA scholarship deadline is tomorrow

Friday, Jan. 15, is the application deadline for two $500 scholarships to be awarded to undergraduate and graduate students at WMU who are children of active members of the Administrative Professional Association. The awards will be announced at the APA general membership meeting Wednesday, Jan. 27. Eligibility requirements and applications are online at wmich.edu/apa/awards.

Foster youth program gets new funding

The Kresge Foundation has awarded a second major grant to WMU to continue its Fostering Success Michigan effort.

The new award and matching funds triggered by the award will provide $900,000 for the effort and will expand Fostering Success Michigan's capabilities and help move it toward becoming a self-sustaining initiative.

The new three-year award from Kresge for Phase 2 of the effort follows successful completion of work funded initially in late 2011.

Fostering Success Michigan is a signature program of WMU's Center for Fostering Success, which also is home to the University's celebrated Seita Scholars Program that was established in 2008 and is a member of Fostering Success Michigan's higher education consortium.

Yvonne Unrau, social work, directs the center while Maddy Day serves as its director of outreach and training. Chris Harris-Wimsatt directs the Seita Scholars Program. Unrau says the new grant-funded work will continue under the guidance of Day.

The new work will focus on enhancing and strengthening Fostering Success Michigan through the development of a three-to-five-year strategic plan.
Around campus and beyond

Talks focus on regional water issues

The spring component of the Lyceum Lecture Series is focusing on water issues in the Great Lakes region, with a special emphasis on Kalamazoo. The weekly talks continue through April 13 from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesdays in the Lee Honors College lounge. The next two talks are “More Powerful than the Governor: The Michigan Office of Drain Commissioner,” Jan. 20, and “A Transborder History of Controlling Water in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Basin,” Jan. 27.

Speaker delves into Hitchcock

Casey McKitterick, English, will present the next talk in the Anthony Ellis Scholarly Speakers Series at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 21, in the Center for the Humanities. The talk, “Alpaca and Temporality in Rearview Window: Another Aspect of Voyeurism,” will be preceded by a screening of Alfred Hitchcock’s “Rear Window” at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 19, in 1028 Brown Hall.

WMU to headline state conference

The School of Music will showcase three of its large ensembles at the Michigan Music Conference at 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 21, in the DeVos Performance Hall. The featured performances include the Wind Ensemble, Symphony Orchestra, directed by Bruce Uchimura, and Dimplex Thermal Solutions, is set for Thursday, Feb. 11, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Bernhard Center Ballrooms. The Government and Nonprofit Career Fair is set for Friday, Feb. 12, from 1 to 4 p.m. Visit wmich.edu/business/mercantile-rsvp or (269) 387-6059.

Diverse list of employers participating in upcoming career fairs

Scores of employers, half of them new to recruiting at WMU, will be on campus next month participating in two free career fairs in the Bernhard Center, and there will be numerous opportunities for students to prepare to attend. The 38th annual Career Fair, sponsored by Career and Student Employment Services and Dimplex Thermal Solutions, is set for Thursday, Feb. 11, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Bernhard Center Ballrooms. The Government and Nonprofit Career Fair is set for Friday, Feb. 12, from 1 to 4 p.m. Visit wmich.edu/career/events for details about the fairs and related preparation events. The planned preparation events begin Tuesday, Jan. 19, and include mock career fairs, drop-off resume critiquing and drop-in career advising.

Editor's note: 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 items submitted by the stated deadline. Complete application materials to be submitted online via the Human Resources website at wmich.edu/hr/jobs. Please note that applications must be submitted online by the stated deadline. 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.

Jobs

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Prof part of federal diversity effort

Kyle Brink, management, attended a session Dec. 11 in the nation’s capital sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission launching an interagency effort to advance a national discussion about diversity in law enforcement.

Numerous events have placed the spotlight on disparities between the demographics of law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve. Brink joined Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Vanita Gupta, EEOC Chair Jenny Yang and EEOC Commissioner Charlotte Burrows for the launch of the effort.

In general, that effort seeks to identify barriers that undermine equal employment opportunity and diversity as well as best practices to reduce those barriers and promote fairness in recruitment, hiring, retention and promotion of police.

Occupational therapists recognized

Diane Powers Dirette and Amy Wagenfeld, occupational therapy, will be inducted into the Roster of Fellows of the American Occupational Therapy Association at its annual conference in April.

The award recognizes those members who have made a significant contribution over time to the profession with a measured impact on consumers of occupational therapy services and members of the association.

Dirette is being recognized for her significant contributions to the profession through scholarship, teaching and service to the profession by way of her work as editor-in-chief of WMU’s Open Journal of Occupational Therapy. The association was co-founded. Wagenfeld, a WMU alumna, came to the faculty this semester from Rush University. She is being honored for her expertise and scholarship in interprofessional, occupations-based therapeutic garden design across the lifespan.

Stafier elected to national board

Shari Glaser, Parent and Family Programs, has been elected to the board of directors of the Association of Higher Education Parent/Family Programs. Professionals and will be co-Chairing its Research and Assessment team.

The association is the premier national group for higher education practitioners who work with the parents and family members of college students. It is governed by a 10-person board whose members serve for three-year, renewable terms.

The organization provides programs and services to school employees and other professionals in higher education who strive to promote informed parent and family involvement in support of student success.

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Several new appointments announced

Several officials have been appointed to posts within WMU’s higher-level leadership or in units that have contact with a large number of community members.

They include Julie Ann Garrison, associate dean of research and instructional services at Grand Valley State University, who has been named dean of University Libraries, effective March 1. Garrison, who replaces Joseph Reish, who is retiring after a 43-year career with WMU, has a background that includes library and information services roles at Central Michigan University, the Duke University Medical Center, the National Network of Libraries of Medicine and the University of California-Los Angeles.

Three of the other new personnel changes took place in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, all of which are effective immediately.

Mitchell Keil has been appointed acting associate dean for undergraduate affairs, moving to the position from his role as faculty advisor; Koorosh Naghshineh is the new interim associate dean for graduate education and research; and Kara Kuchinic has been appointed a marketing specialist for the college.

In addition, George Kremer, a professional with more than 15 years of experience, took over as director of the Vision Clinic in the Unified Clinics, effective Oct. 5.

Officials release early results of stakeholder survey

Preliminary analysis of a recent survey indicates that there is overarching agreement for the aspirational initiatives being suggested for inclusion in WMU’s revised strategic plan, especially in terms of developing new partnerships and programs that serve WMU’s core mission of educational excellence, discovery and global engagement.

The University Strategic Plan Revision Stakeholder Survey was available in December. More than 1,480 WMU students, employees and alumni as well as local community members responded to part or all of the 37-item instrument, and more than 2,500 suggestions for further consideration were gleaned from comment sections.

It will take several more weeks to fully analyze the survey results, but a summary of them may be viewed at wmich.edu/efficitiess/plan/usp.

Drafts of the emerging 2015-20 strategic plan will be shared with the campus later this month. Focus group sessions are being planned for February, and anyone wishing to provide more input may do so by using the Focused Input Form at wmich.edu/effeciess/plan/usp or by contacting Jody Brylinsky at jody.brylinsky@wmich.edu.

Firms selected to design BTR Park expansion

WMU has selected a design team from Fitchbeck, Thompson, Carr & Haber as well as O’Boyle, Cowell, Blalock & Associates to develop a design plan for the expansion of the Business Technology and Research Park.

The two companies formed the design team that developed the site plan for Phase I of the BTR Park. The Fitchbeck-ORCA team has been charged with developing a site plan and the infrastructure needed to turn the 44-acre site adjacent to the original park, known as the Colony Farm Orchard, into a home for private-sector partners.

The team held a public input session Dec. 17 to inform people about the successful BTR Park development and solicit ideas for making the addition equally successful. Two more input sessions will be scheduled later focusing on design direction and a review of the final designs.

In addition, the University has named a nine-member project advisory committee to work with the design team. That committee is made up of community members as well as WMU employees and student representatives.

Check out SRC at open house

Benefits-eligible faculty and non-bargaining staff are eligible to activate their Student Recreation Center membership and pay nothing more than the taxes on $270. Membership will run from now through Jan. 8, 2017. It allows use of the SRC anytime the building is open Monday through Sunday. There is no cost for retirees and spouses of retirees, but they do need to sign up to activate their membership.

Check out what the SRC has to offer by attending an open house for employees and retirees from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 20-21. Bring workout clothes and use the SRC, take a tour, or get more information about available services.

To activate a membership, go to wmich.edu/rec/facilities/access and click the appropriate link under Membership forms, then follow the instructions for completing and submitting the form.

For more information, to arrange an in-office presentation or to schedule an SRC tour, contact Cindy VanderWoude at cindy.vanderwoude@wmich.edu or (269) 387-3115.

Obituaries

James N. Adduci, a former assistant manager in Dining Services, died Nov. 1, 2015. He was 68. Adduci retired in 2009 after 19 years of service.

Steven Cartwright, monographic acquisitions assistant in University Libraries, died Dec. 17, 2015. He was 58. Cartwright had been a faculty member since 1999.

Jason M. Currie, a custodian, died Nov. 26, 2015. He was 42. Currie had joined the staff in 2010. Survivors include his wife, Myra, in public safety.

Joseph T. MacLean, a former manager of the WMU Bookstore, died Sept. 11, 2015. He was 77. MacLean retired in 1992 after 22 years of service.

Elton Mayo, a former painter in maintenance services, died Jan. 26, 2015. He was 83. Mayo retired in 1993 after 21 years of service.

Edward W. Randt Jr., a former plumber in maintenance services, died Dec. 24, 2015. He was 77. Randt retired in 1999 after 29 years of service. Survivors include a daughter, Josie Larian, in student financial aid and scholarships. Visitations and the funeral service will start at 10 and 11 a.m., respectively, Friday, Jan. 15, in the Lutheran Church of the Savior, 3616 East G Ave. in Kalamazoo.

John “Bokey” D. Satterfield Jr., a former maintenance services manager, died Dec. 29, 2015. He was 73. Satterfield retired in 2010 after 38 years of service.

Declan O’Boyle, O’Boyle, Cowell, Blalock & Associates, has been named a marketing specialist for the college.

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Weeklong celebration honors student employees

WMU will recognize thousands of student employees during the 30th annual Student Employee Appreciation Week, Monday through Friday, Feb. 22-26.

Career and Student Employment Services is accepting online nominations through Friday, Feb. 5, for its annual awards that recognize the year’s top student employee and top professional staffer who supervises them.

Employee Appreciation Week, Monday through Friday, Feb. 22-26.

Supervisor of the Year award while faculty and staff members may make nominations for the Belleville Student Employee of the Year award. The nominations for both award winners will be entered in a national competition.

“The week is dedicated to all student employees and is a time to recognize their hard work and countless contributions to WMU,” says Brenda Case-Parris, Career and Student Employment Services. “It also provides an opportunity to showcase each year’s winner as outstanding supervisor awards.”

For more information about Student Employee Appreciation Week, visit wmich.edu/career/campus/seac. The Web page contains links to nomination forms as well as a list of student recognition ideas and a template to create individualized student appreciation certificates.

Convocation slated for Feb. 4-5

Employees are invited to attend the inaugural “Spring Convocation: Recognition of Discovery, Diversity and Global Engagement” Thursday and Friday, Feb. 4-5.

Thursday will feature the research office’s hosting of “Share the Story: Scholar Talks” from 9 to 5 p.m. in the Fetter Center.

Friday will start at 9 a.m. in Fetter. It includes a professional development workshop by Extended University Programs, the Haenicke Institute, and research as well as diversity and inclusion offices and talks by WMU’s 2014-15 Distinguished and Emerging scholars.

President John M. Dunn will convene the convocation in the afternoon, and recipients of Extended University Programs, diversity and inclusion, and Haenicke Institute awards will be announced.

A Fridays with Friends employee mixer will conclude the day.

On Campus with Nick Gauthier

Nick Gauthier has always thought the best part of his WMU job is working with students. Gauthier started in admissions in 2007 and moved to the College of Arts and Sciences advising office a year later. This past August, he began serving as an academic advisor for about 350 students in the Frolic School of Art.

The smaller college has afforded him the opportunity to get to know students as well as to be involved in fulfilling advising needs such as helping students navigate their curriculum and prepare for graduate school. Gauthier earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in creative writing from WMU, so he’s in a good position to advise his charges.

“I’ve been on both sides as a student and an advisor, so I have that experience to be a resource for students,” he says. “I tell them, ‘If you’re not sure who to call at the University, talk to me.’”

Gauthier adds that he spends many of his lunch hours walking around his college’s facilities, going into studios and looking at student displays.

“Students have interest and energy about how they are going to fit in the world. They are inherently optimistic,” he says. “There’s something great about working on a college campus and working with people who are trying to improve themselves.”

Gauthier and his wife, Bethany, Miller Auditorium, met when they were both graduate students at WMU. The couple live in Kalamazoo and have an 8-year-old daughter, Madeleine, a 4-year-old son, Oliver, and a Boston Terrier.

A Grand Rapids native, Gauthier grew up in a family that valued the arts, and he’s continued the tradition with his own family. Original artwork by his mother and daughter hangs in his office, and the family enjoys going to shows at Miller Auditorium.

Education also is highly valued by the Gauthiers, whose children will benefit from the Kalamazoo Promise’s free Michigan college tuition program.

“I’m extremely grateful that we live in a community that supports education. When you support education, you support everything else in the community,” he says.

Gauthier enjoys playing video games on his Xbox and is a fan of “Star Wars” movies and paraphernalia. A self-proclaimed “Lego fanatic,” he admits that his basement is full of Lego sets that aren’t just for the kids.