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Faculty Senate Meeting Updates

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Dr. John M. Dunn
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Christopher Boes

As many of you know a new alumnus, Christopher Boes, died of brain cancer last week. He graduated with a degree in political science in November, during a special ceremony we held for him because his family thought he might not be able to participate in December. That degree was his life's goal, and I want to offer a special note of thanks for the way our Department of Political Science reached out and embraced the whole Boes family, helping Chris realize his dream, taking part in the special ceremony and supporting his family during the final weeks, and at the funeral which took place last Saturday.

If you ever wonder how important that kind of compassion is, let me share with you a message Chris Boes' father, Jim, sent me the night he died.

"Chris chose to be a part of your University on his own, and what a tremendous choice that was. The staff at WMU has been so good to Chris during his tenure there. He has touched so many lives. Please know how deeply each and every one of you have touched ours.

Be proud of who you are, what you do, and how you do it. You are all so much more than educators, you are leaders, and are exceptionally good at what you do."

Faculty accolade

Christian Hirsch, mathematics, has been selected to receive a 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Mathematics Education Trust of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. The award honors NCTM members who have exhibited a lifetime of achievement in mathematics education at the national level.
Chris, who has been the driving force behind the Core-Plus Mathematics Project, was cited for exhibiting a personal commitment to mathematics education and is widely recognized as a distinguished leader in the field. He will be honored during the council’s annual meeting and exposition Friday, April 11, in New Orleans.

Chris has worked on improving secondary school mathematics instruction for more than three decades. The Core-Plus project he leads was first supported by National Science Foundation then identified as an exemplary program by the NSF. It is in use around the nation.

Student accolades

Music professor Steve Wolfinbarger tells us it is trombone competition season. Freshman Nick Dwyer has been named a finalist in the U.S. Army Bands National Trombone Solo Competition and in TWO solo competitions sponsored by the International Trombone Association.

Meanwhile senior Aaron Buczek [BEW-sik] has been named a finalist in another ITA solo competition, and junior Evan Clifton has been selected as the bass trombonist in the Round Top Festival Institute Symphony Orchestra, an internationally-acclaimed music institute for aspiring professional orchestral musicians.

Food Marketing

And in the food marketing arena, Dr. Frank Gambino's team of four WMU students won the 2014 National Grocers Association University Case Competition held in Las Vegas. The WMU team prevailed against students from 10 other universities--even though their computer failed during the final presentation before judges and they had to present without relying on their slides. They were prepared and ready for the challenge.