PSSO plans two April activities

The deadline is Friday, April 14, to nominate members of the Professional Support Staff Organization for the PSSO Service Award. This year’s awards luncheon is Friday, May 5. The award nomination forms and luncheon tickets are available at wmich.edu/pssso. Also, mark your calendars for PSSO’s 2017 Adopt-A-Highway spring pick up scheduled for Saturday, April 22. For full details, contact Pat Wilcox at pat.wilcox@wmich.edu or (269) 387-2906.

Golf league for employees to start

Faculty and staff are invited to register for an 11-week intramural sports golf league, which will play on Tuesdays from May 9 through Aug. 1 at the Prairies Golf Club. There will be no league play May 30 or July 4. Cost is $170 per person for walkers or $258 per person with a cart. Registration is due by Thursday, April 27. For details, visit wmich.edu/rec/intramurals/golfleague.

Apply for Assessment Fellows Grant

Assessment Fellows Grant applications are due Friday, April 28. Awards in $4,000 increments totaling $20,000 are available for research on student learning outcomes as assessment and program quality improvement with an emphasis on student learning. For details, visit wmich.edu/assessment/grants.

Health center makes announcements

The Sindecuse Health Center will be closed from noon to 1 p.m. Friday, April 28, to allow staff to attend a professional development event. In addition, the center has access to limited supplies of yellow fever vaccine for travel clinic patients. Travelers will be vaccinated on a first-scheduled, first-served basis.

Final Gold Gathering scheduled

The final Gold Gathering faculty-staff mixer of 2016-17 is set for 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, April 20, in the Fetzer Center lobby. Complimentary light hors d’oeuvres and a cash bar will be available. The Meemic-Redman Agency is sponsoring the event.

Commencement ceremonies set

Four commencement ceremonies will be held Saturday, April 29, in Miller Auditorium. Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder will speak during the 9 a.m. ceremony and an honorary degree (see page 2 of this issue) will be presented during the 7:30 p.m. exercises.

The ceremonies and students they are geared toward are: 9 a.m., College of Aviation and Haworth College of Business; 12:30 p.m., College of Engineering and Applied Sciences and College of Health and Human Services; 4 p.m., College of Education and Human Development, College of Fine Arts, and Extended University Programs; and 7:30 p.m., College of Arts and Sciences.

Economist, labor expert is new WMU president

Edward B. Montgomery, dean and professor of economics at Georgetown University’s McCourt School of Public Policy, will become the ninth president of WMU Aug. 1.

Montgomery, a nationally known labor economist who played major roles in the presidential administrations of both presidents William Clinton and Barack Obama, was selected by unanimous vote of the WMU Board of Trustees during a special meeting April 12. His selection follows a national search to find a successor to John M. Dunn. Dunn had announced a June 30 retirement date, but now will continue through July 31.

“We were fortunate to have a number of gifted candidates emerge through the search process,” says WMU Trustee William Johnston, who led the 22-member Presidential Search Advisory Committee that helped identify Montgomery as the successful finalist. “Edward Montgomery’s personal demeanor, commitment to transformational change and extensive academic background resonated with all of us involved in the search and spoke directly to the themes that emerged from our numerous listening sessions with University stakeholders.”

During a more than 35-year academic career, Montgomery has held faculty positions at Carnegie Mellon and Michigan State universities as well as the University of Maryland, winning teaching awards some five times. He has been at Georgetown since 2010.

National impact

During the Clinton administration, Montgomery served as chief economist, then counselor and assistant secretary for the Department of Labor before being named deputy secretary of Labor. In the latter role, the department’s second highest post, he oversaw operations of a $33 billion department.

During the Obama administration, Montgomery was a member of the president’s auto task force and led the inter-agency White House Council for Auto Communities and Workers. That position put him in a role national media dubbed “the Auto Czar” and affirmed his view of the synergistic role universities can play in regional economic development. He says the potential impact Continued on page 4

WMU, K College grant bolsters Asia-related classes

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded a $362,000 Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Grant to WMU and its consortium partner, Kalamazoo College.

The three-year grant will support a community-based education program called the South Asia- and Southeast Asia-related topics into their courses. These semester-long, intercollegial workshops will focus on methods and strategies to integrate that content into existing courses at both schools.

“The more faculty who incorporate this content into their pre-existing courses, the greater the impact we expect to see,” says Blyth, who serves as the grant program’s co-principal investigator.

WMU will offer courses in Vietnamese and Hindi-Urdu languages through the Department of World Languages Continued on page 3
Around campus and beyond

Event combines art, libraries
Poetry readings, music, faculty talks, dance set to poetry, new books, chooral works and more are being highlighted during Living the Arts in the Libraries events at WMU this April. For the third year, University Libraries is showcasing the arts for three weeks, with activities running through Friday, April 21.

Exhibits and events will be open during regular hours at Waldo Library and the Zhang Legacy Collections Center. A collaboration with WMU arts and humanities groups across campus, many of the upcoming activities are short pop-up events that may last from five to 15 minutes.

Economist to focus on immigration
Giovanni Peri from the University of California at Davis will discuss the dollars and cents of immigration at noon Wednesday, April 19, in 2028 Brown Hall. His talk, “The Great Economic Potential of Immigration to the U.S.,” is part of the Werner Sichel Lecture Series. It is free and open to the public. A light lunch reception will be available after the lecture.

Various summer seminars planned
Faculty development has scheduled a variety of programs this summer to help grad students and full- and part-time faculty members keep moving forward in their careers as well as teaching. Advance registration is required. For details, visit wmich.edu/news/2017/04/39195.

Upjohn center open houses continue
The W.E. Upjohn Center for the Study of Geographical Change at WMU is continuing to hold periodic open houses to showcase its world-class facilities and services. The next scheduled open house will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, April 20. The center is located in Wellborn Hall.

Board of Trustees to meet April 27
The next meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees meeting will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, April 27, in Heritage Hall. Agenda and other related information will be published at wmich.edu/trustees closer to the meeting date.

Series to feature two familiar faces
Don Cooney, social work, will be the featured speaker for the upcoming Mercantile Bank of Michigan Breakfast Speaker Series. Cooney, who is vice mayor of Kalamazoo, will present “The Foundation for Excellence: The City of Promise Moves Forward” at 8 a.m. Friday, April 28, in 2150 of Schneider Hall.

The featured speaker for Friday, May 19, will be Kathy Beauregard, director of athletics. Both talks are free and open to the public and will begin with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Reservations are required at wmich.edu/business/mercantile-rsvp (269) 387-6059.

Employee giving celebration slated
Development and alumni relations will host a wrap-up celebration for this year’s Bronx+Broncos campus campaign from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, May 5, in the Heritage Hall Ballroom. Complimentary appetizers and an open bar will be available as well as prizes. For more information, visit mywmu.com and click Giving then Employee Giving.

30 Years—Arlene K. Buchanan, building custodial and support services, and Jacqueline R. Mills, cashiering.
25 Years—Shannon R. Penny, occupu-
tional therapy, and Karen L. Severson, music.
20 Years—Kathy D. Gerow, nursing, and Janice K. Quakenbush, student affairs.
15 Years—Sue Brodsky, Faculty Senate; Thomas R. Manquardt, information technology; and Gratuvu V. Winston III, College of Aviation.
10 Years—Vun Doublette, multicultural affairs; Ruth Halcomb, associate vice president for finance; and Thomas R. Mansfield, public safety.
Five Years—Cari Burke, accountancy; Shame Cliftell, intercollegiate athletics; Brian M. Dubris, associate vice president for student affairs; Douglas C. Hammerberg, public safety; Warren L. Hills, Human Resources; Derrick McIver, management; Deanna M. Mert, counselor education and counseling psychology; and Kathryn Ann Muvin, Center for Disability Services.

Service anniversaries

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.

Theatre professor wins NEH grant
Lofton L. Durham, theatre, has received a $6,000 award from the National Endowment for the Humanities for “Medieval Theatre at the Center: Jaques Miller’s Destruction of Troy and the Making of the French Nation.” The project explores how theatre, both live and in a documentary, shaped and reflected widely held beliefs about the emergent French nation from the 12th through the 17th centuries. It is one of 228 humanities projects and programs funded by the NEH nationwide and one of just 69 projects in the Summer Stipend category chosen for funding.

“For me, the Summer Stipend represents essential support for my research agenda by enabling me to commit two full months to the project,” Durham says. “This outside support, plus the support of Western for my (spring 2018) sabbatical, will push my book project over the finish line.”

Group re-elects marketing specialist
Frank M. Gambino, marketing, has been re-elected chairman of the Food Industry University Coalition for an additional two-year term.

The coalition advances a collaborative agenda of industry-focused academies and research. Its mission is to leverage the combined wealth of its 16 member universities’ intellectual capital, strategic perspective and third-party status to provide thought leadership for the food industry in dealing with challenging issues.

That coalition is part of the National Grocers Association, which is the national trade association representing the retail and wholesale grocers that comprise the independent sector of the food distribution industry. Also represented are affiliated associations, manufacturers, service suppliers and others.

Counselor earns local NAACP award
Phillip D. Johnson, counselor education, received the 2016 Humanitarian Award by the Metropolitan Kalamazoo Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

That award is a direct reflection of the contributions Johnson has made to improve the lives of people of color in the areas of politics, education, religion, civil rights and community service. Throughout his career, he has focused much of his efforts toward decreasing the impact of our racialized society on African Americans, specifically African-American males.

Johnson, an associate professor and coordinator of college counseling, has presented his work at numerous conferences and has his scholarly writing published in various national journals. He is a member of WMU’s University-Community Empowerment Center and the Metropolitan Kalamazoo Branch of the NAACP’s Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and Gallilee Baptist Church.
Spring semester Make a Difference winners to be feted at April 17 reception

The University community is invited to honor 10 staff members as outstanding employees during a reception at 2 p.m. Monday, April 17, in 157 Bernhard Center. The event recognizes the spring 2017 recipients of the Semiannual Make a Difference Award. The recipients will each receive $300, before taxes, and a commemorative certificate. They are:

- Barbara S. Adams, music;
- Kelli A. Bond, vice president for research’s office;
- Regina E. Buckner, University Libraries;
- Eric N. Epplett, College of Aviation;
- Tom Grossman, College of Aviation;
- Michelle E. Hruka, provost’s office;
- Deborah A. O’Keeffe, music;
- Carol Reid, College of Education and Human Development;
- Colleen A. Sante, Spanish; and
- Laura C. Weber, business services.

The Make a Difference Award Program is a campuswide peer-to-peer initiative that recognizes University staff members for their outstanding accomplishments and daily investment of energy and creativity. Up to 15 staff members may receive the award in each of two semiannual award periods every academic year. These fall and spring semiannual award winners constitute the pool from which four Annual Make a Difference Award recipients—the best of the best—are chosen. The annual award comes with a before-tax prize of $1,200.

All award winners are selected by a committee of their peers from the employee groups that participate in the award program. The groups are the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; Michigan State Employees Association; Police Officers Association; and WMU Staff Compensation System, members of which are represented by the nonbargaining Administrative Professional Association and Professional Support Staff Organization.

Continued from page 1

WMU, K College grant bolsters Asia-related classes and Literatures under the guidance of its department chair, Molly Lynde-Reccia. In addition, the colleges of Arts and Sciences and Fine Arts will expand offerings in content-related courses about South and Southeast Asia. New classes on Bollywood, Vietnamese traditions, and new media among diasporic Southeast and South Asian populations are expected to draw student interest.

The consortium also will develop more study abroad programs, internships with local cultural organizations and other opportunities for WMU and K College students to interact with people from the two targeted regions. The Southeast Michigan Education Initiative on the East Indian Ocean draws students to interact with people from the two targeted regions. The Southeast Michigan Education Initiative on the East Indian Ocean draws students to the expertise and experience of faculty at both institutions, WMU’s Alexander M. Cannon, music, is the grant program’s other co-principal investigator and Nathan L.M. Tabor, history, is the program’s manager. K College’s Carol Anderson, religion, will coordinate with Tabor on the workshops and activities related to South Asia.

A substantial number of people who reside in West Michigan trace their heritage to South Asian nations such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan and to Southeast Asian nations such as Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. The 2010 U.S. Census reports that southwest Michigan is home to more than 3,500 people of South Asian ancestry. The Southeast Asian population in southwest Michigan includes nearly 6,000 people of Vietnamese descent alone, most of them residing around Grand Rapids.
Honorary degree to be awarded to Antonio Flores

Antonio R. Flores, president and chief executive officer of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, will receive an honorary degree from WMU during commencement ceremonies Saturday, April 29.

Flores, who is a WMU alumnus, will receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters. He has led HACU since 1996 and previously been honored by two Michigan governors. He has served institutions and has nearly tripled in number.

HACU is the leading voice for Hispanic-serving institutions and has nearly tripled its membership during Flores’ tenure. It now represents more than 400 institutions of higher education, collectively serving more than 2 million Hispanic students.

Economist, labor expert is new WMU president

of a high-quality university is enormous and is a key reason the WMU presidency was so attractive to him.

"I was drawn to the opportunity to lead an up-and-coming student-centric comprehensive university with deep ties to the local and regional economy and community. Its strengths in the traditional arts and sciences, coupled with strong programs in such areas as aviation, engineering, business, medicine and others make it an institution with enormous potential," Montgomery says.

"Job No. 1 for me is getting to know the faculty, staff, students and alumni communities. Working together, I know we can build on the strong foundation laid by President Dunn and make WMU the institution of choice for students from the state and region."

Researcher with Michigan ties

As a researcher, Montgomery has focused on state and local economic growth, wage and pension determination, savings behavior, productivity and economic dynamics, social insurance programs, and unions.

He has worked on research efforts with Kalamazoo’s W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research since the 1980s, visiting the Kalamazoo community a number of times.

Montgomery earned a bachelor’s degree from Pennsylvania State University and both master’s and doctoral degrees in economics from Harvard University.

He and his wife, Kari, a Michigan native, have three grown children—Lindsay, Elizabeth and Edward.

Montgomery will officially take office on Aug. 1. His five-year contract calls for him to have an annual salary of $450,000. A deferred compensation/retirement package will provide an additional $50,000 per year.