Presidential search moving forward

The 22-member Presidential Search Advisory Committee has met twice and nearly finished developing a leadership profile that outlines the qualities the next president should have. A website at wmich.edu/presidentialsearch also has been launched and will be continuously updated as the process moves forward.

Still time to attend an FLSA meeting

Informational training sessions on the Fair Labor Standards Act changes that go into effect Thursday, Dec. 1, will be held at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 24, and Thursday, Oct. 27, and at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 25. The sessions are open to the campus community and are targeted toward nonexempt employees as well as managers, supervisors and timekeepers. For more about the WMU FLSA Compliance Project, visit wmich.edu/hr/flsacompliance.

Men’s lacrosse team video goes viral

Rock, paper, scissors is how the WMU lacrosse team settled a recent match with the University of Dayton that was canceled by lightning. WMU took the best two out of three games.

A video of the two teams using the old children’s game to decide the winner went viral, garnering some 463,000 views and the attention of nationwide media such as ESPN and other sports news organizations.

To watch the video, visit instagram.com/p/BLET9cHBxD2.

Service-learning award winners named

The WMU recipients of 2015-16 Excellence in Service Learning awards are Brian Gogan, English, and social work graduates Victoria Brooks, Erica Goble and Trista Schuman. The community partner honor went to Restore Ministries and was accepted by the group’s executive director, Marcus Collins. For details about the awards, visit wmich.edu/servicelearning.

Graduate journal extends deadline

The deadline to submit written materials as well as images for the fall 2016 issue of The Hilltop Review: A Journal of Western Michigan University Graduate Research has been extended to Friday, Oct. 21. For the upcoming issue, WMU graduate students may make submissions of research articles, book reviews, letters to the editor, artwork and digital photography from all disciplines.

The Hilltop Review awards small monetary prizes for the three top-ranked articles submitted and the top-ranked cover art. To make a submission, or volunteer to be a peer reviewer or staff member, visit scholarworks.wmich.edu/hilltopreview.

For more information about the Hilltop Review or the Graduate Student Association, visit wmich.edu/gsa.

WMU has record-breaking homecoming day

Young and old from all walks of life participated in the wide range of activities taking place Oct. 8 on homecoming Saturday. From left to right, clockwise: Couples renewed their vows, many people “dressed up” for their vow renewal, fans cheered the Broncos to victory, and runners and walkers from across the country took part in the 18th Campus Classic. (Photos by Mike Lanka)

The University set two impressive records Oct. 8—homecoming day—with the help of thousands of supportive WMU community members and friends.

First, at least 1,201 married couples renewed their vows on the Grand Lawn near Heritage Hall, setting a new Guinness World Record for the most vow renewals in one place at one time.

Second, the football team won its gridiron contest against Northern Illinois University, propelling WMU to its first-ever national ranking in the Associated Press top-25 poll.

The vow renewal garnered international attention, with an AP story about the event being tracked as far away as the Philippines.

The team extended its winning streak to 4-0, making its entry into the AP top-25 for the first time.

No. 24 Western Michigan is 6-0 for the Continued on page 4

Alliance with FSW formally announced in Florida

Officials from WMU and Florida Southwestern State College gathered Oct. 18 to formally announce their new alliance that will allow WMU to offer several high-profile academic programs at FSW’s Charlotte County, Florida, campus.

The event included remarks by John M. Dunn, WMU president; Jeff Allbritten, FSW president; Denis Wright, FSW regional vice president for economic development; and Bill Truex, chair of the Charlotte County Board of Commissioners.

“Florida is home to the highest number of WMU alumni outside of the Midwest and presents great opportunity for new research, development and partnerships,” Dunn has said. “Our alumni and University supporters are thrilled that WMU is partnering with FSW to become an economic and cultural force in the area.”

WMU is known for providing academic programs in aviation, wellness, business and environmental studies, and for working with private companies to customize educational offerings and credentialing certifications.

For more affiliation details, visit wmich.edu/news/2016/10/35812. A video of the Florida event is available on Facebook at fb.me/wmuregionalandonline.
Annual Benefits and Wellness Expo scheduled for Oct. 26

This year’s Benefits and Wellness Expo is set for 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday Oct. 26, in the Bernhard Center’s East Ballroom. In addition to drawings for Fitbit and other prizes, healthy food samples and exhibitor giveaways, it will feature health prevention and safety tips, health plan information, WMU/WMU-Western Wellness assessments, chair massages, and even flu shots.

Surplus Sales slates grand opening

Surplus Sales will hold a grand opening from noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 26, at its new location, 635 W. Ransom St. in Kalamazoo.

Sphinx Virtuosi to perform in Dalton Center

The Sphinx Virtuosi, 18 of the nation’s top African-American and Latino classical soloists, will perform at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 26, in the Dalton Center. Robert White, music, will host a pre-performance discussion at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at miller auditorium.com or by calling (269) 387-2300.

Career-related events taking place

WMU will host the Broadcast Media Career and Networking Fair from noon to 4 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 27, in Brown Hall’s first-floor lobby. A series of business-related career events strictly for WMU students begin Friday, Nov. 1. For details, visit wmich.edu/news/2016/10/35635.

Scholar Scare benefits scholarship

The Lee Honors College invites runners and walkers to join the Scholar Scare 5K Thursday, Oct. 27, at the Lee Honors College building. For details or to register, visit runsignup.com/wmuscholarsc.ica.

Chicana author to give reading

Ana Castillo, a distinguished Chicana novelist, poet, essayist, playwright, translator, and scholar, will read from her works 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 26, in the Dalton Center. Robert White, music, will host a pre-performance discussion at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at miller auditorium.com or by calling (269) 387-2300.

Around campus and beyond

Climate change, water is talk topic

Climate change and how it will affect water resources will be discussed by Romanian scholar Liliana Zaharia from the University of Bucharest at 3 p.m. Friday, Oct. 21, in 2119 Wood Hall. Her talk, “Climate Change’s Impacts on Water Resources and Adaptation Strategies: Case Studies in Romania,” is part of the Visiting Scholars and Artists Program.

WMU choirs present fall showcase

Three acclaimed chorals— the University Chorale, the Collegiate Singers and Cantus Femina—will present a free concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 23, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall.

WMU represented at poetry reading

Humorous poems will be featured during a “Can Poetry Be Funny?” reading at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 25, in the Kalamazoo Public Library’s Van Deusen Room. Among the special guests will be Don Cooney, social work, and Garrard McLeod, retired WMUK general manager. Reading will be Bonnie Joe Campbell, Jennifer Clark, Elizabeth Kerlikowske, Kir Almy, Lynn Patterson, Janet Heller, Elizabeth Clem, Marion Boyer and Deborah Garg.

Research night returns to Waldo

Waldo Library is staging “Night of the Research Paper” from 4 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 25, to help studentsexcel instead in their research assignments. For more information, visit wmich.edu/library/researchnight.

WMU Surplus Sales will hold a grand opening from noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 26, at its new location, 635 W. Ransom St. in Kalamazoo.

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Future teachers benefiting from scholarship

Six recent graduates of Kalamazoo high schools have just had an opportunity to meet those behind a new WMU scholarship they are the first to receive.

The WMU-Kalamazoo Public Schools Future Educators Program will help the students become educators and enhance the WMU-Kalamazoo Public Schools' teaching staff.

At an Oct. 6 luncheon for the first six scholarship recipients, the previously anonymous benefactor for five of the scholarships revealed his identity and met and congratulated the students benefiting from the program. William F. Pickard of Bloomfield Hills, a WMU alumnus and trustee, initiated a $250,000 grant to the program.

That grant funds five $5,000 scholarships annually for five years for Kalamazoo Promise-eligible students who plan to become teachers. It was provided by the Pickard Family Fund of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan.

A sixth program scholarship was funded by the Advia Foundation. Janet Veach from Advia greeted students at the meeting as well. The six students awarded named scholarships through the program this year are all graduates of KPS high schools.

Future teachers benefiting from scholarship

United Way and WMU are again striving to make gains in education, income, health and other basic needs for individuals and families in the region. Helping to promote this year’s campaign, and prominently featured on the United Way-WMU billboard by Stadium Drive are, from left: Jennifer Macholaff, communication; Amy Sath, University Recreation; and Earl Conner, building custodial and support services. For campaign details, visit wmich.edu/effectiveness/review.

Committee seeks nominations for review observation team

WMU’s Learner Support Program Review and Planning Oversight Committee is soliciting nominations from senior leaders, deans, chairs and directors by Friday, Oct. 21, to serve on its Observation Team.

Nominations are being sought from the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and the divisions of Academic Affairs, Intercollegiate Athletics and Student Affairs.

WMU is well into the second cycle of its integrated program review and planning process. Called Learner Support Program Review and Planning, this review cycle is intended to collect and analyze meaningful data-driven information. Data will be used to inform strategic planning leading to Campuswide continuous improvement in WMU’s learner support programs portfolio.

Phase I of the cycle is continuing through Wednesday, Nov. 30. Actively completing their self-study reports are 126 learner support programs from the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and the divisions of Academic Affairs, Intercollegiate Athletics and Student Affairs.

They are responding to a set of questions developed for the Academic Program Review and Planning process—the first cycle in the integrated program review and planning process. But these questions have been modified for use with learner support programs.

Phase II of the current cycle, next- and division-level review, will begin Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2017, with a peer review conducted by the Learner Support Program Review and Planning Observation Team.

For more information about Learner Support Program Review and Planning or the integrated program review and planning process, visit wmich.edu/effectiveness/review.

Trustees approve changes in campus, road names

Acting at their Oct. 11 meeting, WMU trustees approved a slate of name changes designed to make it easier to navigate the University campus.

The changes grew out of a yearlong effort to assess, simplify and make wayfinding on campus more intuitive. The effort includes new signage as well as other wayfinding tools.

The first major change involves recognizing the University’s major physical presence in Kalamazoo as Main Campus for everything west of Stadium Drive, and East Campus for property east of Stadium Drive. In addition, the campus Ring Road, which includes several stretches of named roadways that are remnants of a time when they were city streets, will now be known as North Ring Road and South Ring Road.

Four named streets around Lawson Ice Arena—Crane, Hussey, Roell and Warner—will be incorporated into a new, single Lawson Drive. The four names were selected in 1975 to honor faculty members.

Those names will instead become the names of individual intramural fields to preserve the recognition intended for the four, who were members of the Women's Physical Education Department.

Service

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

35 Years—Virginia Denise Bryan, Graduate College; Thomas W. Sauber, landscape services; Kimberly L. Smith, admissions; and Patricia A. Wilcox, payroll and disbursements.

30 Years—Melanie L. Chapin-Lechner, landscape services; Lauretta R. Eisenbach, anthropology; Edward Kluk, information technology; Gracie K. Moe, Bernard Center Dining Service; Leonard J. Peirce, information technology; Mark T. Robinson, Burnham Dining Service; and Linda J. Young-Yeolfe, landscape services.

25 Years—Christine J. Blum, building custodial and support services; and Patrick A. Couture, information technology.

20 Years—Jodi Houseman, building custodial and support services; and Carol D. VanderRoest, Valley Dining Service.

15 Years—Maryveen K. Abbate, arts and sciences advising; Dennis L. Fosythe, maintenance services; Eluzita Lopez-Oroz, University Libraries; Holly D. Mathews, the physician assistant; and Randy W. Ott, Center for Academic Success Programs; and Carol Reid, College of Education and Human Development.

10 Years—William Carlson, information technology; Karen L. Lemons, Residence Life; Mallisa R. Minnema, College of Arts and Sciences; and Jessica L. Parker, Extended University Programs; and Mary Anne Sydlak, Mallinson Institute.

Five Years—Andres Ballines, West Hills Athletic Club; Lauren Carney, diversity and inclusion; and Charles J. Chodorow, geosciences; Brianna Galli, chemistry; Michael O. Roe, enrollment management; Sheneeka K. Skinner, Sindecuse Health Center; and Anne M. Wagner, payroll and disbursements.

Clayton tapped to head military, veterans affairs

A WMU staff member who is a U.S. Army veteran with more than 20 years of military experience is the new head of the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs.

WMU has selected Billy L. Clayton, that office's military outreach and recruitment coordinator for the past two years and a retired first sergeant, to fill the post of military advocate, effective Oct. 17.

Clayton replaces Joyce M. Busch, who was serving as military advocate until leaving WMU in late July to take a teaching position in the Washington, D.C. area.

“Billy brings a wonderful combination of military and WMU service as well as an understanding of our students to this position,” says Randy W. Ott, director of the Center for Academic Success Programs, where military and veterans affairs is housed.

“The more than 700 veteran students at WMU will continue to be well taken care of under Billy’s leadership,” Clayton served in the Army from 1993 to 2014. He first came to WMU in 2009, when he was assigned by the Army to serve as a senior military instructor in the University’s ROTC program.
Continued from page 1

WMU has record-breaking homecoming day

first time since 1941 and is in position to contend for a spot in a New Year’s Six bowl,” said the AP in its narrative about the Oct. 10 rankings.

“The Broncos have already beaten two Big Ten teams and have continued a steady rise since P.J. Fleck, the second-youngest head coach in the FBS at 35, took over in 2013 since P.J. Fleck, the second-youngest head coach in the FBS at 35, took over in 2013 after being an assistant at Michigan. Since then, the Broncos have advanced to the Big Ten West title game and have a realistic chance of playing in New Year’s Six bowl games to end the season.”

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