New learning groups seeking members

Two of the University’s learning communities are accepting applications for 2017-18. The Broncos FIRST project is seeking faculty and staff to join its Professional Learning Community cohort for the upcoming academic year. The aim of the program is to increase the persistence of low-income students at WMU. Applications will be accepted through Friday, June 30. For details, visit wnich.edu/changesearch/broncosfirst/plc.

Funded training available in India

Faculty members across disciplines are encouraged to apply for a fully funded training in India as well as a $2,500 honorarium as part of the Southwest Michigan Education Initiative on the East Indian Ocean. Four faculty recipients will be awarded an opportunity to travel to India Dec. 8-22 and receive curriculum training on South Asia to develop future course materials. Apply by Wednesday, May 31. For more information, visit wnich.edu/global/uuid.

WMU wins blood donation contest

WMU beat Central Michigan University in the March 31 Blood Bash, winning the friendly annual contest to generate blood product for the American Red Cross for the fourth consecutive year. WMU collected 234 units while CMU collected 126 units—enough product to save over 1,000 lives.

The win was due to some 300 donors, as well as WMU’s Red Cross Club under the direction of graduating senior Jimmy Brand and the logistical help of members of various Greek chapters and Army ROTC.

Soccer Complex getting field upgrades

The Soccer Complex is undergoing a $75,000 renovation in which the existing surface is being removed and several upgrades are being made through the installation of a new playing field. The WMU Soccer Complex has seen extensive renovations over the past six years, transforming the complex into one of the finest in the Mid-American Conference.

The new project is expected to be completed before the start of the fall season. Frazz mowing, a process originally developed and perfected on European soccer fields, is being used to remove the top layer of the playing surface to correct issues with the field. In the final stages, the soil will be prepared for seed and new varieties of grass tailored specifically for soccer pitches will be introduced.

Construction underway on wayfinding initiative

Construction on new exterior signage and a reconfigured set of campus roadway and building signs began the first week of May to make it easier for people to navigate WMU’s campus. The effort to improve wayfinding is scheduled for completion by mid-August. It has been in the planning stage for more than two years and has included input from faculty, staff and students. The national consulting firm Cloud Gehshan Associates has been working on the project with a campuswide committee to improve the experience of visitors, students, faculty and staff, regardless of whether their chosen transportation is by vehicle, foot, bicycle or bus.

Campus facilities named for three friends

More than 50 years of friendship are being honored with the naming of three WMU facilities for a trio of men who met on campus as students and went on to become WMU trustees, Detroit business and civic leaders, and champions of young people.

Acting at its April 27 meeting, the WMU Board of Trustees approved the action for:

- Ronald E. Hall, a 1965 alumnus, Detroit civic and business leader, and automotive executive who died June 1, 2016, half way into his eight-year term as a WMU Trustee;
- Dennis W. Archer, a 1965 alumnus, former Detroit mayor, former member of the Michigan Supreme Court and past president of the American Bar Association as well as a former trustee; and
- William F. Pickard, a 1964 alumnus who is a current WMU trustee, longtime Detroit entrepreneur, and founder and chairman of the Global Automotive Alliance.

The trustees’ action recognizes a $3,050,000 gift recently made by Pickard to the University and celebrates the three friends’ lifelong bonds and ties to WMU. It has resulted in the two residence halls that comprise the Western

Continued on page 4

Pact allows Aquinas students to earn WMU degrees

Starting this fall, Aquinas College students will be able to select engineering as their career goal and earn a bachelor’s degree through WMU’s College of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

The partnership between Aquinas and WMU, announced May 3, means that Aquinas students can spend their first two years earning an Associate of Arts degree from Aquinas and then continue seamlessly on to earn a bachelor’s degree in industrial and entrepreneurial engineering through a WMU program based at the college. The program is the first of several engineering majors already planned as future degree offerings.

“This innovative partnership will help students reap the benefits of an Aquinas liberal

Continued on page 4

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Other wayfinding improvement goals include providing a hierarchy of signage elements for campus approach, arrival, circulation, parking and buildings; maintaining a consistent and appropriate image for the University; and developing a consistent nomenclature for the naming of campuses, streets, buildings and landmarks.

Features to be added during the construction phase include new and retrofitted entrance gateways to the campus and new vehicle and pedestrian signage as well as new building iden-
Family entertainment events slated

A new summer event series featuring family-friendly entertainment will open its inaugural season Friday, May 12, on the Grand Lawn of Heritage Hall. Called the “Broncos Night Out Series,” these monthly open-air events are free and will include snacks and beverages for the first 250 guests to arrive.

May 12 is billed as movie night. Heritage Hall tours and outdoor tailgate games will start at 6 p.m. and “Finding Dory” will be shown on the big screen at 9:15 p.m. The remaining Friday events planned are live music June 9, improv night July 21 and a second movie night Aug. 11. For details, visit mywmu.com/nightout.

Medieval scholars swarm campus

The 52nd International Congress on Medieval Studies starts today and runs through Sunday, May 14. It draws some 3,000 of the world’s leading scholars to campus, hundreds of which will live in campus residence halls. Running concur rently with this year’s congress will be the new Mostly Medieval Theatre Festival featuring four different theatrical presentations in the Gilmore Theatre Complex.

Kalamazoo County residents and those with a valid WMU ID may attend the congress at no cost. Local attendees may register on site in the lobby of Goldsworth Valley’s Eldridge-Fox Halls if they have not preregistered. For complete details, visit wmich.edu/medievalcongress.

New lifelong learning classes offered

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at WMU member registration is underway for the summer session’s 23 courses and three trips. Nonmembers may register starting Tuesday, May 23. For details, check out the summer 2017 catalog online at wmich.edu/oll/courses.

Japanese cooking classes scheduled

The Soga Japan Center will offer a Japanese cooking class near the main campus from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, May 18, and again at the same time Thursday, May 25, in Solid Grounds. The cost of $5 for WMU students and $10 for non-students includes ingredients. To register, send an email to michiko.yoshimoto@wmich.edu with a preferred meeting date.

Transportation is conference focus

Registration continues through Friday, May 19, for the Summer Conference on Livable Communities, which is open to anyone interested in advancing environmentally sustainable transportation systems. For details, visit wmich.edu/transportationcenter/programs.

Various Western Wellness events set

Walks and other summer events have been set for WMU employees. They include the Poker Walk Tuesday, May 23, and a Goldsworth Valley Walk with Steve Keto, landscape services, Wednesday, May 31. For details and to register, visit wmich.edu/wellness/programs.

History professor’s book published

Linda Borish, history, has co-written a second edition of “Sports in American History: From Colonization to Globalization.” The other co-authors are Gerald Gems from North Central College and Gertrud Pfister from the University of Copenhagen.

The enhanced book provides a text for under graduate courses in sport history and American studies; resources for graduate students and scholars in sport history and sport studies; and reference material for libraries, historians, sport scientists and sport enthusiasts.

The text journeys from the early American past to the present, offering a view of the evolution of American sporting practices. It provides insights into new and alternative perspectives, examines sport as a social and cultural phenomenon, generates a better understanding of current sport practices, and considers future developments in U.S. sport.

Engineer elected to national board

Andrew A. Kline, associate dean for research and graduate education in the engineering college, was one of seven officers elected to the American Society for Engineering Education Board of Directors in April.

Kline was elected by the society’s membership to chair the Council of Sections, Zone II and along with his co-officers, will begin his term during the society’s annual conference in June in Columbus.

He came to the University in 2001 and was appointed to his current post in 2016. A tenured professor of chemical and paper engineering, Kline has taught chemical engineering courses from the freshman through graduate level. His current research efforts in engineering and service-learning education are funded by grants from the National Science Foundation and Learn and Serve America.

Professor named to state commission

Gov. Rick Snyder has appointed Matthew Mingus, public affairs and administration, to the Michigan Human Trafficking Commission. Members will serve two-year terms expiring March 1, 2019.

The 14-member commission is partly charged with making recommendations to the state Legislature to improve laws addressing human trafficking violations and establishing a program to improve public awareness of human trafficking. Its activities also include providing information and assistance to state, local and tribal officials and other appropriate professionals and reviewing existing services available to assist human trafficking victims.

Mingus has served as director of his school and its doctoral program. His research interests include comparative public administration, comparative systems of decentralization, and U.S.-Canadian relations, borders and national sovereignty changes.
WMU earns more sustainability awards

WMU has earned two more top honors in award programs that recognize environmental stewardship. The University received the top award in the higher education category of the 2017 American School & University's Green Cleaning Award competition, while the College of Health and Human Services building brought home the highest award in the category’s “Biggest Loser” title in the 2016 Michigan Battle of the Buildings energy savings event.

Green cleaning is a movement that is defined as cleaning to protect health without harming the environment. Building custodial and support services has been working since 2004 to adopt greener practices, and WMU is now one of only five higher education institutions to be Green Seal certified for sustainability in its building custodial practices and the only one in Michigan.

The unit is responsible for more than 50 campus buildings as well as athletic fields and their associated structures. In all, 168 custodians take care of 4.2 million cleanable square feet of building space used almost daily by some 27,000 students and employees. WMU’s winning green cleaning efforts are detailed at length in the April issue of American School & University magazine. It is available by visiting bit.ly/2pGo6hF.

The Michigan Battle of the Buildings results were announced April 19 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, during the 2017 Energy Summit. The contest is an awards and recognition program for energy-use reduction that is open to all commercial buildings throughout the state. This year’s competition included 457 buildings in 10 categories.

WMU’s building entry rose to the top out of 64 million square feet of Michigan real estate that competed. It demonstrated the greatest percentage-based reduction in energy-use intensity, with a 17.4 percent decrease in energy use in the 242,000-square-foot facility.

May focuses on hearing, speech

The University community and Southwestern Michigan residents are encouraged to schedule hearing exams at the Van Riper Language, Speech and Hearing Clinic during May—Better Hearing and Speech Month.

The clinic also provides aphasia services, speech-language evaluation and therapy, and services for swallowing disorders and voice and respiration, among other services. For an appointment, call (269) 387-8047. For more information about the clinic, visit wmich.edu/unifiedclinics/vanrit⭞uating.

Journalism students write for issue of Encore

What would college journalists choose to write about if they were given an entire magazine to fill with their best work?

That question is answered in May’s issue of Encore Magazine, a regional lifestyle magazine based in Kalamazoo and serving Southwest Michigan. The May 2017 issue was written almost entirely by a team of junior- and senior-level WMU journalism students taught by Sue Ellen Christian, communication.

For their senior capstone experience, Carolyn Diana, Samantha Markze, Samantha May, Jay Penny and Gregson Steele conceptualized, reported, researched and wrote the feature articles in the magazine and also, in many cases, took photographs to accompany the articles.

The aspiring journalists’ articles are in keeping with Encore’s mission of showcasing the greater Kalamazoo community, but, the articles have a decidedly WMU bent.

“In a time when journalism is under fire and people wonder about its future, we want to showcase just how important journalism education is,” Encore editor Marie Lee says. “Not only do these young writers give us great stories about people and initiatives at their own university, but this issue spotlights their talents and the outstanding journalism training they are receiving through WMU’s School of Communication.”

The issue is available online at encorekalamazoo.com, at distribution points around Kalamazoo and in a digital edition at bit.ly/2pLBUn.

PSSO recognizes three award winners at luncheon

The Professional Support Staff Organization celebrated the winners of its 2017 annual awards during a May 5 luncheon in the Fetzer Center.

Receiving the organization’s service Awards were Beth van den Hombergh, Career and Student Employment Services, and Amber Hutson, psychology. The Spirit Award was handed down by last year’s winner to Mark Johnson, public safety.

The luncheon’s theme for this year—“Let’s Go Cruising With the Broncos”—was nautical. This year’s designated charity was the University’s Invisible Need Project, an multi-faceted initiative intended to serve students with unmet needs while strengthening the culture of giving at WMU.

Seventeen in running for annual campuswide award

Members of the WMU community have through Wednesday, May 31, to help decide who will be this year’s four Make a Difference Annual Award winners by submitting additional supporting information.

In the running are Barbara S. Adams, music; Andrew Bachmann, public safety; Kelli A. Bond, vice president for research’s office; Regina Buckner, University Libraries; Eric N. Epllett, College of Aviation; Adrienne D. Frazza, First-Year Experience; Todd T. Gerry, Fetzer Center; Tom Grossman, College of Aviation; Michelle E. Hruska, provost’s office; Amber L. Huson, psychology; Walter T. Malone, Center for Academic Success Programs; Deanna M. Mertz, counselor education and counseling psychology; Deborah A. O’Keeffe, music; Thomas K. Ramsdell, Logistical Services; Carol A. Reid, College of Education and Human Development; Colleen A. Sante, Spanish; and Laura C. Weber, Business Services.

Specific guidelines for submitting new information in support of any of this year’s 17 annual award candidates are posted at wmich.edu/makeadifference.

Obituaries—wmich.edu/news/obituaries

Joseph Asenbauer, a retired equipment operator for landscape services, died March 20. He was 93. Asenbauer joined the staff in 1977 and retired in 1988 after 11 years of service.

Annette LaVier, a former utilization coordinator in the Media Services unit of University Libraries, died April 8. She was 80. LaVier came to WMU in 1964 and left in 1990 after nearly 27 years of service.

James Martin, a retired service officer in public safety, died Dec. 6, 2016. He was 83. Martin joined the staff in 1970 and retired in 1998 after almost 28 years of service.

Clara Ouding, a retired cook in Dining Services, died April 24. She was 97. Ouding joined the staff in 1965 and retired in 1984 after more than 19 years of service.

Parking, road closures in effect

Minor traffic disruptions and parking lot closures will be experienced on campus this summer as demolition begins on McCracken Hall.

Three parking lots will be closed from now through Friday, Aug. 4. They are Lot 23, across from Elmwood Apartments; Lot 28, the Waldos Library lot off Arcadia Road; and Lot 67, the Burnhams lot off Arcadia Road. In addition, Arcadia Road is closed from Waldos Library to Western Avenue to make way for construction equipment. The road is expected to reopen to traffic in early August.

Questions about the closures may be directed to Shannon Sauer-Becker, construction, at shannon.s.becker@wmich.edu or (269) 387-8502. For maps showing campus lots and roads, visit wmich.edu/maps/printables.php.
On Campus with Peter Thompson

Student interaction is the most critical, and rewarding, part of Peter Thompson’s job at WMU. As a coach in the Seita Scholars Program, he works with students throughout their time on campus, helping them process what’s happened to them in foster care and dealing with past trauma and mental health issues.

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The University is doing a major reorganization of its admissions infrastructure in order to meet strategic recruitment goals that include a dramatic boost in the number of out-of-state students attending WMU.

The new structure is the latest step in a process that began this spring with a reduction in nonresident tuition and a change to the way the University handles assignment of nonresident status, says Terrence M. Curran, associate provost for University Programs, which is lower than WMU’s tuition rate for Extended University Programs, which is lower than WMU’s tuition rate for nonresidents.

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