Board of Trustees meeting scheduled
The WMU Board of Trustees will meet at 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 15, in the Bernhard Center. The agenda and room location will be announced closer to the meeting date.

Still time to make award nominations
Nominations for the 2017-18 Emerging Scholar, Distinguished Teaching and Distinguished Service awards are due Friday, March 31. The WMU community is invited to nominate eligible faculty and staff members for these University-wide awards. Award eligibility, criteria and nomination guidelines are available on the Office of Faculty Development website at wmich.edu/facultydevelopment/awards.

Beware of more campus email scams
A scam email is hitting inboxes on campus. It states that it is from the Web Mail Account team, and it contains two links. This is a phishing attempt. Do not click the links. Delete those messages if they make it into your inbox. Direct questions to the Help Desk at (269) 387-4357, option 1.

Free photo sessions set for employees
Faculty and staff members may have their official University photos taken between 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Friday, March 10, in Walwood Hall’s Heining Emeriti Lounge. No appointment is required. Employees may request electronic copies for personal use and for use in directory listings on wmich.edu. Direct questions to Sue Beougher at sue.beougher@wmich.edu or (269) 387-9402. For more photography information, visit wmich.edu/universityrelations/photography.

Engagement surveys start soon
This year, WMU is participating in the Faculty Survey of Student Engagement, a national research project that studies faculty perspectives on student engagement. Between March 21 and April 16, faculty members may be asked by Indiana University-Bloomington, the administrator of this project in partnership with WMU, to participate in a brief survey. The questionnaire collects information through anonymous online responses and takes only 15 minutes to complete. The input provided will help identify areas of strength at WMU, as well as aspects of the undergraduate experience that may need attention. Direct questions to Karen Stokes Chapa at karen.stokeschapo@wmich.edu or (269) 387-3867.

Professor wins prestigious Japanese literary prize
Jeffrey Angles, world languages and literatures, was honored during a formal ceremony in Tokyo Feb. 17 as the 2017 winner of the prestigious Yomiuri Prize for Literature in poetry. Angles won the prize—comparable to America’s Pulitzer Prize—for his book of Japanese-language poetry “Watashi no hizukehenkosen” (“My International Date Line”), which was published by Shichinoba in 2016.

The Yomiuri Prize for Literature, now in its 68th year, is given out in six categories annually: poetry, fiction, playwriting, criticism/biography, essays, and research/translation. All books published in the previous calendar year are considered for the award. Angles’ book was, in the eyes of the judges, the best book of poetry published in Japan in 2016.

“The book of poetry taught me that there are special territories that only people who have two languages embedded deeply within themselves can reach,” said Natsuki Ikezawa, a prominent Japanese novelist and one of the judges for the award, of Angles’ book.

The Yomiuri Prize began in 1949, and like the Pulitzer Prize, is sponsored by a best-selling newspaper, Japan’s Yomiuri Shimbun, which has a circulation of 9 million. Yomiuri winners receive a cash prize and an inkstone, an item that is used in East Asia when writing with a brush. For that reason, the inkstone has come to symbolize the act of writing.

Angles is only one of a handful of non-native speakers ever to win the award, a fact due in large part to the difficulty of mastering the Japanese language. He is the first American to win the award. Angles’ book was translated into English by the British poet Michael Dylan Foster.

The Fulbright Chair Program operates in more than 125 countries throughout the world. Since its inception in 1946, it has provided more than 370,000 participants—chosen for their academic merit and leadership potential—with the opportunity to exchange ideas and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns. Over 1,100 U.S. college and university
Concerts abound for music lovers
The music department has numerous concerts slated during the next couple of weeks, some as part of its annual spring festivals. Many of the events are free and all are listed on the Universitywide Events Calendar at wmich.edu/news/events.
They include a free performance by the University Chorale Saturday, Feb. 25; Western Invitational Jazz Festival opening and closing concerts Friday, March 10, and Saturday, March 11; and the free concert highlighting the 79th annual Southwest Michigan Vocal Festival Thursday, March 16.

Hundreds of sixth-graders to visit WMU is again gearing up to welcome local middle school students to campus for a day to participate in free activities through Bronco BUDS—Building Unique Dynamic Students. The program, now in its eighth year, begins Thursday, March 16, and continues into April. It is a partnership between WMU and the Kalamazoo Public Schools to bring all sixth-grade students to campus for a day to get a firsthand look at college life and the opportunities available with a college education. More than 1,000 sixth-graders are expected to participate this year.

Talk to focus on studying liberal arts
Kristopher Phillips from Southern Utah University will present a talk titled “Do We Have a Moral Obligation to Study the Liberal Arts?” at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 16, in 213 Bernhard Center. Although some degree programs draw the ire of politicians and are the butt of jokes, Phillips argues that the focus on practicality is not merely misguided, but immoral.

Registration open for 5K walk/run Registration is open for a memorial 5K walk/run from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 1, in honor of an alumna who was killed in action while serving in Afghanistan. Capt. Drew Russell earned his Army commission through WMU’s ROTC program and was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal. All proceeds from the walk/run will go toward an endowed scholarship in his honor. Registration is $15 and may be done in advance at http://bit.ly/2mK16ch.

Registration deadline
DEADLINE: Items to be considered for publication should be submitted to the Office of University Relations by the Friday week preceding publication. Publication dates for the spring and summer semesters are expected to be every other week during the fall and spring semesters.

About campus and beyond
Faculty, staff members to discuss student success at summit Broncos FIRST invites WMU administrators and faculty and staff members to attend its 2017 Student Success Summit from noon to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 7, in the Bernhard Center’s South Ballroom. It is being sponsored by Broncos FIRST and the Center for Research on Instructional Change in Postsecondary Education. Space is limited, so those planning to attend should RSVP by Friday, March 3, at wapps.wmich.edu/workshops.
A free workshop, the summit expands upon concrete action items discussed at the Fall Student Success Summit to improve student success at WMU. Susan Dynarski, a professor at the University of Michigan and a senior economic studies fellow at the Brookings Institution, will present a keynote talk on “Is College Still Worth It?” Attendees will be able to connect with colleagues from across the University and contribute their input through small- and large-group discussions facilitated by the Broncos FIRST team. There also will be a presentation from student financial aid and scholarship’s new unit, Financial Literacy Educational Planning and Outreach.
For more information, go to the Broncos First link on the Center for Research on Instructional Change in Postsecondary Education website at wmich.edu/changereach.

Farwell reception
The timing of the farewell reception for Wolfgang Scholz, Haenicke Institute, has been changed from that reported in the previous issue of Western News. The event will take place from 3 to 5 p.m. Thursday, March 2, in the Bernhard Center’s Bronco Global Lounge.

Exchange
For rent—Remodeled 1,200-square-foot bungalow in Westwood. Ten-minute walk to main campus. Three bedrooms, one bathroom, refinished original hardwood floors, all new kitchen and stainless steel appliances, washer and dryer in basement, fenced-in backyard. Available now. Cost: $1,150 per month plus utilities. Contact: Alice at (904) 614-2598.

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.

Professor receives technology honor
Robert Bensley, interdisciplinary health programs, has received the 2017 Society for Public Health Education Technology Award. Bensley will receive the honor Friday, March 31, during the Society for Public Health Education’s 68th annual conference in Denver.

The award recognizes individuals or groups that have distinguished themselves by applying effective, noncommercial technology in health education. This year’s award selection committee felt Bensley’s work in innovative technology-based solutions for the purpose of delivering health education and health behavior change strategies was particularly worthy of receiving the technology award.

SOPHE is an independent professional association that promotes healthy behaviors, healthy communities and healthy environments.

Educator earns leadership award
Wanda Halley, educational leadership, research and technology, has been selected to receive the 2017 American College Personnel Association’s Disability Leadership Award for her research and scholarship on students with disabilities in higher education.

The award will be presented during ACPA’s Cross Summit day through Wednesday, March 26-29, in Columbus, Ohio. Halley is an active member of ACPA’s Coalition for (Dis)ability who, through the lens of student development theory, researches the academic issues first-year students with learning disabilities experience in their transition to college.

In the past few months, she presented a national webinar on that subject and was invited to serve on the board of the Michigan Career and Technical Institute, a vocational training college in Plainwell, Michigan, for students with disabilities.

Endowed scholarship honors emeritus
Jack Michael, emeritus in psychology, is being honored through an endowed scholarship fund. The Dr. Jack Michael Endowed Scholarship in his honor. Registration is open for a memorial 5K walk/run from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 1, in honor of an alumna who was killed in action while serving in Afghanistan. Capt. Drew Russell earned his Army commission through WMU’s ROTC program and was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal. All proceeds from the walk/run will go toward an endowed scholarship in his honor. Registration is $15 and may be done in advance at http://bit.ly/2mK16ch.

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Sports media students getting real-world experience with ESPN3

Students in the communication school’s new Sports Media course are gaining hands-on experience in live broadcasting under the tutelage of Wade Cutler.

Working with intercollegiate athletics Brinco Productions—a combination of ESPN3’s in-house productions—Cutler’s class recently had the opportunity to produce a streaming broadcast of a men’s basketball game on ESPN3.

The course, begun in fall 2016, takes advantage of a partnership with that network in which students are given the chance to develop several Brinco athletic events for live streaming, based on ESPN3’s deal to cover Mid-American Conference athletic events on its family of networks.

Athletics has invested in a state-of-the-art production trailer that houses a broadcast equipment control room, and Brinco Productions will be broadcasting more than 30 men’s and women’s basketball games and other events.

Students in the class learn the skills associated with producing live sports TV. As they show they are ready to advance, they can move into some of ESPN3’s production roles.

Cutler has done live sports production work with organizations such as ESPN and ABC, CBS and NBC Sports. In addition to reaching the fundamental instruction of sports broadcasting, he also helps students gain a deeper understanding of how to meet network expectations in the growing field.

“The benefit to our students is the experience of working with the latest broadcast equipment and the ability to include ESPN3’s production roles,” says Cutler. "Our students are gaining so much ‘real world’ experience that I’m confident they’ll have no problems getting a job in this industry. It’s my goal as an instructor to make ESPN look at WMU as the premier MAC school for this type of educational training, and the exposure for our athletes on national television is excelling as well.”

New precollege programs office is up and running

WMU has created an Office of Precollege Programming to direct the University’s educational, outreach and extracurricular activities for youth both on campus and throughout the state.

The office, housed in Ellsworth Hall, is administered by the Office of Enrollment Management and was formally established in August when Erika Carr was hired as its director.

The new office brings together long-standing programs for middle and high school students, some of which Carr has managed for many years, as well as coordinates dual enrollment and comprehensive outreach services.

Another primary responsibility is providing leadership and direction for other individuals, programs and units involved with precollege students, especially when it comes to policies and procedures that concern minors on campus.

Falling under the Office of Precollege Programming are the Academically Talented Youth Program, or ATYP; Michigan’s Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, or MI GEAR UP; Upward Bound; Campus Compact; and WMU outreach services in the Metro Detroit area.

By combining these various programs, the office hopes to maximize the engagement and enrollment of precollege students while modeling best practices in the field of college access and serving as a campuswide resource and support system.

The office’s website is available at wmich.edu/precollege. A large precollege program database is being created, so all employees and units doing youth outreach are asked to register their programs, services and events at wmich.edu/precollege/program-registration.

Chrysa Richards will be remembered during a celebration of her life at noon Saturday, March 18, at Lake Katherine Nature Center and Botanic Gardens in Palos Heights, Illinois. As previously reported, Richards was a retired secretary who died Jan. 8 at age 58.
On Campus with Greg Youtzy

“I’ve seen a drinking fountain broken in half with water spraying out everywhere—how’d they do that,” Greg Youtzy asks, scratching his head.

Youtzy, one of two plumbers in Shop IV of maintenance services, has seen quite a bit since joining the staff seven years ago. Even though his region doesn’t include residence halls, it does cover all of WMU’s athletic facilities as well as some of the highest-traffic buildings on campus.

They include the Health and Human Services Building, Heritage Hall, Sangren Hall, the Siebert Administration Building, the Student Recreation Center, and Waldo Library. The region also handles repairs at lease-liable facilities, such as the “Antenna Farm.”

Youtzy spends much of his time dealing with plumbing issues in bathrooms and break rooms, but frequently finds himself doing maintenance “in the bellies of buildings, where all of the things that keep buildings operating day to day are housed.” He works on pumps, water softeners, air compressors and other equipment, as well as assists his shop co-workers as needed.

“The community that we have here in our shop is such that if someone needs a hand, we go give them a hand. What I enjoy the most is communicating and interacting with others,” Youtzy says, adding that he’s just a people person. “I like to stay busy, and the students can keep us plenty busy. Ultimately, it’s about making sure the kids who come here have what they need.”

Youtzy worked 30 years at area companies and has experience in residential, commercial and industrial settings. Then the Great Recession hit and his wife, Lisa, an administrative assistant in the marketing department, noticed the job opening in maintenance services that brought him to campus. The couple live in Kalamazoo and have two grown daughters, one of whom is a senior at WMU.

Rather than slow down during his off hours, Youtzy puts 20 or more hours a week into building his own plumbing services company.

“That just shows you how much I enjoy what I do for a living,” he says.

He doesn’t slow down when it comes to hobbies, either. When not hanging out with friends or family, Youtzy is a weekend bracket racer at the U.S. 131 Motorports Park in nearby Martin and fabricates and builds race cars, trailers and other “metal stuff.” He built from the ground up the vehicle he now drag races, a Chevy S10 that can go from a standing stop to 150 miles per hour in 8 seconds.

“My wife says I’m a workaholic,” Youtzy says. “I can’t sit still. I have to keep busy.”

Variety of exciting camps offered on campus this summer for young people

Registration is underway for WMU’s summer camps for students in preschool, high school and beyond. They cover a wide variety of interests during June, July and August. Whether it’s aviation, athletics, art, music, entrepreneurship, archaeology, finance or writing, WMU faculty and staff members as well as community members are heading up programs to provide fun and educational experiences for learners of all ages.

A listing of all camps, with new items added as information becomes available, can be found at wmich.edu/admissions/camps. Some scholarships are available. Check with specific camps for more information.

Continued from page 1

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Angles has been a faculty member at WMU since 2004. He has been interested in the Japanese language since he first traveled to that nation as a 15-year-old.

He says he has loved poetry, and Japanese poetry in particular, for many years, but his interactions with the Japanese poetry world started as a reader, researcher and translator.

He has published a dozen academic books on Japanese literature that include translations and anthologies. He first rose to national attention when his 2010 book of translations, “Forest of Eyes: Selected Poems of Tada Chimako,” won not one, but two, literary awards in the United States.

Many of the poems in Angles’ Yomiuri Prize-winning book derived their inspiration from his personal life, his experiences flying back and forth across the Pacific, negotiating the differences between two widely differing languages and cultures, his experiences with his family, and his memories of his childhood in Ohio.

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