University honored for service to transfer students

WMU was honored along with such schools as DePaul, Ohio State and Marquette universities and the universities of Kansas and North Texas, when Phi Theta Kappa held its 2016 national convention April 7-9.

“Increasingly, students of all ages and achievement levels are choosing the community college, not only as their first step, but also their first choice, in the pursuit of a quality, affordable bachelor’s degree,” says Christin Grissom, the honor society’s director of scholarship operations. “With this designation, we hope to connect community college students with institutions that value their unique transfer experience and prioritize their success.”

WMU attracts more than 2,700 new

Area residents get to attend Medieval Congress for free

Kalamazoo residents and campus community members may attend the 51st International Congress on Medieval Studies for free and, for the first time, they do not need to meet an April early registration deadline to avoid a $50 late fee.

Registration is still required, though, and strongly encouraged for those wishing to avoid waiting in on-site registration lines. Those interested may pre-register online or in person at the Miller Auditorium ticket office through Wednesday, April 27, at no charge. They also may pre-register through that date by mail or fax for a $25 handling fee. Registration at the congress will open at noon Wednesday, May 11, in the Eldridge-Fox residence hall lobby.

This year’s conference highlights include a hands-on demonstration of the basic parts and usage of 14th-century music performed on historical instruments by Swiss artist Corina Marti in an event co-sponsored by the Gilmore Keyboard Festival.

For more information or to register online, visit wmich.edu/medievalcongress. For questions about registering by mail or fax, call (269) 387-8745.
Around campus and beyond

Electronics recycling is talk topic
Susan Sunday of Emerald eCycling will speak at 8 a.m. Friday, April 15, in 2150 Schneider Hall. Emerald eCycling's focus is on the collection, data security and resale of electronics, with a mission to keep electronics out of landfills by making it easy for people to recycle. Sunday's presentation is free and open to the public. It begins with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Reservations are required and may be made at wmich.edu/business/srsvp or by calling (269) 387-6559.

Free photo session for employees
Employees may have their official WMU photos taken between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday, April 18, in 3116 Sundeneus Health Center. No appointment is required. Employees may have electronic copies for personal and professional use. Photos are not automatically sent. Direct questions to Sue Beougher at sue.beougher@wmich.edu or (269) 387-8402. For more details, visit wmich.edu/universityrelations/photography.

Workshop to focus on veterans
Faculty and staff members are encouraged to attend the "Cultivating an Inclusive Campus Culture for Veterans" regional workshop from noon to 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 26, at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. To find out more information and register online, visit http://bit.ly/1NaEwXz.

Four institutes slated for summer
Faculty development that has planned four institutes for this summer, starting with the Critical Thinking Institute Wednesday and Friday, May 11 and 13, in the Lee Honors College building. The remaining programs will be held in 2303 University Computing Center.

They are Redesign Your Course Institute Monday through Friday, May 9-13; Flip Your Course Institute Tuesday through Thursday, May 24-26; and Game Your Course Institute Monday through Thursday, June 6-9. Registration is required. More details are available at wmich.edu/facultydevelopment.

Service-April
The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service during April.

35 Years—Ronald Schubot, information technology.
30 Years—William A. Sauck, geosciences.
25 Years—John Barton, landscape services; Jerry W. Fulbright Jr., landscape services; Patty Mikowski, Unified Clinics; and Stephanie R. Page, Career Center.
20 Years—Lois J. Campbell, building custodial and support services; Yolanda A. Knight, building custodial and support services; and Michael A. Walden, power plant services; Jeanne Baron, student financial aid and administration.
15 Years—Michelle L. Phelps, Bernhard Center Dining Service.
10 Years—Lori A. Diehl, comparative and the federal government.

Researchers visit White House
Andrea L. Beach, educational leadership, research, and technology, and Monica R. Liggins-Abrams, College of Education and Human Development, visited the White House April 4 for an event that spotlighted a grant program fund- ing work they are doing to develop new ways to increase the degree completion of first-generation, underrepresented and low-income student populations.

The two were in Washing- ton for the annual meeting of research principals for efforts na- tionwide that are being funded by the U.S. De- partment of Education’s First in the World Program. WMU’s was the only research effort in Michigan funded in that program’s initial round of support announced in 2014. Through WMU, WMU received $93,951. WMU directs the grant project with Liggins-Abrams and Charles Hen- derson, physics. WMU President John M. Dunn attended a similar White House event in 2014.

Emeritus named to editorial board
Peter W. Krawutschke, emeritus in world languages and literatures, has been appointed to the editorial board of Babel, the scholarly journal for the International Federation of Translators, interpreters and terminologists. The publication is designed primarily for translators, interpreters and terminologists.

Krawutschke, who is a past American Transla- tors Association presi- dent, taught German and translation at WMU for 46 years. He also worked on behalf of translators around the globe and pushed successfully at national and international levels to have translation and interpreting recognized by the European Union and the federal government.

Krawutschke helped establish the Ameri- can Foundation for Translation and Inter- pretation as well as served on the Executive Committee of the Joint National Committee for Languages and the National Council on Language and International Studies.

Instructor honored by state compact
Richard Sewaja, School of Interdisciplinary Health Programs, was honored in East Lansing April 7 when the Michigan Campus Compact held its annual awards gala. Sewaja received one of three 2016 Champion of Engagement Awards that the organization presented during the event.

The award is intended to "recognize indi- viduals who make significant contributions to the sustainability and institutionalization of community engagement." Preference is given to those who bridge the activities of student affairs and academic affairs.

Sewaja is a WMU alumnus who has been a part-time instructor at the University since 2010. He teaches in the holistic health program as well as for First-Year Experience and the Lee Honors College.


Five Years—Donald J. Colwell, mainte- nance services; Anne Copeland, sustain- ability; Melanie Lynn Orrer, vice president for research’s office; Pamela K. Hathaway, Davis Dining Service; Thomas R. Malcolm, University Libraries; Kyle J. Oberhill, Law- son Ice Arena; Tina R. Smith-Balanda, Lee Honors College; Tessa J. Souers, Mallinson Institute for Science Education; and Linda Jean White, Unified Clinics.

Retirement event
Carol Black, student financial aid and scholarships, will be recognized for her 30 years of service to the University during a retirement reception from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Friday, April 22, in her unit’s office in the Finance Student Services Building.


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.
Courses start on the week of April 25. In addition, the station is holding a drawing for the chance to win pairs of tickets to see comedian Paula Poundstone at the State Theatre on Sunday, April 24.

WMUK to start pledge drive, hold candidate visits this month

WMUK’s annual Spring Pledge Drive began April 13 and will end just three days later. Officials hope that’s long enough to drive, hold candidate visits during the week of April 25.

The public can “spurce” up the West Michigan entrance to campus by helping to plant two oak trees across from the Seelye Center. (Photo by Jeanne Baron)

Obituaries—wmich.edu/news/obituaries

Alfred Balkin, emeritus in education and professional development, died March 23. He was 84. Balkin joined the faculty in 1968 and retired in 1992 after 23 years of service.

Eugene M. Bernstein, emeritus in physics, died Feb 20. He was 85. Bernstein joined the faculty in 1971 and retired as a material handler in 2004 after 32 years of service. A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Monday, April 18, preceded by visitation starting at noon, in the Langeland Family Funeral Homes Memorial Chapel, 622 S. Burdick St. in Kalamazoo.

Timothy E. Kahler, a retired landscape services staff member, died April 7. He was 69. Kahler joined the staff in 1972 and retired as a material handler in 2004 after 32 years of service. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, April 19, at the Memorial Chapel, 622 S. Burdick St. in Kalamazoo.

Evaine Sue Marks, a former Dining Services staff member, died March 26. She was 68. Marks joined the staff in 1969 and retired as a head cook in the Valley III Dining Service in 2002 after 33 years of service.

Dr. David F. Sadler, emeritus in English, died March 5. He was 93. Sadler joined the staff in 1955 and retired in 1984 after 29 years of service. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 23, in the Dalton Center lobby. It will be followed by an informal gathering, during which family, friends and colleagues may mingle and share memories.

The University will maintain the trees as part of Factory Street and Miller Road. For more information about Arbor Day events, contact Juninks at darrell.junkins@wmich.edu or (269) 387-8557 or Todd Pryor, Kalamazoo public services forestry supervisor, at (269) 310-5212.

Members of the public are invited to participate in the Arbor Day celebration, which will take place in two stages. Activities start at 10 a.m. at the small, city-owned triangular plot of land that runs along West Michigan across from Stadium Drive and WMU’s Seelye Center and Waldo Stadium. There will be a program followed by the planting of a red oak and bur oak.

“The oaks we’ll be planting have 4-inch diameter trunks. They’re a little bigger than we normally plant, but big events deserve big trees,” Junkins says. “And because the parcel is right next to WMU property, the University will maintain the trees as part of its routine grounds duties.”

The second stage of Arbor Day will take place at noon at Hayes Park near the corner of Factory Street and Miller Road.

For more information about Arbor Day events, contact Junkins at darrell.junkins@wmich.edu or (269) 387-8557 or Todd Pryor, Kalamazoo public services forestry supervisor, at (269) 310-5212.

Programs highlight tuition-related employee benefits

Informational sessions have been slated to help WMU employees or their eligible dependents learn about how to take advantage of the University’s tuition-related benefits.

A session for eligible dependents of employees is set for Friday and Saturday, April 15-16, and a brown-bag session for employees who are considering enrolling at WMU is set for Wednesday, June 15, and Tuesday, Aug. 16.

For more details, visit wmich.edu/news/2016/04/31495.
Review and Planning, focuses on learner support and the Criteria for Reaffirmation of Accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission. It will provide a mission-driven, data-informed and participatory mechanism for academic program review and planning.

As with the previous round, the second one is a collaborative Universitywide process that takes into account the goals and strategies included in WMU's strategic plan as well as the Criteria for Reaffirmation of Accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission. It will provide a mission-driven, data-informed and participatory mechanism for continuous quality review that incorporates three phases: self-study and self-review; next-level and division-level program review; and planning, decision-making and implementation.

"Aligning effective assessment with campuswide continuous improvement is key to building a culture of student success," says Dr. Jody A. Brylinsky, associate provost for Student Development and Dean for Students.

"What interested me in the job at WMU and what I really love is that I get to dedicate more of my time to working directly with students. It's been huge for me to be in the work with them, not just advocating for them," she says. "The first class of students I met in this position are getting ready to graduate. They've grown into outspoken, confident and sassy adults. They're thoughtful about the ways they interact with others, and are really motivated to do LBGT advocacy work and inclusion work when they leave here."

The lone professional employee in her unit, Hsu oversees all programming, supervises 6-12 student workers, takes care of the payroll and budget, and often answers the phone.

She also maintains collaborative relationships with organizations on and off campus, as well as supports the University's Diversity and Multiculturalism Action Plan and helps apply best-practices approach to facilities planning and policy reviews.

A recent example in the latter regard is her office's work to have WMU adopt the Preferred Name Policy, which was of particular importance to the transgender community.

"We're continuing to have conversations about sexual orientation and gender identity and expression inclusion. Our office keeps bringing in more identities—we're challenging ourselves to see who's been left out," she says. "I hope everyone will want to become an ally and help create a campus environment that's so vibrant and inclusive of LBGT identities that the whole campus community will be doing that work instead of just our office."

In her spare time, Hsu is active in campus and community organizations. But she's had to reduce her participation while working to complete WMU's Master of Public Administration—something she hopes to do by the end of this semester.

She's a native Michigander who lives in Kalamazoo with her partner of four years. Their favorite hobby is taking road trips to check out America's cities, restaurants and national parks. One of their expeditions took 18 days and logged 6,600 miles.

Other services for transfer students include annual on-site admissions events at community colleges, transfer orientation at WMU, two on-campus residence hall living-learning communities, a peer-to-peer mentoring program, more than $600,000 in annual scholarships and chapters of both Tau Sigma, a national honor society for transfer students, and Phi Theta Kappa.