Board of Trustees meeting scheduled
The next meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 20, in 157-159 Bernhard Center. Closer to the meeting date, details and key agenda items will be posted at wmich.edu/trustees.

WMUK to begin fall drive Sept. 8
WMUK 102.1 FM will begin its fall 2017 on-air membership drive Friday, Sept. 8, and continue the annual event through Friday, Sept. 15. The pledge goal is $175,000. Contributors to the campaign will be automatically entered into a drawing to win a pair of tickets to see the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra present “Star Wars: A New Hope” in concert Thursday, Oct. 12, in Miller Auditorium. To contribute or obtain more details, visit wmk.org.

Time to update employee records
All faculty and staff are asked to review their personal employee records and make changes as necessary by Monday, Sept. 18. Updates received after the deadline will not be reflected in the 2017-18 WMU Directory. An employee’s privacy flag must be set to “Yes” to prevent home information from being published in the directory.

Data areas to review focus on privacy wishes, emergency contacts, campus as well as home addresses and phone numbers, and ethnic group affiliations. To make changes, visit the My Self Service channel in GoWMU. Select Employee Self Service, then Personal Information Summary. Visit wmich.edu/hp/personaldata for an explanation of WMU’s privacy flag and other details.

Free employee photo session slated
Faculty and staff may have their official University photos taken between 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 8, in Walwood Hall’s Heining Emeriti Lounge. No appointment is required. For more photo-session dates and locations in September, visit wmich.edu/universityrelations/photography.

Learner support initiative concludes
Phase II of the Learner Support Program Review and Planning cycle ended Aug. 31. It began in 2016 and focused on 104 learner support programs offered by various WMU units. During Phase II, next- and division-level supervisors completed their reviews of program self-study reports and made planning recommendations. Faculty and staff may access the reports through the Program Review SharePoint Gateway at wmich.edu/effectiveness/program/support.

Western News returns from hiatus
Western News has returned from its summer hiatus. Submission and deadline information is available in the masthead on Page 2 of this issue as well as at wmich.edu/westernnews.

Make a Difference staffers to be feted at convocation
Editor’s note: Four campuswide award programs will be celebrated during the Fall Convocation Friday, Oct. 6. This issue recognizes winners from one of those programs. The remaining winners will be recognized in the Sept. 21 and Oct. 5 issues (see Page 8 for more about Fall Convocation).

The Annual Make a Difference Award goes to four people and is the highest accolade WMU bestows specifically on non-faculty employees for their service.
• Adrienne Fraaza is Fall Welcome program manager in the First-Year Experience unit. She came to WMU as a student and worked as a student employee from 2001 to 2006, after which she was hired as coordinator of Fall Welcome. A part-time professional staff member, Fraaza supervises and provides training for more than 200 student leaders and develops programming that impacts some 3,000 first-year and transfer students each year.

President’s inauguration set for Sept. 15
The formal installation of Edward Montgomery as the ninth president of WMU will take place during a communitywide celebration slated for Friday, Sept. 15.

“Harnessing the power of partnership, embracing the strength in diversity” is the theme of inaugural events that will include an 11 a.m. ceremony in Miller Auditorium to formally mark the beginning of both the Montgomery presidency and the next chapter in the community-University partnership.

The timing of the free public event was set to make it part of WMU’s annual CommUniverCity weekend that has traditionally focused on the ties between the University and its home community. Academic delegates from around the nation are expected to join Montgomery extended family members, campus and community leaders, and WMU students, faculty and staff to officially mark the transition of power to a new president.

Following an informal procession of faculty and delegates, the occasion will be marked by brief speeches, video presentations and musical segments featuring ensembles from WMU’s celebrated School of Music. Board of Trustees Chair Jeffrey A. Rinveld will formally install the new president, assisted by John M. Dunn, who stepped down July 31 to become president emeritus. Montgomery is expected to deliver his inaugural address after that part of the ceremony.

Following the ceremony in Miller, the celebration will move outside onto the Fountain Plaza for a picnic luncheon. That event is designed to serve the first 1,500 people attending.

CommUniverCity weekend events also include a Saturday, Sept. 16, afternoon of tailgating as well as football at 7 p.m. under the lights in Waldo Stadium vs. the University of Idaho. This will be the 26th consecutive year for the popular fall celebration. The corporate, pre-game tailgate on Hyames Field will run from 4 to 6:30 p.m. and is by invitation only. Community tailgating also will take place during the afternoon in designated lots around Waldo Stadium.

Montgomery, a labor economist, was selected as WMU president in April by the WMU Board of Trustees and began his tenure Aug. 1. He previously had been the dean of the McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University and earlier had held positions in both the Clinton and Obama administrations.
Go to the "Around campus and beyond" section of the text to find information about the 10th anniversary of the Richmond Center for Visual Arts in the Kalamazoo area. It features a project that will reimagine Goldsworth Studio, with "Alma Latina" radio show's 40th anniversary celebrated in various events, including a reception commemorating the "Alma Latina" radio show's 40th anniversary. The Kalamazoo Hispanic Heritage Month plans include multicultural affairs, Hispanic-themed events, and public career fairs. The Willie D. Smith exhibition "Beyond the Edge of the Solar System." Everyone is welcome to attend these free events.

Research-related workshops slated
Free Discover Research discovery workshops for WMU faculty and research staff have been planned for this month. "Stories from the Trenches: Building a Successful Research Career at WMU" will be held from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 19, in the Fetter Center. Lunch will be provided. Registration is required at waps.wmich.edu/workshops by Friday, Sept. 15. "Finding Success with an NIH R01" will be held from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 21, in 2130 Sangren Hall.

Multiple career fairs to start Sept. 20
Several public career fairs have been scheduled this fall. First up is the Engineering Expo from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 20, in Floyd Hall. Visit wmich.edu/career for more details. Visit wmich.edu/business/career for information about fairs for engineering; integrated supply management; marketing, food/sales marketing; and business job seekers.

Successful Research Career at WMU" will be held from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 19, in the Fetter Center. Lunch will be provided. Registration is required at waps.wmich.edu/workshops by Friday, Sept. 15. "Finding Success with an NIH R01" will be held from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 21, in 2130 Sangren Hall.

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Seita program named finalist for award

Olivevia Williams, the 100th Seita Scholars Program graduate. (Photo by Mike Lanka)

The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities Aug. 25 named WMU one of five finalists for its 2017 Project Degree Completion Award.

The annual prize is designed to identify, recognize and reward public universities across the country for their work in employing innovative approaches to improve retention and degree completion. The award is open to all 237 APLU members, and the WMU entry selected is its celebrated Seita Scholars Program.

A panel of seven judges reviewed the applications and determined the finalists. The award winner will be announced and all finalists will be recognized at the APLU Annual Meeting Nov. 12-14 in Washington, D.C.

With 112 graduates, the Seita Scholars Program aims to narrow, then eliminate, the achievement gap between students who grew up in the foster care system and the broader population of first-time students. The program helped drive an eight-fold increase in enrollment among Michigan foster youth; narrowed the retention gap between foster youth and the general student body; and raised the six-year graduation rate for foster youth to 29 percent, which is considerably higher than the estimated 5 percent nationally of young people from foster care who complete a bachelor's degree within six years.

The APLU award is part of Project Degree Completion, a joint initiative that APLU and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities developed in which nearly 500 public colleges and universities have pledged to collectively award 3.8 million more degrees by 2025.

Interim provost is among high-level appointments

Several high-level appointments were announced over the summer, including an interim provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Susan Stapleton, the dean of the Graduate College, was appointed to serve for a year in that position, effective July 14. She replaces Timothy Greene, who after nine years in the position will be returning to the faculty in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

Stapleton holds a joint appointment as professor of both chemistry and biological sciences and has been a faculty member at WMU since 1990. She has been serving as Graduate College dean since 2012. Prior to that, she was the associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences for five years.

Another noted researcher, Sherine O. Obare, was named interim vice president for research, effective Aug. 1. Obare replaces Daniel M. Lityny, who had served as vice president for research since 2010 and also is returning to the engineering and applied sciences faculty.

Her appointment, which is pending approval by the WMU Board of Trustees, is expected to last for a minimum of six months while the University undertakes a national search for a permanent research vice president.

Obare is a tenured full professor of chemistry who has been a WMU faculty member since 2004. She has been serving since December 2016 as associate vice president for research. Also appointed pending Board of Trustees approval was Paulo Zagalo-Melo as associate provost of the Haenicke Institute for Global Education, effective Sept. 1. Zagalo-Melo replaces Wolfgang Schlör, who now has a position at Georgia State University.

Western Wellness promotes fitness with new, ongoing programs

The Western Wellness initiative is continuing its efforts to spread health and wellness, offering new as well as tried-and-true programs, classes, workshops and services.

The initiative empowers employees to lead a healthy as well as active lifestyle. It provides a mix of free and low-cost activities at locations such as the Student Recreation Center, which has a new pricing structure for its fitness classes; the Sindecuse Health Center; the West Hills Athletic Club; and volunteer-run wellness hubs within campus units and buildings.

It also encompasses the wellness incentive, a $240 annual reduction in the contributions employees pay per pay period for their WMU health plan coverage. To participate in the incentive, eligible employees sign up through the Sindecuse Health Center, Holtyn & Associates, or their primary care provider and annually complete a health risk assessment, biometric screening and health coaching session.

New Western Wellness programs include the hydration challenge and F45 Functional Training, which is launching Michigan's first F45 college campus studio in the Student Recreation Center. The studio incorporates technology into an array of circuit-based workouts in a team environment to provide a totally immersive experience that is fun and fast. Free "demo days" offer a glimpse of the new facilities are continuing through Sunday, Sept. 17.

Back again this year will be the annual Benefits and Wellness Expo in November as well as scores of activities for employees that address a wide range of fitness levels and health interests, including cardio and yoga classes, cooking demonstrations, emotional intelligence training, and comprehensive one-on-one personal fitness instruction.

For more information, visit the Western Wellness website at wmich.edu/wellness.

Magazine yet again lauds WMU with top-100 ranking

The government and policy magazine Washington Monthly has once again ranked WMU as one of the nation's top-100 universities for producing graduates and research destined to make a difference for the nation.

In its 13th annual assessment, Washington Monthly ranked WMU at No. 97 among national universities. Its college rankings provide a contrast to those published by such publications as U.S. News & World Report and Forbes.

Rather than ranking institutions on such input measures as wealth, fame and exclusivity, schools are rated based on their contribution to the public good in three broad categories: social mobility, which includes recruiting and graduating low-income students; research, which is measured by the production of cutting-edge scholarship and patents; and social conscience, which is measured by the way students are encouraged to give something back to their country.
The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 40, 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service during August.

40 Years—Donald F. Cooney, social work, and Mustaq Luqmani, marketing.

35 Years—Elise DeDoncker, computer science; Marilyn S. Kritzman, communication; Nina Nelson, dance; and Susan Pezo, economics.

30 Years—David A. Burnie, finance and commercial law; Robert F. D’Amelio, intercollegiate athletics; Raghvendra R. Gejji, electrical and computer engineering; Diana Hernández, multicultural affairs; Katherine Joslin, English; William S. Kern, economics; Renata A. Knutk, music; Thomas Knutk, music; David E. Little, music; David M. Lyth, industrial and entrepreneurial engineering and engineering management; Rebecca S. Solomon, Haenicke Institute; Kathleen K. Springsteen, institutional effectiveness; Bruce J. Uchimura, music; and Linda C. Walker, Extended University Programs.

25 Years—Karen R. Blaisure, family and consumer sciences; David Loberg, code; music; David J. Flanagan, management; Jill C. Larson, English; Debra K. Lindstrom, occupational therapy; Michael S. Nesan, anthropology; Craig A. Peterson, finance and commercial law; Zaan K. Snyder, sociology; Donna M. Talbot, educational leadership, research and technology; and Allen T. Webb, English.

20 Years—Richard Adams, music; Jose Antonio Brandao, history; Steven E. Butt, industrial and entrepreneurial engineering and engineering management; Michelle L. Hastings, statistics; James A. Henry, social work; Sandra D. Kelly, information technology; Kathleen M. Kline, mathematics; Michelle Komine, geosciences; Kirk T. Korista, physics; A. K. Kuersten, sociology; Iouri S. Ledyaev, mathematics; Dave Lemberg, geography; Berit G. Miller, occupational therapy; Damon A. Miller, electrical engineering and computer engineering; Mark Orbe, communication; James R. Palmisano, history; Alan Rea, business information systems; John Saillant, English; Lori Sams, music; Vince Torano, art; Xiaojun Wang, world languages and literatures; and Steven W. Ziebarth, mathematics.

15 Years—Omar Araguzlan, finance and commercial law; Kim Ballard, Center for Academic Success Programs; Karen Bondarchuk, art; Maira Bunda, University Libraries; Allison L. Downey, teaching, learning and educational studies; Karen D. D’Amelio, intercollegiate athletics; Amy D. Murphy, construction services; and Lori A. Wingate, Evaluation Center.

10 Years—Erik J. Dantes, Facilities Management; Raymond Jeffrey A. Stone, intercollegiate athletics.

5 Years—Erik J. Dantes, Facilities Management; Raymond Jeffrey A. Stone, intercollegiate athletics.

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

35 Years—Dace Copeland, provost’s office, and Dennis R. Corbin, intercollegiate athletics.

30 Years—Jeffrey A. Stone, intercollegiate athletics.

25 Years—Michael Cannon, music; Lisa R. Colson, music; John D. Colson, music; David J. Colson, computer science; Taylor Andrew Jorgensen, industrial and entrepreneurial engineering and engineering management; Jana K. Murphy, management; and Kelly Weathers, family and consumer sciences; Mingming Feng, accountancy; Jennifer Marie Foster, counselor education and counseling psychology; Brian J. Fuller, Sindecuse Health Center; Maria E. Gigante, English; Tara Rae Gish, Online Education; Gerard Lee Gobeil, construction; Sarah Good, Sindecuse Health Center; Angel L. Goulin-Rivera, family and consumer sciences; Annette N. Hamel, communication; Andrew J. Hennlich, art; Amanda Helen Hoger, electrical and computer engineering; James P. Holland, intercollegiate athletics; Jennifer S. Hudson, mechanical and aerospace engineering; Karen K. Kness, music; Dwaunda N. Lampkin, theatre; Annie R. Lemmer, public safety; Kristina M. Lemmer, mechanical and aerospace engineering; Ramona B. Lewis, educational leadership, research and technology; Laurel F. Olsteen, management; Grace M. Orlando, Sindecuse Health Center; Roshona Dionn Porter, residence life; Selena Protacio, special education and literacy studies; Andrew J. Rushkin, music; Benjamin J. Reigle, theatre; Dan P. Renstrom, social work; Karen S. Schieman, nursing; Kelly L. Schultz, enrollment management; Thomas D. Schultz, accountancy; Dee Ann Sherwood, social work; Jeremy M. Stiskin, music; James R. Springstead, chemical and paper engineering; Joyashish Thakurta, geosciences; Caroline VanDerMaa, development and alumni relations; and Marcellis M. Zondag, marketing.

Trustees grant tenure to 24 on faculty

The WMU Board of Trustees approved the tenure of 24 University faculty during its June 29 meeting, effective with the beginning of the 2017-18 academic year.

Granted tenure: Christopher Biggs, music; Denise Bowen, physician assistant; Jennifer Brown, nursing; Tracy DeMars, teaching, learning and educational studies; Kathryn Docherty, biological sciences; Jessica Frieder, psychology; Maria Gigante, English; Jennifer Harrison, social work; Jeremy Hiehle, aviation sciences; Nancy Hock, occupational therapy; Tiffany Lee-Parker, physician assistant; Ramona Lewis, educational leadership, research and technology; Yan Lu, biological sciences; Jerry McGlaughlin, counselor education and counseling psychology; Lei Meng, geography; Torraine Mitchmerhuizen, aviation sciences; Edward Montgomery, economics; James Penner, accountancy; Selena “Maria” Protacio, special education and literacy studies; Andrew Rathbun, music; Anise Strong, history; Elizabeth Terrel, theatre; Xiaodan “Abby” Wang, management; and Kelly Wethers, family and consumer sciences.
Summer News

WMU made plenty of news during summer, as these highlights show

The University kept making news all summer long, making campus improvements; welcoming alumni, friends and other visitors; celebrating academic initiatives; and much more.

Campus navigation made easier

Physical implementation of the Wayfinding Project began early this summer when work started on installation of new signage.

Phase I implementation includes Main Campus gateways, street signs and vehicle directional signs. Phase II includes Main Campus pedestrian signs and building identification signs, as well as signage on the East and Parkview campuses. In addition, there is now a long list of address changes.

The use of the new addresses by emergency responders became effective Aug. 15 and by the U.S. Postal Service for some mail delivery Aug. 26. The USPS is delivering mail to residence halls and apartments. All other Main and East campus buildings retain the 1903 W. Michigan Ave. address for mail services, but use physical addresses for non-USPS deliveries and for GPS navigation by visitors.

A complete, printable list of the physical address for each campus building can be found at wmich.edu/businessandfinance/forms/campus-addresses, and they can be found at the same site.

Football team’s ‘Black Ghost’ is remembered

One hundred years ago, Sam Dunlap, WMU’s first black student-athlete, struck fear in the hearts of gridiron opponents and racked up scoring records that lasted decades, all the while fighting racism on and off the playing field.

On July 28, a Dunlap family delegation toured WMU to visit the campus haunts of the player known nationally as “The Black Ghost.” More than 12 family members from around the nation met with WMU leaders during the visit, which was organized by Dunlap’s nephew, Moses Easley.

Knute Rockne called Dunlap one of the finest athletes he’d ever encountered. A halfback, Dunlap earned a total of 11 varsity letters in football, baseball and track. He played for WMU for four seasons—1915 through 1917 and 1919—taking a year off to join the Army during the World War I effort and serve as an interpreter. Dunlap is remembered in historical displays found throughout the Bill Brown Alumni Center in Waldo Stadium.

Academic partnerships highlighted

WMU’s commitment to collaborations was in full view this summer when a local group and the University teamed up, and when former WMU President John M. Dunn attended two overseas celebrations.

Kalamazoo’s Urban Alliance and WMU’s Bronco Force announced in August that, with facility support from L.C. Howard Inc., they would develop and operate supply chain management academies as an extension of Urban Alliance’s successful Momentum program.

The first academy is scheduled for October at Urban Alliance’s new technical center in Portage, Michigan. The Bronco Force team will provide the design, layout and operation of the warehouse and related logistics activities. Along with WMU faculty and industry partners, WMU students will help teach the academy curriculum, which was developed by the University’s Center for Integrated Supply Management.

Meanwhile, Dunn traveled to Malaysia and China in early July to help celebrate WMU’s newest international education partnerships and one of its oldest. He was an invited speaker at the events.

His first stop was in Malaysia for the 30th anniversary of the WMU-Sunway Education Group partnership that created a “twinning” program through which students could spend two years studying in their home nations before completing the final two years of their degree programs at WMU.

Dunn also attended the opening ceremony for the Western Michigan Institute, an entity created in collaboration with the Guizhou University of Finance and Economics. Creation of the institute expands on a 2014 partnership agreement with the Chinese university that established a 3+1 joint program in accounting.

Editor’s note: Visit wmich.edu/news/obituaries for more details about these WMU family members.

Dina Bangdel, art, died July 25. She was 54. Bangdel joined the faculty in 1998 and left in 2002 after four years.

Barbara A. Barton, emerita in social work, died June 15. She was 55. Barton joined the faculty in 2005 and retired in 2016 after more than 11 years.

David Chaplin, emeritus in sociology, died July 27. He was 86. Chaplin joined the faculty in 1972 and retired in 1992 after 20 years.

Janet L. Clubb, a retired custodian, died July 9. She was 77. Clubb joined the staff in 1993 and retired in 2005 after 12 years.

Herbert “Herb” E. Ellinger, emeritus in transportation technology, died May 25. He was 96. Ellinger joined the faculty in 1944 and retired in 1983 after 39 years.

Shirley K. James, a retired first cook in the Davis Dining Hall, died July 18. She was 75. James joined the staff in 1977 and retired in 2001 after nearly 24 years.

Shirley Ann Lukens, emerita in occupational therapy, died June 3. She was 82. Lukens joined the faculty in 1972 and retired in 1998 after nearly 26 years.

George “Stewart” Johnson, emeritus in mechanical engineering, died Aug. 6. He was 96. Johnson joined the faculty in 1960 and retired in 1984 after 24 years.

Patricia “Patty” Negrevski, a budget analyst for the Evaluation Center, died Aug. 12. She was 57. Negrevski had been a staff member since 1990.

Maria Saldivar, an administrative assistant for pre-college program-
Trustees sign off on retirements of seven faculty, 19 staff during June meeting

The retirements of seven University faculty and 19 staff were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees during its June 29 meeting.

All of the faculty members who are retiring are doing so with emeritus status. Members of the board also signed off on two faculty resignations.

Faculty retirements: Kailash Bafna, professor of industrial and entrepreneurial engineering and engineering management, effective Jan. 5, 2017; Michael Barcena, professor of chemistry, effective June 30, 2017; Barbara Frazier, professor of family and consumer sciences, effective April 30, 2020; James Gigante, professor of information technology and personnel and professor of communication, effective June 30, 2018; Donna Kaminski, associate professor of computer science, effective April 30, 2022; Jachyn Ryan, master faculty specialist of occupational therapy, effective Aug. 14, 2019; and Ramashwar Sharma, associate professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering, effective April 30, 2018.

Staff retirements: Umar Abdul-Mutakallim, director of labor relations in Human Resources, effective July 1, 2017; Dennis Bentz, systems programmer analyst senior in information technology, effective July 7, 2017; Shahla Bryant, assistant manager of Davis Dining Services, effective June 1, 2017; Kai Chapman, associate director of alumni relations, effective July 1, 2017; and Ann Ganz, study abroad specialist senior in the Haenicke Institute, effective July 1, 2017.

Michael Lee Glenn, appliance repair person in building custodial and support services, effective July 1, 2017; Yam Lam Hong, pianist in music, effective Aug. 1, 2017; Gary Hubbard, coordinator of print materials cataloging in University Libraries, effective July 1, 2017; Raymond Kezenius, engineer senior in maintenance services, effective July 1, 2017; Vivian Locke, laboratory supervisor in biological sciences, effective July 1, 2017; James Mayo, applications programmer analyst senior in information technology, effective June 17, 2017; Sharon Nicholson, production operations specialist in information technology, effective July 1, 2017; Carol Reid, academic advisor in the College of Education and Human Development, effective June 5, 2017; and Dennis McFall, aviation sciences; Nancy Hock, occupational therapy; Jon Davis, mathematics; Autumn Edwards, communication; Lin Foulk, music; and Olivia Gabor-Feirce, world languages and literatures.

Edward Montgomery, economics; Susan Piazza, special education and literacy studies; Kenneth Prewitt, music; Sarah Summy, special education and literacy studies; Gwen Tarbox, English; and Jessaca Spybrook, educational leadership, research and technology.

Promoted to associate professor: Christopher Biggs, music; Denise Bowen, physical education; and Kathryn Docherty, biological sciences.

Promoted to master faculty specialist: Jennifer Brown, nursing; Jeremy Hierholzer, aviation sciences; Nancy Hock, occupational therapy; Dennis McFall, aviation sciences; and Thomas Rienzo, business information systems.

Promoted to faculty specialist II: Amy Bent, teaching and educational studies; Sally Thelen, English; and Kelly Weathers, family and consumer sciences.

Promoted to faculty specialist I: Kailash Bafna, professor of industrial and entrepreneurial engineering.

Governing board grants promotions to 36 on faculty

The WMU Board of Trustees approved the promotions of 36 University faculty during its June 29 meeting, effective with the beginning of the 2017-18 academic year.

Promoted to professor: Luigi Berto, history; Scott Boerman, music; Carla Chase, occupational therapy; Jon Davis, mathematics; Autumn Edwards, communication; Lin Foulk, music; Olivia Gabor-Feirce, world languages and literatures.

Edward Montgomery, economics; Susan Piazza, special education and literacy studies; Kenneth Prewitt, music; Sarah Summy, special education and literacy studies; Gwen Tarbox, English; and Jessaca Spybrook, educational leadership, research and technology.

Promoted to associate professor: Christopher Biggs, music; Denise Bowen, physical education; and Kathryn Docherty, biological sciences.

Promoted to master faculty specialist: Jennifer Brown, nursing; Jeremy Hierholzer, aviation sciences; Nancy Hock, occupational therapy; Dennis McFall, aviation sciences; and Thomas Rienzo, business information systems.

Promoted to faculty specialist II: Amy Bent, teaching and educational studies; Sally Thelen, English; and Kelly Weathers, family and consumer sciences.

Promoted to faculty specialist I: Kailash Bafna, professor of industrial and entrepreneurial engineering.
Montgomery hits the ground running as WMU’s ninth president

Edward Montgomery began his tenure as the ninth president of the University with a full day of activities Aug. 1.

Montgomery, who visited campus and attended various University events earlier in the summer as well, began his first day on the job in his administrative office.

He went on to attend a morning meeting of academic leadership gathered as part of the WMU Provost Council; meet with area media for an informal press availability; participate in a round of meetings and phone calls; and get formally oriented to WMU.

Since then, he has been putting in full days, attending various functions and getting acquainted with employees as well as arriving students.

(See the story on Page 1 for information about Montgomery’s inauguration festivities Friday and Saturday, Sept. 15-16.)

Even presidents need to get a Bronco Card, as Montgomery learned his first day on the job during his formal orientation to the University.

Buster, President Emeritus John M. Dunn and Montgomery have fun at WMU Night at Comerica Park.

The president and First Lady Kari Montgomery enjoy a Bronco Marching Band practice.

Montgomery inspires Fall Welcome ambassadors to set the tone for new students.

The new president shares his thoughts about day No. 1 with a news team from WOOD-TV.

Selfies were in order at a pool party hosted by the Montgomeries for the new academic year’s incoming Seita Scholars.

(All photos by Mike Lanka)
A STORYTELLER’S STORY

On Campus with Catherine VanDerMaas

A series of surprises characterize Catherine VanDerMaas’ storied history with WMU. VanDerMaas came to the University as a student, graduating in 2006 with a bachelor’s degree in organizational communication and women’s studies. She went on to work as a teaching and a research assistant while enrolled in the communication master’s program. After graduating again in 2009, she supplemented her income from freelance writing by teaching part-time in the communication department. That put VanDerMaas in the right place to land a storyteller position in development and alumni relations in 2011. Although a temporary post, it morphed a year later into her current full-time job of creative writer. But her WMU tales don’t end there. VanDerMaas met her future husband, alumni Kellen Manley, in 2005 when they were both tailgating in the same on-campus parking lot. In addition, she had been unaware that many folks of Dutch heritage call West Michigan home. So moving here rekindled her interest in genealogy.

“People would ask: ‘Do you know this and that VanDerMaas?’ and I’d say no, I’m not related,” she says. “But I found out that my family did land in Grand Rapids before moving to the Detroit area, and so of those VanDerMaases were distant relatives.”

When not spending her spare time tracing the family history, she enjoys cooking and flexing her creative muscles through artistic endeavors such as painting. VanDerMaas and her husband also love to go to Bronco football and hockey games as well as downtown Kalamazoo’s eateries—when they’re not “fumbling their way” through fixes to the older house they bought a few years ago in the city’s Westnedge Hill neighborhood.

On the job, VanDerMaas spends most of her time writing material for development and alumni relations’ website, fundraising appeals and event promotions. She also assists the other members of her office’s creative team as necessary and works on select special projects, such as writing alumni stories for archival purposes and writing the text for the print and electronic historical displays that decorate the hallways in Heritage Hall.

“We sit in a unique situation because we don’t really write news stories [as university relations staff do],” she says. “As part of our writing and PR team, we get to write on a broad variety of topics. Maybe it’s not something a newspaper would be interested in, but it’s something our community of alumni, donors and friends might really love to hear,” she says. “So we encourage other departments and units to share information with us. We’re here to help. We engage with alumni and friends from all across campus.”

On Campus

Series of traditional events keeps campus celebrating this fall

The campus community will join with members of the local community this fall for a series of traditional celebratory events. The festivities start with more than 25,000 students and area residents gathering on the Sangren Pedestrian Mall from 3 to 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 8, for the 37th annual Bronco Bash. This huge event is free and features games, live entertainment, food for purchase and some 450 information booths.

On Saturday, Sept. 9, local groups will join forces with the Office of Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay and Transgender Student Services to stage the sixth Fall Fab Fest from 3 to 6 p.m. in the Trimpe Building’s Multicultural Center. Open to all local residents, this free event includes information tables, food and entertainment by local performers.

Leading off the following month will be the Fall Convocation Friday, Oct. 6, on the second floor of the Bernhard Center. The event begins at 8 a.m. with talks and workshops for WMU faculty and staff. They lead up to an 11 a.m. awards ceremony honoring the University’s annual campuseswide award winners. It will immediately be followed by President Edward Montgomery’s first State of the University address and reception for Montgomery. The awards ceremony will laud the 2017-18 recipients of the Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award, Distinguished Teaching Award, Distinguished Service Award, Emerging Scholar Award and Annual Make a Difference Award (see story on Page 1 for more about the winners of the latter award).

Another big fall tradition, homecoming week, is set for Monday through Sunday, Oct. 9-15. The 2017 week has “We Will Reign” as its theme and features Saturday’s football game vs. the University of Akron at 3:30 p.m. Homecoming festivities will again include Family Weekend, plus a host of other exciting annual activities.

One longstanding event that will not be returning is the Homecoming Campus Classic 5K walk/run, which is being discontinued after 18 years. Information about all homecoming events will be posted at wmich.edu/homecoming when it becomes available.

Make a Difference staffers to be feted at convocation

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• Deborah O’Keefe is budget analyst for the School of Music. She was hired in 2011 as coordinator of budgets in the school. She handles all of the unit’s budgets as well as its payroll, scholarships, contracts for premier ensembles, faculty travel and more. O’Keefe was especially lauded for working tirelessly with students in financial difficulty, helping them to stay in school and often personally assisting them in solving their housing and other basic living needs.

• Colleen Sante is an administrative assistant II in the Department of Spanish. She was hired in 2007 as an administrative assistant in the department.

Sante was cited for having a profound impact on students and her unit. Nominators noted her efficiency, reliability, diligence and enthusiasm, along with her warm and welcoming personality.

On Campus

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A STORYTELLER’S STORY

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