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 (FSSC) 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/2bjhVvN.

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.

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.

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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.

“Those are 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.”

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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 community-wide events begin at 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 15, with the Northside Ministerial Alliance's 31st annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration in 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.

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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.

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Warm regards this holiday season. Thank you for your dedication to Western Michigan University.
—John and Linda Dunn

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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.

Medallion hopefuls to vie this week

Some 800 academically talented high school seniors from across the nation will be on campus for the 34th annual Medallion Scholarship Program Friday and Saturday, Dec. 2-3. This year’s competitors will vie for 20 full Medallion Scholarships worth $60,000 each, or one or several other lower-level but substantial scholarships.

Sweep of premodern Chinese urban history.

It is to complete its work and provide an accessible survey of a broad range of practices and publication focused on Early Imperial China, especially the Sui-Tang period. The new book is the first in a Western series and provides an accessible survey of a broad range of practices and publications focused on Early Imperial China, especially the Sui-Tang period.

Mathematician edits new book

Christian Hirsch, emeritus in mathematics, is the editor of a new book published by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Titled “Mathematical Modeling and Modeling Mathematics,” the volume is part of the council’s flagship series, Annual Perspectives in Mathematics Education.

The book focuses on the challenges and affordances of elevating modeling to a more central position in mathematics education across the K-16 spectrum while clarifying the differences between mathematical modeling and modeling mathematics.

The 25 chapters in the volume provide research- and practice-based perspectives on a variety of topics. They are written by leading U.S. and international mathematics educators, mathematicians and researchers.

Historian explores urbanism in China

Victor Cunru Xiong, history, has penned a monograph titled “Capital Cities and Urban Form in Pre-modern China: Luoyang, 1018 BCE to 918 CE.” The work was published by Routledge in September.

Situated in present-day Henan province, Luoyang was one of the great urban centers of pre-Qin and early imperial China and the favored site for dynastic capitals for almost two millennia. The new book is the first in a Western language on the subject and includes the full of the six different capital cities in the region, which served 11 different dynasties, and provides an accessible survey of a broad sweep of premodern Chinese urban history.

Xiong teaches Chinese and East Asian history. He is a Chinese medievalist by training recognized internationally for his published works on Early Imperial China, especially the Sui-Tang period.
Broncos claim MAC West championship with 12-0 record

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

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 Bischof, public safety; Adrienne Fraaza, First-Year Experience; Todd Gerry, Fetzer Club; David Schuster, physics; Wuwei Shen, science; Alexander Roelandt, Haworth Library; Angela M. Penney, West Hills Athletic Club; Bruce Paine, administration; and counseling psychology; and Thomas Ramsdell, Logistical Services.

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 (Marily) 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.
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, OUTDORS and he enjoys getting outside to camp, hike, hunt, fish and trap.

“The outdoors gives me some peace and adventure away from my 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 goal 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.

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.”

Programs slated to honor MLK

On Campus

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