Forum to focus on mental health

Members of the campus community will have an opportunity to air concerns about student mental health issues and learn about WMU and Kalamazoo resources during a campuswide forum from 8:15 to 10:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 26, in the Fetzer Center.

President John M. Dunn will make opening remarks, and Kathy Lewis-Ginebaugh, Suicide Prevention Program director, will present an introduction to the program and talk on the “Problems of Student Suicide and Increasing Mental Health Difficulties.” The event will include discussion of faculty and staff concerns about student mental health followed by a panel of campus and community resources in this area. For details, visit wmich.edu/suicideprevention/forum.

New email system to be discussed

Faculty and staff members who want to familiarize themselves with WMU's new email system, W-Exchange, are invited to attend a presentation set for 1:30 to 3 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26, in Schneider Hall’s Brown Auditorium. An introductory video also may be viewed online at wmich.edu/email/familiarization-learning-resources.

Staff nominations due by Sunday

Nominations for the spring round of semiannual Make a Difference awards are due Sunday, Feb. 28. For nomination instructions and forms, visit wmich.edu/makeadifference.

Time to make APA award nominations

The Administrative Professional Association seeks nominations by Tuesday, March 15, for its Outstanding Professional, Outstanding New Professional and Tony Griffin Service awards. Eligibility criteria and nomination form are at wmich.edu/apas/awards.

Sprau Tower undergoing repairs

A boom lift will be in use at Sprau Tower Monday, Feb. 29, through Friday, March 11. Building Restoration Inc. will be repairing the caulk joints on the exterior of Sprau, and the lift will be set up on every side of the building at some point. Barricades will be used to keep people outside the work area. In addition, entrances will be closed when necessary and traffic rerouted.

Presenters and facilitators sought

WMU is seeking students and faculty and staff members who have educational, professional or lived experience that enables them to present or facilitate diversity and inclusion workshops and other events. WMU units and student organizations often ask for such folks to help with their activities. Those interested in serving as presenters and facilitators are asked to visit wmich.edu/diversity and click Events, then fill out the form under the WMU Speakers section.

Trio wins substance use treatment grant

An interdisciplinary team of researchers at WMU has received a $526,192 grant to improve substance use screening and boost intervention and referral services.

The grant, from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, was awarded to Tiffany Lee-Parker, Specialty Program in Alcohol and Drug Abuse and the grant’s principal investigator and project director; Denise Bowen, physician assistant; and Stephen E. Craig, counselor education and counseling psychology.

It will fund a multi-faceted, three-year study titled “Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment Training with Students and Community Organizations in the Health Professions in West Michigan.” Lee-Parker says the study has three major initiatives involving training both counseling and physician assistant students, community outreach and online training. It also has a research component.

As part of the curriculum in the physician assistant, clinical mental health counseling and counseling psychology graduate programs, more than 100 students will learn substance use screening and referral techniques, take part in a videotaped role exercise, and be followed through their internship or clinical experience and also one year after graduation. Students will

Honorary degree approved for composer Michel Legrand

Acting at their Feb. 11 meeting, the WMU Board of Trustees approved awarding an honorary doctoral degree this spring to famed French composer, conductor and pianist Michel Legrand. Legrand, best known for classic film scores for such motion pictures as “The Thomas Crown Affair,” “Summer of 42” and “Umbrellas of Cherbourg,” will be in Kalamazoo in May to perform with the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra for the 2016 Gilmore Keyboard Festival. He will receive the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree at a small private reception in May. The presentation will be filmed and included in a video that will be shown at WMU’s June commencement ceremony.

A prolific composer, Legrand has written more than 200 film and television scores. He won the first of his three Academy Awards in 1968, when “The Windmills of Your Mind” from “The Thomas Crown Affair” was lauded as best original song. He also has won five Grammy awards. A campuswide committee made the degree recommendation.

Miller, Rinvelt to lead WMU Board of Trustees

Kenneth V. Miller of Kalamazoo and Jeffrey Rinvelt of Ann Arbor have been elected chair and vice chair, respectively, of the WMU of Trustees. The two were elected at the board’s Feb. 11 meeting and will serve throughout 2016. Miller succeeds James F. Hetlinger of Fennville, who remains on the board. Rinvelt replaces Miller who has served as vice chair for the past year.

Miller is a principal with Haviroco, a Kalamazoo-based investment management firm launched in 1983 and is the owner of the Millenium Restaurant Group LLC, which operates several restaurant properties in southwest Michigan. He earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in business from WMU and a law degree from what is now the WMU Cooley Law School. Miller also is one year into a four-year term as a member of the law school’s board of directors.

Rinvelt is the principal with Renaissance Venture Capital Fund, a Michigan-based fund that supports the growth of venture capital in the state and is the largest privately funded organization of its kind in the United States. He earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from WMU in 1991.

Other officers elected to one-year terms on the board were: Kahler B. Schuemann, Board of Trustees, secretary; Jan J. Van Der Kley, vice president for business and finance, treasurer and assistant secretary; and Patti VanWalbeck, associate vice president for business and finance, assistant treasurer.
Food Marketing conference moving to Grand Rapids

WMU’s annual Food Marketing Conference, which attracts some 700 industry attendees, will move to Grand Rapids this year.

The 51st conference will take place Monday and Tuesday, April 11 and 12, at DeVos Place. The move to Grand Rapids was a strategic one, designed to support and attendess, including students, and also has attached hotel facilities.

This year’s conference theme is “People, Purpose and Passion: The Pathway to Success” and will feature Hank Meijer, chairman of Meijer Inc.; Millennial and iGen expert Jason Dorsey; Lisa Walsh, senior vice president at Frito-Lay; and author and retail expert Neil Stern of McMillanDoolittle LLP, plus many others.

Proceeds support scholarships and unique educational experiences for students enrolled in WMU’s food and consumer package goods marketing program. For more information or to register, go to wmich.edu/foodmarketing/fmc.

Retirement receptions

Thomas Meldrim, information technology, will be recognized for 40 years of service during a retirement reception from 3 to 5 p.m. Friday, March 25, in the Stewart Auditorium.

Charles “Chuck” Boos, information technology, will be recognized for 40 years of service during a retirement reception from 3 to 5 p.m. Thursday, March 31, in the Oaklands.

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.

Around campus and beyond

Uplifting public event scheduled

Arts performances, a lecture and a discussion are on tap from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26, in 208-209 Bernhard Center. The free “Educate, Uplift and Empower” event will feature live performances of poetry and theatre as well as a short lecture by Mariam Konate, gender and women’s studies, followed by a question-and-answer session.

Dance slates Winter Gala concert

The Department of Dance will present its annual Winter Gala dance concert Thursday through Saturday, Feb. 25-27, in the Gilmore Theatre Complex’s Shaw Theatre. Performances are at 8 p.m. on all dates with a 2 p.m. matinee Saturday, Feb. 27. This year’s program will include two Great Works dances, two additional guest artist pieces, three faculty works and one dance by a pair of student choreographers. For tickets and more information, visit wmich.edu/news/2016/02/04341.

Choirs to present choral showcase

Three choirs will present a winter choral showcase at 5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 28, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. The free event features the Collegiate Singers, Cantus Femina and the University Chorale.

Series focuses on water issues

The spring Lyceum Lecture Series of weekly Wednesday talks is focusing on water issues and being held from noon to 1 p.m. in the Lee Honors College lounge.

Attendance may bring lunch. The next three talks are being presented by Gellert Mezei, chemistry, March 2; Chansheng He, geography, March 16; and Stephen Hamilton, president of the Kalamazoo River Watershed Council, March 23. The latter talk is on the effects of the tar sands oil spill into the Kalamazoo River.

Jazz festival closing concert set

The Western Invitational Jazz Festival closing concert featuring the University Jazz Orchestra will take place Saturday, March 12. Tickets for the event, which starts at 7:30 p.m. in the Dalton Center Recital Hall, are available at miller audiotorium.com or (269) 387-2300.

March 16 social with Dunn planned

Development and alumni relations is hosting an event for WMU alumni and friends with President John M. Dunn at Webster’s Prime Wednesday, March 16, in Kalamazoo. Join area alumni and friends for appetizers and two complimentary beverages. For details, visit mywmich.com and click Events then Alumni Socials.
Integrated supply management program ranks No. 5 in nation

WMU’s integrated supply management program recently ranked fifth for under-graduate education on a listing of the top 100 universities for supply chain education, produced by SCM World, a cross-industry learning community powered by the world’s most influential supply chain practitioners.

The WMU program received a No. 7 overall ranking. Notably, the curriculum ranked No. 2 in the industrial sector. According to survey administrators, “Having secured a top five ranking for its undergraduate supply chain program, Western Michigan demonstrates a solid commitment to cross-functional education. Especially among industrials, this program scores well.”

Additionally, the program was ranked No. 5 for its preparation of professionals in management and No. 2 in purchasing and procurement. The survey respondents were able to select from among 190 university and college options on the poll and were given the option to specify other universities or business schools not available in the pre-populated list. Respondents were supply chain professionals in a variety of industries.

This recognition for multiple areas of the program underscores the quality that we offer in our curriculum and how we prepare supply chain professionals to be leaders in multiple industries,” says Robert Reck, marketing and director of the Center for Integrated Supply Management.

The SCM World recognition places WMU in an elite circle of top supply chain programs and is another in a long string of accolades for the program, including a No. 5 ranking from Gartner and a No. 2 ranking for emphasis on technology in the curriculum by Software Advice.

Annual on-campus giving campaign well underway

The Broncos4Broncos annual campaign is again encouraging employees to make gifts to one of the University’s more than 1,800 funds and scholarships.

All gifts are tax-deductible, and 100 percent of them go to the areas designated.

“Every gift makes a difference,” says Karen Pinkham, campaign coordinator in development and alumni relations. “Even small gifts, when multiplied by many, show support and make a significant impact on our campus and in the lives of our students.”

Broncos4Broncos is an annual fiscal-year campaign that runs from July 1 through June 30. Officials are holding an active phase to help draw attention to the campaign.

Pinkham says this year’s Feb. 15 through April 15 active phase allows development and alumni relations office representatives to visit numerous campus units to personally share information and answer questions about the campaign.

The 2015-16 campaign carries the theme “For the Love of Western.” It officially kicked off the active phase during a Feb. 5 event that included appetizers, beverages and numerous prize drawings.

One of this year’s highlighted giving options is the Invisible Need Project at mywmu.com/ invisibleneed, which includes a student food pantry, emergency fund and health-emergency fund. The project serves students with unmet needs and strengthens the culture of giving at WMU. To that end, more than 100 canned goods were collected at the kick-off event.

For details about Broncos4Broncos, visit mywmu.com and click the Giving tab then the Employee Giving link. For a list of sample giving options, open the Payroll Deduction link and scroll down to the “Download a list of sample designations here” link. For designations related to a particular area of interest, contact Pinkham at karen.pinkham@wmich.edu or (269) 387-8700.

BTR Park input session set

The second public input session on the design plan for the expansion of the Business Technology and Research Park is slated for Wednesday, March 2.

A community forum is scheduled for 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Oshtemo Township Hall, 7275 West Main St. The event will allow the architectural engineering and the landscape architecture firms to get public feedback on site designs being developed for the BTR Park expansion on the property known as the Colony Farm Orchard.

This is the second of three public input sessions the two firms are hosting. The firms were selected by WMU and charged with developing a site plan and the infrastructure needed to turn the 44-acre site adjacent to the original park into a home for more private sector partners.

Obituaries—wmich.edu/news/obituaries

Emilie Garrity, Dining Services, died Feb. 10. She was 104. Garrity joined the staff in 1963 and retired as a utility food person in 1983 after 20 years of service.

Eugene L. Keller, Dining Services, died Feb. 15. He was 91. Keller joined the staff in 1971 and retired as Davis Dining Service supervisor in 1989 after 17 years of service.

Carl Shuster, paper and printing science and engineering, died Feb. 6. He was 87. Shuster came to WMU in 1974 and retired as director of the paper and printing pilot plants in 1992 after 18 years of service.
Nurturing Students

(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

Nominations sought for three annual campuswide awards

Friday, April 1, is the deadline to make nominations for the 2016-17 Emerging Scholar Award, Distinguished Service Award and Distinguished Teaching Award.

Members of the University community are invited to nominate WMU employees for each award.

The emerging scholar honor goes to faculty members and recognizes the scholarly or creative achievements of outstanding colleagues whose accomplishments are evidence of great potential for scholarship or creative work.

Eligible faculty are all those current, continuing, full-time, board-appointed, tenured people with faculty rank and in good standing who were tenured no earlier than January 2012. Untenured faculty members are ineligible. Self-nominations are accepted.

The Distinguished Service Award recognizes exceptional service in one or more of the following categories: service through innovative and effective programs which are academic, or related to another facet of University life; service in areas and organizations that contribute to the growth and stature of the University; and service that extends the impact and presence of the University into larger communities.

The service must affect a significant segment of the University community. Also, the award is usually given for a body of service, rather than a single activity or achievement. Whenever two awards are made in any given year, one of the awards goes to a person with faculty rank and one goes to a staff member.

The Distinguished Teaching Award is the highest honor given by the University to recognize faculty members for their work. It recognizes outstanding teaching by awarding one or more awards.

Outstanding teaching is not fixed in form or venue and is not easily assessed. Whether instruction takes place in lecture courses, seminars, or laboratories or whether it is pitched at introductory or advanced levels, exceptional pedagogy is marked by the active, critical role of the instructor and mentor whose demanding presence fosters critical thinking and inspires students to engage the quest for knowledge as a value in itself and not just as a means to test or grade.

Submissions after April 1 will be considered for the 2017-18 nomination period. More information is available at wmich.edu/facultydevelopment by clicking WMU Awards.

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Trio wins substance use treatment grant

Nurturing Students

Students across campus rely on Gracie Mae and her second-shift teammates in Dining Services to make healthy meals available long into the evening.

As the University’s lone manager for late-night dining, Mae oversees an after-hours service that’s offered from 8 to 11 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 6 to 10 p.m. Sunday at two of WMU’s six dining centers: Valley II Dining, which offers carry-out sack meals, and Hoekje/Bigelow Dining on the north side of the Bernhard Center, which offers eat-in hot meals.

She begins her “day” at 4 p.m., taking charge of the normal dinner shift in a campus dining center, usually the Valley III center. Then until midnight most nights, she solves whatever problems come up while running the two late-night facilities.

“I may have to locate additional food product, fill in for a missing worker until a replacement can be found, get a hold of maintenance, or if there’s a disruption, call an ambulance or the police,” Mae explains, adding that she finds the job exciting and rewarding.

Among her biggest challenges are having to train new student employees constantly, work through the initial language difficulties some international student employees experience, and keep up to date on product ingredients so that in conjunction with Dining Services’ two diétitians, meals meet the burgeoning special health and dietary requirements of student patrons from vegans to allergy sufferers.

“The best part of working here is the diversity of jobs and people—it’s a wonderful blend of personalities, from the students to the professional staff,” she says. “I never had a chance to have children, but I was blessed by Western Michigan University because I have a thousand young adults from around the world. It’s not just me—all the Dining Services staff get attached to the students, and we become like a family.”

Mae majored in management at WMU and graduated in 1981. She worked her way up the management ranks in the restaurant industry before returning to campus as a staff member in 1986. Her overarching support of students over the years and their high regard for her helped Mae earn WMU’s annual Make a Difference Award in 2012-13.

The Upper Peninsula native lives on 10 acres near Mattawan and used to raise Labrador Retrievers. She describes herself as a nature lover who especially enjoys walking her dogs, gardening, kayaking, hunting and fishing. Her second-shift schedule limits her ability to participate in extracurricular activities, but Mae was instrumental in promoting the Western Wellness program within Dining Services and remains active with the program.