Board of Trustees to meet Dec. 13
The next formal meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13, in the Bernhard Center. Information about the agenda will be released shortly before the meeting at wmich.edu/trustees.

December commencement scheduled
Three fall commencement ceremonies will be staged Saturday, Dec. 17, in Miller Auditorium. The ceremonies are tailored for graduates of select academic units: 9 a.m. is for the colleges of Aviation, Education and Human Development, and Health and Human Services; 12:30 p.m. is for the College of Fine Arts, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and Haworth College of Business; and 4 p.m. is for the College of Arts and Sciences and Extended University Programs.

Staff organization to hold meeting
The Professional Support Staff Organization will hold a general membership meeting from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6, in 105-107 Bernhard Center. PSSO promotes and fosters its members' advancement and education through professional development, community service, recognition and leadership opportunities.

Items sought for student food pantry
A holiday food drive is planned for Tuesday through Thursday, Dec. 6-8, to restock the WMU Food Pantry. Current needs include fruit, rice, pasta, lentils, jelly, soup, tuna, cereal, spices, and snacks such as granola bars and crackers. Items can be dropped off at the south entrance of Heritage Hall from 4 to 6 p.m. Learn more at http://bit.ly/2bHj7yV.

All-University holiday event slated
The annual holiday reception will be held from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13, in the Bernhard Center Ballroom. The event is sponsored by the WMU Board of Trustees and President and Mrs. John M. Dunn.

Free photo session
Faculty and staff members as well as active emeriti are encouraged to have their official WMU photos taken between 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13, in Walwood Hall's Heining Emeriti Lounge. Copies of these formal headshots need to be requested. Visit wmich.edu/universityrelations/photography for more details.

Personal data updates due Dec. 31
One month remains for employees to select electronic delivery for W-2 forms and to ensure that home address information is up to date. Visit Employee Self Service at gowmu.wmich.edu by Dec. 31 to submit or withdraw consent to receive electronic W-2s and to confirm home address information.

Campus climate survey results unveiled
The overwhelming majority of WMU students feels safe and supported by faculty and administrators when it comes to addressing sexual violence, according to the results of a national survey. The University was one of 34 public and private colleges and universities to take part last April in the Education Advisory Board—EAB—Campus Climate Survey. An anonymous online instrument, it was designed to assess students' perceptions, behaviors, attitudes and experiences regarding sexual violence during the academic year. About 2,600 individuals—12 percent of WMU's student population—participated in the overall survey that drew responses from just over 36,000 students. The anonymous survey was designed to allow students to provide their input on such items as the overall perception of the sexual violence climate on campus, incidence of sexual violence on campus, student knowledge of reporting procedures and resources available to those who need assistance, reasons for not reporting, and the prevalence of prevention training.

“This is tremendously valuable information for us to work with and share with our students,” says Diane Anderson, vice president for student affairs. “It allows us to tailor our messages about safety and awareness in a way that will be most effective in preventing our students from being in harm's way. It also helps us provide the effective support, resources and reporting structures they need to report incidents.”

University, community programs slated to honor MLK
WMU is continuing its tradition of honoring slain civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr. with events planned in January on campus and across the broader Kalamazoo community. They include a convocation, a march, a day of service, educational programs and special presentations. "The Transformative Power of a Unified Dream" is the theme of this year's celebration.

The first major on-campus event, a poetry competition awards reception featuring Kalamazoo Public Schools students, will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 12, in the Trimpe Building's Multicultural Center. Next up is a Public School Students' Visitation at 9 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, in the Bernhard Center's East Ballroom. The event is open to families from area school districts. Major communitywide events begin at 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 15, with the Northside Ministerial Alliance's 31st annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration at Kalamazoo's Mt. Zion Baptist Church. This year's keynote speaker will be Bishop John Franklin White, a presiding prelate with the African Methodist Episcopal Church and AMEC Council of Bishops president.

Federal MLK Day—Monday, Jan. 16—will begin at 8 a.m. with Kalamazoo's Community-wide Day of Service. Participants should meet at City Hall after checking out the available volunteer opportunities listed at go.volunteerkalamazoo.org.

Warm regards this holiday season. Thank you for your dedication to Western Michigan University.

—John and Linda Dunn
Steering committee launches new assessment initiative

The University Assessment Steering Committee is launching a new initiative in response to requests from faculty and staff members across campus to provide a regular, informal setting to address issues and provide training on conducting assessment.

Help ensure student success by learning and applying assessment tools in teaching and student programming and be a part of continuously improving the quality of education WMU provides.

During monthly gatherings, UASC members will speak on an assessment topic for 15-20 minutes. Attendees can then discuss and exchange ideas about areas of assessment of student learning. No RSVP is required.

Slated yet this semester is “Defining and Discussing Student Artifacts” with Dave Reinhold, assessment and undergraduate studies, from 9 to 10 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6, in the Center for the Humanities and noon to 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9, in 1016 College of Health and Human Services building.

For Spring 2017 dates, review the Assessment Calendar at wmich.edu/assessment.

Retirement receptions

Elizabeth Richardson, multicultural affairs, will be honored for her 29 years of service during a retirement reception from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9, in the President’s Dining Room of the Bernhard Center.

Carolyn Noack, sustainability, will be honored for her 26 years of service during a retirement reception at 3 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15, in the Fetzer Center atrium.

Exchange

For sale—Custom-built, quality home in serene waterfront Portage neighborhood. Four bedrooms, four and a half bathrooms, office space, finished walkout and huge backyard with breathtaking view. Many upgrades. Listed: $399,920. Contact: (269) 350-0528.

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.
New dean announced for honors college

Gary H. Bischof, professor and chair of family and consumer sciences, has been named the new dean of the Lee Honors College, effective Jan. 1, pending approval by the WMU Board of Trustees. A WMU faculty member since 1999, Bischof taught in the Department of Counseling Education and Counseling Psychology for 13 years before taking the position of interim chair in his current department in 2012. He was named chair in 2014. Both departments are part of the College of Education and Human Development.

Bischof’s background includes clinical and research experience and publication in a number of counseling and family therapy journals. He has been the advisor and doctoral committee chair for several counselor education students.

He replaces Associate Dean Jane Baas, dancer, who has been serving as interim dean.

DOSA strategic plan updated

The 2020 Student Affairs Strategic Plan is now online. Planning data and previous reports also are available.

This newest report will help guide planning and assessment initiatives in the Division of Student Affairs for the next four years, while supporting the core mission, goals and objectives of WMU. The document lists three major divisionwide goals: to cultivate and assess initiatives in the Division reports also are available.

The finalized report represents the division’s commitment to data-driven planning and continuous quality improvement.

For more information about student affairs strategic planning, visit wmich.edu/studentaffairs/planning.

Service anniversaries

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

35 Years—Bruce L. Paaananen, information technology.
30 Years—Deborah M. Coder, maintenance services; Duane R. Hampton, geosciences; Lonnie L. Page, maintenance services; and Cindy A. Walton, building custodial and support services.
25 Years—Deborah L. Cronkright, Bernhard Center Dining Service, and Carol Sundberg, Center For Disability Services.
20 Years—Sondra Y. Brooks, Online Education; William W. Liou, mechanical and aerospace engineering; Anna Marie Murphy, building custodial and support services; and Jiabei Zhang, human performance and health education.
15 Years—Vernon Nathaniels Chambers, building custodial and support services; Susan K. Davis, Sincere Health Center; Douglas Robert Gray, landscape services; Tetyana S. Koshmanova, teaching, learning and educational studies; Michael G. Miller, human performance and health education; Angela M. Penney, West Hills Athletic Club; David Schuster, physics; Woei Wei Shen, computer science; Stephen Michael Tasko, speech, language and hearing sciences; and Tert Lynn Wagner, building custodial and support services.
10 Years—Barbara Banks, student financial aid and scholarships; and Brenda Pietrykowski, Bernhard Dining Service.
Five Years—Abiola A. Akamnu, civil and construction engineering; Andrea Elizabeth Bau, College of Education and Human Development; Rebecca K. Thiele, WMUK; Londa Lee Hamilton, computer science; Alexander Roelandt, Haworth College of Business; Scott Calvin Steffey, maintenance services; and Kevin Fitzgerald Williams, maintenance services.

Ramsdell, Logistical Services.

Seven staff members will be honored as outstanding employees during a reception at 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9, in 157 Bernhard Center.

The University community is invited to attend the event, which recognizes the fall 2016 recipients of the Semiannual Make a Difference Award. The recipients will each receive $300, before taxes, and a commemorative certificate.

This fall’s award winners are: Andrew Bachmann, public safety; Adrienne Fraaza, First-Year Experience; Todd Gerry, Fetzer Center; Amber Husston, psychology; Walter Malone, Center for Academic Success Programs; Deanna Mertz, counselor education and counseling psychology; and Thomas Stein, Development.

The Make a Difference Award Program recognizes WMU staff members for their outstanding accomplishments and daily investment of energy and creativity. Award winners are selected by a committee comprised of their peers. For more information or for a year-round nomination form, visit wmich.edu/makeadifference.

Obituaries

Ernst A. Breisach, emeritus in history who remained active in retirement as a scholar and deeply involved with various WMU initiatives, died Nov. 25. He was 93. Breisach retired in 1996 after 39 years of service.

Visitation will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9, and the funeral service at 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10. Both events will be in Kalamazoo’s St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 247 W. Lovell St.

June M. Conkin, a former custodian, died Nov. 24. She was 73. Conkin joined the staff in 1988 and retired in 2005 after more than 17 years of service.

Beatrice P. Hartman, emerita in communication, died Nov. 15. She was 91. Hartman joined the faculty in 1957 and retired in 1985 after more than 27 years of service.

Mary Eleanor (Mariel) Neu, emerita in art, died Nov. 15. She was 76. Neu joined the staff in 1968 and retired as an associate professor in 2004 after more than 36 years of service.

Broncos claim MAC West championship with 12-0 record

The football Broncos defeated Toledo 55-35 Nov. 25 to become the Mid-American Conference West Division champions. They are now 12-0 overall. A crowd of 24,191 gathered to cheer the Broncos to their first perfect regular season since 1941, setting a new season attendance record of 143,025. Senior wide receiver Corey Davis (bottom right photo above) broke the Football Bowl Subdivision all-time receiving record with 3,068 yards. He also became the first player in history with more than 5,000 yards, 300 receptions and 50 touchdowns. He had the highest number of touchdown catches in the FBS this season with 17. WMU’s Nov. 8 win over Kent State University marked the first 10-win season in the football program’s 108-year history. In addition, ESPN College GameDay made a first-time stop in Kalamazoo Nov. 19 to do a pregame broadcast from the campus of WMU—just the second MAC school ever to be featured on College GameDay. Both WMU President John M. Dunn and Buster Bronco (left photo above) enthusiastically celebrated the milestone. Led by Head Coach P.J. Fleck (top right photo above), WMU is now ranked No. 13 in the AP Top 25, No. 14 in the USA Today Coaches Poll and No. 17 in the CFP polls.

The 2016 Marathon MAC Championship game against Ohio University is set for Friday, Dec. 2, at Ford Field in Detroit. For final game and individual stats, videos and interviews, visit wmubroncos.com (Photos courtesy of the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics).

Seven staffers to be feted for outstanding service

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First-Year Experience seminar to celebrate service-learning partnership

Students from WMU’s African-American Males First-Year Experience seminar will be celebrating their service-learning partnership with the Kalamazoo County Juvenile Home Dec. 6.

The celebration will include final reflections and presentations of the students’ service-learning projects. The class made weekly trips to the juvenile home throughout the semester and worked closely with the teens to develop an interactive simulation that facilitates positive behaviors and encourages critical thinking.

Instructor Walter Malone, Center For Academic Success Programs, emphasized that completing the simulation required not only deep engagement and relationship building among all participants, but also careful reflection on the importance of leadership and civic responsibility.

“The students are coming into their own adulthood and adjusting to life within the University, but at the same time, they’re building relationships, mentoring, and encouraging others to follow a similar path,” Malone said. “There are a lot of shared experiences among the students and it’s vital that everyone learns from each other and gains a better understanding of what is possible through education.”

Continued from page 1

Programs slated to honor MLK

The day will continue with a convocation at 10:50 a.m. at Kalamazoo College, a Pre-MLK Lunch Discussion at 1 p.m. in WMU’s Kanley Chapel, and a Commemorative Walk starting at 3:30 p.m. at Kanley Chapel that will end at MLK Park in downtown Kalamazoo.

Immediately after the walk, Kalamazoo will hold its Community Celebration from about 5 to 6:30 p.m. in the Radisson Plaza Hotel. For more information and a complete list of MLK-related events, visit wmich.edu/mlk.

WMU has consistently garnered awards and accolades for its commitment to service-learning. The University has received recognition from the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll every year since 2006, with distinction in 2012. In addition, many of WMU’s students, faculty and staff members, and community partnerships have been recognized by Campus Compact, a national coalition of nearly 1,100 colleges and universities dedicated to community engagement in higher education.

Continued from page 1

Campus climate survey results unveiled

On Campus with Kahler Schuemann

Kahler Schuemann has been taking a road less traveled since setting a goal 20 years ago to become a university president. He worked for 10 years in student affairs administration, first at Lake Superior State University and then at the University of Alaska. Now he’s close to having another decade of administrative work experience at WMU.

Schuemann came to WMU in 2006. He earned a doctoral degree in higher education leadership and researched how students understand and experience the university presidency. He accepted a student job in the president’s office early on and a full-time job as assistant to the president in 2008. He was named special assistant to the president in 2013 and just last year, took on the added responsibility of secretary to the Board of Trustees.

“I feel like I’m the luckiest guy in the world because I have an awesome opportunity to work for great people at an amazing institution and have responsibilities where I can daily see the impact of effort and collaboration,” says the Battle Creek, Michigan, native. “I’ve had the privilege to participate in five different presidential searches—here and at other institutions. It does provide me an interesting perspective going into the latest one.”

Overall, Schuemann serves as a liaison between the president and trustees and aids in these leaders’ success. His numerous specific responsibilities include assisting the Presidential Search Advisory Committee, and he encourages everyone to participate in its important work by sharing their perspective and supporting a diligent search process.

“Our dedication to that endeavor will be transparent through regular updates and founded on our shared interest in keeping the campus community informed,” Schuemann says.

The Portage, Michigan, resident notes that he’s on call 24/7, so when he gets a little time away, he tries to go “off grid.” In addition to decorating his office with natural elements such as seedlings and stones, he has a license plate that reads, OUTDOORS and he enjoys getting outside to camp, hike, hunt, fish and trap.

“The outdoors gives me some peace and adventure away from our office habitat,” Schuemann says, adding that living in Alaska was a phenomenal experience. “Having outrun an avalanche that ripped off my snowshoes and looking a grizzly bear square in the eyes gives me perspective and balance in life that I wouldn’t trade for anything.”

He also enjoys teaching grad classes and motivating students to lead positive change in our evolving world. Plus, he finds time to serve on the Residential Opportunities Inc. board and volunteer with community initiatives that get kids outdoors and engaged with nature.

Continued from page 1

Major WMU findings include:

• A full 80 percent of WMU respondents reported feeling safe on campus, while 85 percent felt faculty were genuinely concerned about their welfare and 76 percent felt the same about campus administrators.

• Nearly one in three women students reported having experienced at least one incident of unwanted sexual contact in their pre-college years.

• Of those surveyed, 63 percent knew where to go for help if they or a friend experienced sexual violence, and 61 percent knew the range of confidential services available to them when they report an incident of sexual violence.

• One in 10 students surveyed reported having been the victim of sexual misconduct at least once since the beginning of the academic year in which the survey was done. Those unwanted incidents ranged from fondling or kissing to sexual penetration.

• Three out of four survey takers reported considering campus when someone reports an incident, WMU takes it seriously and the same number felt WMU would use formal procedures to fairly address such a report.

The Sexual Misconduct Policy website, wmich.edu/sexualmisconduct/data, has additional results from the EAB Survey. It also contains a new web page dedicated to publishing annual data on sexual misconduct.