Diversity, inclusion sets open house

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion has scheduled an open house for 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 21. Stop by the office in the Trimpe Building for activities, presentations, giveaways and refreshments, and learn more about the office and how it can serve students and faculty and staff members.

President John M. Dunn plans to introduce the event at 11 a.m. Attendees also will be able to check out the Trimpe Building’s three new facilities: the Our Space student—centered, inclusive, equal access resource room and lounge; Diversity Resource Collection, a selection of books, CDs, DVDs and games centered on topics related to identity; and Reflection Room, a quiet room available as private space for lacation and for meditation, prayer or reflection.

Safety questions to be answered

A program has been developed in response to the cases of sexual harassment and assault on college campuses that have been reported across the nation. How are these issues being addressed at WMU? How do you support a student or colleague who reaches out to you for help? What about privacy and confidentiality concerns?

The program aims to answer those questions and cover steps faculty and staff members and graduate assistants can take to improve safety at all WMU locations. Sessions are scheduled from Friday, March 24, through November. Register through faculty development at wmich.edu/facultydevelopment. For additional information, contact Felicia Crawford at felicia.crawford@wmich.edu or (269) 387-6316.

Get engaged with “Gold” campaign

What does “Bronco tough” mean to you? Fill in the blank on the “We are Gold” postcard that recently landed in campus mailboxes, take a picture, and then upload it to Facebook, Instagram or Twitter using #WMUisGold. Don’t forget to tag WMU in the post using @wmich on Facebook or @westernmich on Twitter or Instagram for a chance to win a T-shirt or other prizes.

Volunteers sought for May marathon

WMU is seeking volunteers to help host several campus water and aid stations and excitement zones for runners participating in the Kalamazoo Marathon Sunday, May 7. No experience is necessary, so consider volunteering for a two-hour opportunity between 7:30 a.m. and around 9:30 a.m.

Volunteers will provide refreshments and other aid to runners via a station located near the Student Recreation Center or cheer on the runners at excitement zones around campus. WMU student organizations, departments and offices are welcome to sign up to host an excitement zone, many of which will have fun themes. For more details, contact WMU’s Margaret von Steinen.

Tickets will go fast for April 7 Dunn event

Tickets are now available for the Friday, April 7, on-campus celebration marking the retirement of President John M. Dunn, who will retire June 30 after 10 years at the helm. Distribution of the 3,100 tickets available for the 3 p.m. event in Miller Auditorium has begun. The 90-minute program will feature tributes, reflection videos, special guest appearances, musical performances and farewell remarks by Dunn. Special performances will be made by the Bronco Marching Band, Gold Company, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia and the dance department.

Doors will open at 2:15 p.m., and the program will begin at 3 p.m. Light dessert and coffee will be served after the event on the Grand Tier. Tickets for general seating must be secured before the event and are only available by request through the Miller Auditorium Box Office in person or by calling (269) 387-2300. The Box Office is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Each order is limited to four tickets. Out-of-town guests may make will-call arrangements. All other tickets must be picked up prior to the event. Parking will be available in the Miller ramp and in surface lots adjacent to the auditorium.

“This is a communitywide celebration, and we expect these tickets to go quickly,” says event organizer Chris Praedel, development and alumni relations. “We’re making every effort to ensure students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the University have an opportunity to join in the fun, so we’re encouraging those interested to get their tickets early.”

The April 7 event follows on the heels of the five-day, 1,500-mile President Dunn Farewell Bus Tour of Michigan, as well as recent alumni events around the nation.

EUP launches Collegiate Pathways program in G.R.

Extended University Programs entered into an agreement March 2 with the Forest Hills Public Schools to launch the first-of-its-kind “Collegiate Pathways” dual enrollment program.

The program, set to launch in fall 2017 at Forest Hills Northern High School in Grand Rapids, Michigan, allows students to earn WMU’s full Chinese language minor while they are enrolled in high school.

Edwin Martini, EUP associate dean, met with district officials at the WMU-Grand Rapids Belkline regional location to sign the contract and begin the rollout. EUP, in partnership with the University’s Haenicke Institute for Global Education and Department of World Languages and literatures, will deliver the program next fall on-site at the high school. All classes will be taught by WMU instructors.

While this is the first program being offered through the new Collegiate Pathways initiative, WMU is in discussions with other districts to provide dual enrollment programs.

See the world on a budget at International Festival

The music, dance, food and fashions of numerous cultures will be showcased during the International Festival from 4 to 8 p.m. Sunday, April 2, on the Bernhard Center’s second floor.

Now in its 28th year, the popular event was first hosted in 1989. This year, cultural display tables, performances and a fashion show will turn the spotlight on nearly two dozen cultures. Admission is free, and for a nominal fee, attendees may sample traditional foods prepared by international students supervised by Dining Services staff in campus kitchens.

The International Festival annually attracts about 7,000 students and community members.

Attendees are able to “travel” around the world in a single evening while gaining an appreciation for the diversity of cultures prevalent on campus. WMU enrolls more than 1,800 international students from 100 countries. The University’s “You Are Welcome Here” campaign is designed to reaffirm how much these students are appreciated on campus and reduce the anxiety many non-citizens in the
Panel to discuss why race matters

A discussion and panel involving WMU students and the Society for History and Racial Equity—SHARE—is up next in this spring’s Lecum Lecture Series. The “SHARE Out: You and Why Race Matters” program is set for noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 22, in the Lee Honors College Lounge.

Representing SHARE, formerly the Southwest Michigan Black Heritage Society, will be Elaine Butler and Jacob Pinney-Johnson. Attendees are welcome to bring a brown bag lunch.

WMU-Grand Rapids sets open house

Area residents can find a “somewhere” during Extended University Program’s Master of Business Administration open house in the WMU-Grand Rapids downtown location.

The event will take place from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 29, at 200 Ionia Ave. W. To RSVP, visit wmic.edu/grandrapids/openhouse. Prospective students can get their MBA through WMU in as little as two years.

Open house attendees will be able to meet Ren Phillips, MBA director in Grand Rapids, during the open house. They also will be able to speak with faculty and staff members and enjoy a light lunch. WMU will pay the application fee for those who attend the event and apply to the MBA program by April 14, 2017.

WMU senior citizens ready for prom

Odds are that many area senior citizens will be attending the 29th annual Senior Prom, set for Thursday, March 30, in the Bernhard Center’s East Ballroom.

The prom, which has a casino theme this year, brings area senior citizens together with the campus community for a night of Big Band music and ballroom dancing. Pre-entertainment Bingo begins at 5 p.m., and the dance will run from 7 to 10 p.m.

Refreshments and hors d’oeuvres will be served. No reservations are necessary to attend this semi-formal event that is free and open to the public.

Three archaeological camps slated

Registration is open for summer camps at the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project. The camp program is a chance for the public to engage in history and search for evidence at the Fort St. Joseph archeology site.

Camp dates and target audiences are July 17-21, middle school students in grades six to nine; July 24-28, high school students in grades nine to 12; and July 31-Aug. 4, lifelong learners and teachers. Applications are available at nileshistorycenter.org until all camps are filled.

Southwest Michigan schedules annual Chávez awards dinner

Southwest Michigan will celebrate the life and work of civil rights leader César E. Chávez Saturday, April 1, during an annual scholarship fundraising dinner that includes the presentation of regional awards and a scholarship fundraising dinner that includes the presentation of regional awards and scholarships for 2017.

Called “Celebrating the Legacy of César E. Chávez,” the event is the first time that WMU’s Division of Multicultural Affairs has joined with the Southwest Michigan César E. Chávez Committee and area businesses to stage a banquet on or around Chávez’ March 31 birthday.

This year’s event will feature a keynote address by Alex Nogales, president and CEO of the National Hispanic Media Coalition. John M. Dunn, WMU president, will be among this year’s award recipients.

The 2017 celebration will be held in the Fetzer Center. It begins with a reception at 5 p.m., followed by the dinner and awards program at 5:30 p.m.

Reservations for the dinner, which costs $25 for students and $40 for others, are being encouraged by Monday, March 20.

Proceeds from the dinner support seven scholarships. These scholarships go to Michigan college or college-bound students from around southwest Michigan.

To make a reservation for the “Celebrating the Legacy” dinner, call (269) 387-4425.

Nancy Dykshoorn, president’s office, will be recognized for her 17 years of service to the University during a retirement reception from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, March 30, in the Fetzer Center atrium.

Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources website at wmic.edu/hr/jobs. Please note that applications must be submitted online by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included with each posting.

Emeritus in English writes new book

Clifford Davidson, emeritus in English and medieval studies, has penned a new book titled “Studies in Late Medieval Wall Paintings, Manuscript Illuminations and Texts.” The book was published earlier this year by Palgrave Macmillan.

It focuses on the recently restored Doom painting in Holy Trinity Church in Coventry, England; a fragmentary painting in the former Coventry Charterhouse images in the Carthusian Miscellany in the British Library; and Carthusian writings.

Formerly head of the Early Drama, Art and Music research project in WMU’s Medieval Institute, Davidson is a prolific writer whose previous publications include many books and articles, mainly in the fields of early art and drama. In addition, he received the University’s Distinguished Scholar Award in 1985.

Campus Compact honors WMU trio

Three faculty members will be honored during the Michigan Campus Compact annual awards gala to be held at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 23, in Michigan State University’s Kellogg Center in East Lansing.

Jonathan Bush, English, and Michael Nassaney, anthropology, will receive the Innovations in Community Impact Award. In addition, Brian Gogan, English, will receive the Champion of Engagement Award.

Bush and Nassaney will be recognized for their work with the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project near Niles, Michigan. Nassaney is the project’s principal investigator, and he has directed WMU’s annual archaeological field school since 1994. Bush, a former English department chair, is director of the Third Coast Writing Project.

In addition to mentoring and advising students, Gogan has been active in building WMU’s rhetoric and writing studies program, is a former co-chair of the Student Success Guide Committee, and has been an active member of numerous campus committees and community groups.

Michigan Campus Compact, a coalition of college and university presidents who are committed to fulfilling the public purposes of higher education, is a leader in building civic engagement into campus and academic life.

Compact member presidents are joined together in their commitment to the development of all students as integral to the educational mission of their institution’s campuses. The Michigan organization has 38 member campuses in the state, and its members are part of the national Campus Compact, a coalition of nearly 1,100 college and university presidents representing some six million students.
Farewell bus tour carries Dunns to 14 cities, meetings with alumni

The President Dunn Farewell Bus Tour saw the Bronco Nation capture attention in 14 cities, with high visibility in locations that ranged from the Michigan Capitol in Lansing and Comerica Park in Detroit to lakeshore communities like Traverse City, Muskegon, Benton Harbor and St. Joseph in the state as well as Chicago.

The 1,500-mile, Feb. 27-to-March 3 initiative connected the president and Linda Dunn with hundreds of members of the Bronco family. Events along the tour ranged from a breakfast gathering attended by more than 200 people to more intimate luncheon meetings with 50 or fewer alumni.

Tour participants faced the same perils of any late February and early March Michigan travel, says Vice President Tim Terrentine, development and alumni relations, whose office coordinated the initiative. A northern Michigan blizzard, for instance, stopped the entourage from making it to its Traverse City overnight stop on March 1. Wind and ice damaged the custom wrap on the tour bus and required overnight emergency repairs to the wrap’s graphics.

A feature of many of the tour events was the presentation of commemorative gifts to the president or first couple.

Some of the items presented included:
- a flight jacket for Dunn from the College of Aviation,
- a letter from Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder,
- a steel drumhead signed by the members of the Bronco Marching Band and a framed photo of the band performing,
- a formal designation of Dunn as professor emeritus of medicine by the WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine, and
- an agreement Dunn was encouraged to sign committing him to not take his signature statement—“It’s a Great Day to be a Bronco”—with him as he leaves WMU.

“Along the way we gathered and recorded alumni memories about President Dunn, and he shared information about recent accomplishments and points of pride on the campus,” says Terrentine, who served as emcee on the trip.

“It was the kind of opportunity that is both rare and incredibly productive when it comes to building Bronco pride.”

Photos of the tour are posted online on WMU’s Facebook page at facebook.com/wmich and on the development an alumni relation Facebook site at facebook.com/WMUAlumni.

A search for Dunn’s replacement is currently underway.

WMUK, university relations bring home awards

The University’s expertise in broadcasting as well as marketing and design has resulted in more awards.

Most recently, WMUK General Manager Stephen Williams announced that the public radio station received two 2016 Broadcast Excellence Awards from the Michigan Association of Broadcasters during the association’s annual awards ceremony March 8.

The first award went to Keith Hall and engineer Martin Klemm for Hall’s five-part “Jazz Currents” series on Miles Davis, which won in the Musical Programming category.

The second award went to Cara Lieurance and Dave Marlatt of “The Pure Drop” for their holiday series on Miles Davis, which won in the Musical Programming category.

Earlier in the year, the Office of University Relations racked up four awards in the 32nd annual Education Advertising Awards competition, the largest and oldest competition for marketing and advertising in the higher education industry.

More than 2,250 entries were received from around the globe in 33 categories that covered a broad array of materials and activities created for everything from print, radio and television to social media and digital advertising.

In the internal publication category, WMU brought home a gold award for its Brand Book and a merit award for its Visual Identity Program booklet. The University’s Strike Gold television spot earned a bronze award in the single TV-spot category, while its Admissions Letterhead project picked up a silver award in the logo/letterhead category.

Food Marketing Conference to draw industry leaders

The University’s acclaimed Food Marketing Conference unfolds Tuesday and Wednesday, March 21 and 22, and is expected to draw nearly 900 industry executives to DeVos Place in Grand Rapids.

The two-day conference will feature presentations on current trends in the food and consumer package goods industries and will explore this year’s conference theme, “Leading with Change.”

The conference also will include networking breaks and breakout sessions. Registration is ongoing at foodmarketingconference.com.

Again this year, the conference will feature an impressive speaker lineup and hot topic presentations, including the popular executive forum titled “A Retail Lens on the Food Industry” and a special presentation by comedian Steve Rizzo titled “Get Your SHIFT Together.”

The lineup features sessions from industry leaders covering such topics as staying relevant in ever-changing markets, overcoming uncertainty and responding to retail trends.

Former astronaut, first woman of color in space to visit

Mae Jemison, a former astronaut and the first woman of color in space, will be presenting a talk on campus at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 23, in Miller Auditorium.

Jemison will explore the importance of science, technology, engineering and math education.

The former astronaut’s talk, “Exploring the Frontiers of Science and Human Potential,” will be the keynote address at the Kalmanzoo Community Foundation’s 2017 community meeting. The meeting is open to the public, but attendees are asked to register in advance by visiting the foundation’s website at kalfound.org.

Jemison was trained as an engineer, then became a physician, serving as a doctor in the Peace Corps in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

She applied to the astronaut program and served six years as a NASA astronaut, eventually becoming a mission specialist on Space Shuttle Endeavor Sept. 12-20, 1992.

After leaving NASA, she started the Jemison Group, which integrates the critical impact of socio-cultural issues when designing and implementing technologies.

Jemison is currently leading 100 Year Starship, a federally funded initiative to assure the capability for human interstellar space travel to another star within the next 100 years.

Flowers joined the staff in 1956 and retired to Red Rover, an animal-related nonprofit.

Delores “Dede” Flowers, a former administrative assistant for speech pathology and audiology, died Dec. 12, 2016. She was 85. Flowers joined the staff in 1956 and retired in 1986 after nearly 30 years of service.

Barbara Jane Miller, WMU’s first lady for 13 years, died Feb. 14. She was 98. Miller was fondly known as Jane or Janie by family and friends.

She came to WMU in 1961 when her husband, James W. Miller, was named WMU’s third president. He preceded her in death in 1993. Memorial gifts may be made to the Sierra Club Foundation or to Red Rover, an animal-related nonprofit.
National Public Radio airs charter schools debate

Gary Miron, educational leadership, research and technology, participated in a live debate March 1 in New York that aired on public radio stations across the nation.

The broadcast, sponsored by Intelligence Squared U.S., was podcast and an edited version distributed to more than 220 public radio stations across the nation. The broadcast, sponsored by Intelligence Squared U.S., was podcast and an edited version distributed to more than 220 public radio stations across the nation. It is available at intelligencesquaredus.org by clicking debates.

Miron was one of four panelists on both sides of the debate who discussed the charter school movement and whether the movement has lived up to its promise. Other panelists included Julian Vasquez Heilig from California State University, Sacramento; Jeanne Allen from the Center for Education Reform; and Gerard Robinson from the American Enterprise Institute.

Miron has provided technical assistance and training for charter schools in five states. In recent years, his research has focused on private education management organizations as well as the performance of virtual and blended-learning schools. IQ2US is a nonpartisan organization founded in 2006 to restore civility, reasoned analysis and constructive public discourse to today’s often biased media landscape.

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See the world on a budget at International Festival

United States feel these days.

The most recent example of how the campus community is responding to the campaign can be seen in message boards that have been placed next to the entrance of WMU’s four libraries.

“Be proud” and “Mi casa es su casa” are just two of the messages people have been posting there for their fellow Broncos to see.

The messages are part of an initiative University Libraries kicked off Feb. 27 that encourages students and faculty and staff members to leave welcoming Post-it notes for members of WMU’s diverse community.

“If anyone feels threatened or unsafe or marginalized, the library is a place where they can find a comfortable and welcoming environment, staffed by helpful and accepting people,” says Michele Behr, Swain Education Library.

Joshua Lim, an international student from Malaysia majoring in sales and business marketing, says he likes seeing the support and that people are taking the time out of their days to write welcoming messages.

“There is a lot going on in the U.S. with immigration, and I know a lot of my international friends are worried,” Lim says. “So it’s good to see all of the support that WMU is providing for us.”

Military Career Fair slated

The annual Boots to Suits military career fair will be held from 2 to 6 p.m. Thursday, March 23, in 208-210 Bernhard Center.

The event, sponsored by military and veterans affairs, is for those who serve and who have served in the military, as well as their dependents. It is designed to connect attendees with talent acquisition representatives from local organizations and help attendees hone their professional personas, strengthen their resumes and transition into the civilian workforce.

Participants include Verticom, Consumers Energy, Target, Eaton, Ralph Moyle, Parker Hannifin, Enterprise, TEK Systems, First Data and Employment Group.

Those planning to attend should register at wmich.edu/military/boots2suits.

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Collegiate Pathways program

for additional foreign languages and other academic programs.

“Forest Hills is very proud of the high-quality immersion language programs we provide to our students,” said Margaret Fellig, Forest Hills Public Schools assistant superintendent for instruction. “Partnering with WMU to provide expert Mandarin language instruction and engaging courses at the high school level provides our students not only with a wonderful learning opportunity, but also valuable college credit.”

DRESSING UP CAMPUS MEALS

(Photo by Deanne Puca)

On Campus with Carmen Rivera

Working with students and keeping up with trends toward healthier eating have made Carmen Rivera’s job in various dining centers for the past 20 years fun as well as educational.

Rivera, who started out as a temporary worker in the Bernhard Center and quickly moved into a permanent position, has worked in the Valley III Dining Center and now is an F2 salad maker in the Burnham Dining Center. She’s in charge of the Extreme Greens line, which features a wide variety of salad greens, 18 toppings and 16 dressings. Rivera also makes homemade picc de gallo salsa and stocks another partial salad bar in the dining room.

“If the students eat everything I can’t believe all that the students eat,” she says. “There are trends toward healthier eating, so I’m busy keeping up with all of the ingredients.”

Rivera works with many international students. Through her interaction with them, she’s learned how to say “hello” in five different languages, and she’s been inspired to try new flavors and spices in the side dishes that she makes. These dishes include Jamaican jerk chicken pasta salad and Asian ginger broccoli salad to name a few.

In turn, she says the students often bring her authentic treats from their home countries, which gives her a chance to try foods from around the world.

Rivera believes in going out of her way to help and be kind to students, even regularly helping one who has vision issues by explaining the food choices and helping her make selections.

“If someone goes out of their way to be helpful to me, I want to also extend myself to help other people,” she says. “Acts of kindness are important.”

A Kalamazoo resident, Rivera has a grown daughter and son who live in the area and several grandchildren. Her sister also lives here, and her mother lives part time in Kalamazoo and Florida.

Rivera loves to cook and usually is the one to host big family get-togethers. She also likes to stay active by biking, swimming and traveling, many times to Florida to see family. Additionally, she’s involved in theocratic activities at her place of worship, the Kingdom Hall.

A couple of years ago, Rivera took a culinary class at WMU. She’s also taken history of music, psychiatry and holistic classes here, and would like to take a sewing class in the future.

Her grades earned her an invitation from the Alpha Sigma Lambda adult student honor society to serve in a leadership role based on her outstanding academic achievement. Membership in the honors organization as well as lifting national leadership roles is by invitation only.

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