University gets final OK to offer classes in Florida

The Higher Learning Commission has approved WMU's request to offer programs at two locations in Florida.

The HLC's decision follows last year's approval by Florida's Commission for Independent Education to grant provisional licenses allowing WMU to operate regional locations on the campuses of Florida Southwestern State College in Punta Gorda and the WMU Cooley Law School in Riverview, near Tampa.

With the HLC's approval, WMU can move forward with its plans to launch aviation flight science and aviation management and operations programs, each leading to a bachelor's degree, beginning with the 2017 fall semester. The aviation flight science and aviation management and operations programs, at FMU Cooley Law School in Riverview, near Tampa.

In 2015, WMU petitioned for approvals that would provide the College of Aviation with an additional location that would allow increased flight time and enhance the college's ability to respond to aviation industry needs, allow the College of Health and Human Services to advance the delivery of its nationally recognized programs by providing more health care settings for clinical rotations, and expand the off-site delivery of academic programs.

Grad programs ranked among nation's best

The latest annual U.S. News & World Report ranking of the top graduate programs in the nation shows WMU with eight programs ranked among the top 100 in their disciplines, four in the top 50 and two programs assessed as the best of their kind in Michigan.

In the latest round of rankings released March 14, WMU's occupational therapy program based in Kalamazoo is the state's highest ranking program in that discipline. The speech-language pathology program is tied for recognition as that discipline's best such program in the state.

Programs ranked among the nation's top 100 are: occupational therapy, Kalamazoo (32); rehabilitation counseling (37); speech-language pathology (46); audiology, (48); physician assistant (57); occupational therapy, Grand Rapids (58); social work (71); and online College of Education and Human Development programs (92).

Seven of WMU's top-100 graduate programs are part of the University's celebrated College of Health and Human Services. The eighth top-100 designation is in the education college.

Another seven WMU graduate programs also are highly ranked among programs offered by the nation's more than 650 colleges and universities that confer master's and doctoral degrees. The additional ranked WMU programs are in: earth sciences/geosciences (113), public affairs (115), English (116), education (120), history (125), art (131), Continued on page 4

Presidential search process 'on track and on time'

The search for WMU's ninth president is in a new phase, with a campuswide committee examining the credentials of a pool of 78 applicants and preparing for in-person interviews.

“We are on track and on time,” Trustee William Johnston told his fellow members of the WMU Board of Trustees at its March 15 meeting. Johnston is chair of a 22-member Presidential Search Advisory Committee. He said the firm the committee is working with—Parker Executive Search—has turned over application materials for what Johnston called “a robust” field of candidates who are “talented and experienced.”

The committee members examined the materials and assembled March 16 to narrow the field based on their research and reading of the applications. Ten candidates were selected to be interviewed March 22 and 23.

After interviews are completed, the committee will further narrow the group to the names of finalist candidates that will then be delivered to the full board during the first week of April. Johnston said the goal, as outlined last fall when the committee began its work, is to have the name of the next WMU president ready to announce at the April 27 trustees meeting.

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Dunn celebration tickets still available

Although going fast, tickets are still available for the Friday, April 7, communitywide celebration marking the retirement of President John M. Dunn. The celebration is set for 3 p.m. in Miller Auditorium. 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.

WMUK spring pledge drive underway

The University's public radio station, WMUK, has begun its annual spring membership drive, which will run through Monday, April 3. The station has set a pledge goal of $164,000. To give online, visit wmuk.org.

The spring campaign marks the 40th anniversary of WMUK's local bluegrass show, “Grassroots.” To celebrate, contributors to the campaign will be entered into a drawing to win a pair of tickets to see Bela Fleck and Abigale Washburn Thursday, May 11, at the Kalamazoo State Theatre.

Japanese lessons for teenagers offered

Beginning Japanese language lessons for teenagers are now available through WMU's Soga Japan Center. The program is open to middle school and high school students. The fee is $30 for three lessons.

Lessons will be held from 4 to 4:45 p.m. in 2045 Brown Hall on three consecutive Fridays: April 7, 14 and 21. No experience is necessary, but registration is required at michiko.yoshimoto@wmich.edu or (269) 387-5874.

Campuswide shredding event set

WMU students, faculty and staff are encouraged to “get their shred on” to ensure that all professional and personal documents are properly destroyed and recycled. The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 11, in Lot 41 near Sangren Hall.

Details about what material may be disposed of is available at w remind.edu/news/2017/03/58836.

APA awards luncheon scheduled

The Administrative Professional Association will celebrate the winners of its 2017 annual awards at a luncheon from noon to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 18, in the Ferger Center. This year's honorees are Lindsey Palter, Outstanding New Professional Award; Derek Andree, Outstanding Professional Award; and Teri Schimpf, Tony Griffin Service Award.

Registration is required by Thursday, April 13, at mywmu.com/apaawards. Admission is $5 for active-dues-paying APA members, each of whom may bring a guest at the member rate, and $10 for others.
Geographic Bee to be held Friday
For the 10th straight year, just over 100 young geography buffs from across the state will come to WMU for the Michigan State Geographic Bee. The event will be Friday, March 31, in the Poteet Center and is the second level of the national competition. The state finals start at about 2:15 p.m. and are open to the public. The top geography student in Michigan will be selected from a field of 10 students who make it to the national round.

Winnie Veenstra Peace Lecture set
Alexander Guerrero, Rutgers University assistant professor of philosophy, will deliver the annual Winnie Veenstra Peace Lecture at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 6, in 213 Bernhard Center. The title of his presentation is “Again Toward Perpetual Peace: Elections, World Government and Lottocracy.” For more information, visit wmich.edu/news/2017/03/38944.

Focused career fairs slated in April
Two specialized career events are being held next month: the Education Career Fair Wednesday, April 5, and Aviation Outlook Day Friday, April 7. Both of these annual events are free and open to the public. No pre-registration is required. More than 110 school districts will participate in the April 5 fair from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the East Ballroom of the Bernhard Center. More than 30 organizations have signed up to take part in the April 7 fair from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the aviation campus in Battle Creek, Michigan.

Frostic series slated three April events
The Gwen Frostic Reading Series closes out its spring 2017 season with three presentations in April. First up will be Dao Strom, a writer and musician, who will read from her works at 8 p.m. Thursday, April 6, in 3512 Knauss Hall.
Next, New Issues Press authors Carol Zoref and Myronn Hardy will read at 8 p.m. Thursday, April 13, in 157-159 Bernhard Center. Lastly, graduate student authors will get to on the act as part of WMU3s MFA/Ph.D. Festival. Their reading starts at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 22, in 157-159 Bernhard Center.

Prescription drugs are event focus
Learn how to dispose of prescription drugs safely during an educational and fun event from 1:30 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, April 12, at the Campus Flagpoles near the Lee Honors College. In addition to informational materials, there will be free games and giveaways.

Service anniversaries
The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 40, 35, 30, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service during March.

40 Years—Carol A. Morris-Mier, College of Education and Human Development.
35 Years—Jean E. Bowsky-Verschoof, Bernhard Center, and Vernon Payne, associate vice president for student affair.
30 Years—Timothy J. Bowers, landscape services; Nancy Comings, College of Health and Human Services; and Cam Vossen, public safety.
20 Years—Suzanne V. Beals, development and alumni relations; Lee Ann Claussen, political science; Michael F. DeBlecourt, Bernhard Center; Pamela Mottille, English; Rob Pennock, Auxiliary Enterprises; and Kristi L. Schutter, university budgets.
15 Years—Erik Conover, information technology.
10 Years—Steven C. Durian, power plant; Nick Gauthier, art; Daniel Kelsh, endall, maintenance services; Mark W. St. Rupp from the University of Wisconsin Press.


The book shows how public safety agencies are being asked to absorb more social welfare functions amidst cutbacks in other areas and focuses on arson fraud and community policing initiatives. It notes that although public safety agencies protect people’s well-being, they also shape social problems and community inequities.

Two areas of public safety are examined: arson control and fire prevention, especially within the contexts of urban change and gentrification, and community policing, especially as a mechanism of expanding drug treatment service and prevention programs.

Dean earns national diversity award
Ming Li, dean of the College of Education and Human Development, is among 39 higher education leaders who have received the 2017 Giving Back Award from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine. They are recognized in the magazine’s April issue.

The award honors college and university administrators who go above and beyond their everyday leadership duties and “give back” to their campuses and communities. They are selected based on their outstanding demonstration of social responsibility, involvement with students, faculty, staff and the community; and commitment to serving underrepresented populations.

Li was specifically honored because he has focused his career on diversifying the K-12 teacher workforce by making teacher preparation programs more accessible to underrepresented students. He is the only state honoree this year from a public university.
Fulbright Scholarship has Jon Davis talking math in South Africa

For many students, mathematics isn’t an easy subject to master. Teaching mathematics in a country like South Africa, which has 11 official languages, can also be daunting. Davis donated calculators to the Solomon Mahlangu school, then trained its faculty on the handheld devices. (Photo courtesy of Jon Davis)

Although English is the common mode of instruction in that country, Jon Davis, mathematician, thinks doing a little more talking could lead to better learning outcomes for students. So he is using his six-month-long Fulbright Program Scholarship to delve deeper into how conceptual discourse and code-switching techniques can be tools in promoting student understanding. Davis traveled to South Africa in January to explore ethnomathematics—the study of the relationship between culture and math—and to observe mathematics instruction within South Africa’s centralized education system.

“I’m particularly interested in studying a discursive method known as ‘exploratory talk,’ the kind of talk where participants engage critically but constructively with each other’s ideas,” Davis says. “I’m also interested in what linguists call ‘code-switching,’ which has been encouraged throughout South Africa across a variety of academic subjects because of the multilingual nature of the country’s classrooms.”

Davis says code-switching involves the use of two or more languages within a speech act. “You explain a concept in English, then give students time to code-switch between languages to fully understand the subject,” he says. “Students have the ability to interact with the material at a deeper level when you give them the time to use their preferred language to process the content before responding in English.” While in South Africa, Davis has been invited to teach classes as well as to give presentations on his current NSF grant, which relates to America’s Common Core standards. He also is exploring opportunities for collaboration with South African researchers and for opening up study abroad options for WMU undergraduates.

“I intend to use my experiences in South Africa to bring a global perspective to our methods courses at WMU and promote study abroad within the mathematics department,” he says, adding that they also are reinvigorating his math classroom research.

Open house slated to obtain input on new student center

The University community is invited to a presentation and open house on the library-student center master planning project April 10 from 3 to 5 p.m. in the first-floor lounge of the Bernhard Center.

Officials are seeking input from students, faculty and staff on the master planning study for a new facility that will combine a reimagined Waldo Library with a student center to create an integrated learning and activity hub for the campus.

The design team from Perkins + Will will present an overview of the project vision and program concept and answer questions. An open house for walk-up discussion will follow. Refreshments will be provided.

The project provides a reimagined, technology-rich environment for integrated experiences, interactive engagement, cultural exchange, active learning and discovery outside of the classroom. It will act as the community hub for the entire University, foster positive and creative interactions as well as intellectual and social exploration, and build a distinctive and supportive learning experience that fosters success across the University.

April 7 is end of active phase for Broncos4Broncos campaign

The 2016-17 Broncos4Broncos Campus Campaign is well underway, and financial incentives that extend giving options are being offered to participating units and groups. The WMU campaign is designed to promote employee giving to the more than 1,903 scholarship, program and other funds that specifically benefit the University’s students, although WMU entities that earn incentives may designate their award money to go to any WMU fund of their choice.

Last fiscal year, 842 employees donated nearly $490,000 to more than 295 funds. Such gifts are 100 percent tax-deductible, as 100 percent of the money goes to the funds that donors designate.

Three incentives are being offered this fiscal year:

- Larger reporting groups that surpass their 2016 fiscal-year giving percentage by June 30 will receive $150.
- The office or department with the highest giving percentage by April 7—the end of this year’s active campaign phase—will receive $250.
- Larger reporting groups that reach 100 percent participation by June 30 will receive $300.

Today’s changing perspectives on gender to be discussed

Actor and award-winning storyteller Scott Turner Schofield will present “Gender Inclusion” as the featured speaker for Kalamazoo County’s 19th annual Respecting Differences program.

Turner will present his talk, which is free and open to the public, at 9:30 a.m. and again at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 12, in Miller Auditorium. Both presentations will include an on-stage American Sign Language translator.

The 2017 Respecting Differences program will deal with gender issues that may come up both at work and in social life, and will include a closing question-and-answer session.

Schofield will cover topics such as how to respect pronouns, what topics are off-limits and how to negotiate using the restroom in a post-“bathroom bills” world.

His presentation will offer concrete, easy-to-understand guidance for “not putting your foot in your mouth” around transgender and nonbinary people.

Schofield demystifies trans and nonbinary genders by using an intersectional framework—the way that the topics of biological sex, gender and sexuality are influenced by factors such as race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, cultural heritage, disability and geographical location.

Those interested can get a greater sense of Schofield’s presentation skills and style by viewing his “Ending Gender” TED Talk online at scottschofield.com. Admission to his Kalamazoo talks is free; however, tickets will be required. Every WMU faculty and staff member, including part-time instructors, have or soon will receive a ticket through campus mail.

Obituary—wmich.edu/news/obituaries

Ross Gregory, emeritus in history, died Feb. 10. He was 81. Gregory joined the faculty in 1966 and retired in 2004 after more than 38 years of service.
Psychologist to deliver lecture in honor of Croteau

A special lecture honoring longtime WMU faculty member James Croteau will feature a presentation by a prominent psychologist and scholar who will touch on issues facing people of color who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer/questioning.

Beverly Greene, a professor of psychology at St. John’s University, will speak at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 6, in 1910 Sangren Hall. Her presentation, titled “Psychological Resilience and Vulnerability among LGBTQ People of Color,” is free and open to the public.

Greene specializes in the role of institutionalized racism, sexism, heterosexism and other oppressive ideologies in psychology, as well as the practice of psychotherapy in organized mental health to facilitate social justice.

Her work seeks to better understand psychological resilience and vulnerability in marginalized people and their use in psychotherapy, as well as to examine social privilege and marginalization via the development of multiple identity paradigms.

Croteau, a professor of counselor education and counseling psychology, died in September at age 59. He was nationally known for his research, training, clinical work and publications focused on racism awareness, racial healing, and LBGT issues in the workplace and on college campuses.

Grad programs among best

Cooley Law School is tied with three other of the nation’s law schools. The WMU News

Tiger Night tickets on sale

The second annual WMU Night at Comerica Park has been set for June 28, Western Wednesday, when the Detroit Tigers take on the Kansas City Royals in a night home game.

Everyone who purchases tickets by Monday, May 1, will be automatically entered for a chance to win one of three autographed Detroit Tigers items. Individual game tickets are being sold in selected sections through the Detroit Tigers ticket portal. The tickets sold through the WMU Night ticket portal include a commemorative hat voucher and a $5 donation to the WMU Alumni Association Legacy Scholarship.

Packages are available for one of three special MyWMU pre-game tailgates, and chartered buses are available to take fans to Comerica Park.

For more information, visit mywmu.com.