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 159 Bernhard Center. Closer to the meeting date, details and key agenda items will be posted at wmich.edu/news and complete meeting materials 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 wmuk.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/hr/personaldata for an explanation of WMU’s privacy flag and other details.

Free employee photo session slated

Facility 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 Hening 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.

Presidential 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 CommUniCity 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. Rinvelt 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. CommUniCity 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.

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 3,300 first-year and transfer students each year.

Time and again, her nominees lauded her for her hard work, attention to detail, ability to innovate, and willingness to collaborate. In addition, professional colleagues and student employees alike cited her for being an excellent supervisor who has groomed scores of future leaders and has a never-ending commitment to students as well as the University.

• Tom Grossman is chief instructor and director of flight operations in the College of Aviation. He was hired as coordinator of flight operations and chief instructor in 1999. He trains about 500 flight students and oversees some 60 full- and part-time flight instructors, all the while working under the watchful eye of the Federal Aviation Administration.

Grossman’s nominators praised him for long hours of high-quality work and his empower-
Meeting set to gain input on updating valley housing

A project that will reimagine Goldsworth Valley will be discussed from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 14, in the main lobby area of the Bernhard Center’s first floor.

The design team, led by CannonDesign, will present an overview of the project goals, then facilitate group discussion and one-on-one interactions with attendees. The meeting is open to the WMU community.

Plans call for replacing all six valley residence halls with new buildings over about a decade, with the goal of providing a progressive new residence experience for students.

The project will incorporate cutting-edge design elements geared toward the student of the future, providing the latest and greatest in residence hall amenities, both within halls and around them.

Plans include replacing the Valley III residence halls as well as master planning the future development of the entire valley site. Construction on the new housing is expected to start in spring 2018 and be completed for the 2020-21 academic year.

Retirement reception

Don Penkor, Logistical Services, will be recognized for his 42 years of service to the University during a retirement reception from 3:30 to 6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 8, in the Fetzer Center atrium.

Jobs

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

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.

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 that benefits-eligible faculty and staff pay per pay period for their WMU health plan coverage. To participate in the incentive, eligible employees sign up through the Sindecuse Health Center, Holyn & 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 “demob classes” offering 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.

Consider when to get flu shot

The Sindecuse Health Center is offering vaccinations to WMU employees, students and retirees, as well as their eligible dependents. The seasonal flu vaccine is available if ordered by a doctor.

Employees may get their flu shots in the health center by appointment or at the Benefits and Wellness Expo Wednesday, Nov. 1.

Infants, senior citizens and individuals with health conditions that put them and their caregivers at risk are advised to get a flu shot as soon as possible. Healthy indivi-
duals who wait until late October or early November may have more protection against flu outbreaks that occur later in the season, as immune protection starts to decline several flu outbreaks that occur later in the season, as

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 proposals by the WMU Board of Trustees, and Ph.D.s; and service, which is measured by the way students are encouraged to give something back to their country.

To all 237 APLU members, and the Seita Scholars Program graduate (Photo by Mike Lanka)

Olivia Williams, the 100th Seita Scholars

Seita program named finalist for award

Coster Williams was named interim director of the Student Financial Aid Office, effective July 1. He previously was the senior international officer at the University of Montana. His background also includes work with the Luso-American Foundation in Lisbon, Portugal, and the U.S.-Portuguese Fullbright Commission.

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The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 40, 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and 5 years of service during August.

40 Years—Donald E. Cooney, social work, and Mustaqi Laghari, management.

35 Years—Elise De Doncker, computer science; Marilyn S. Kritzman, communication; Nina Nelson, dance; and Susan Perez, economics.

30 Years—David A. Burnie, finance and commercial law; Robert F. D’Amelio, intercollegiate athletics; Raghvendra R. Giri, electrical and computer engineering; Diana Hernández, multicultural affairs; Katherine Joslin, English; William S. Kern, economics; Renata A. Knutj, music; Thomas Knutj, 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. Blaustein, family and consumer sciences; David Loberg, code, music; David J. Flanagan, management; Jil C. Larson, English; Debra K. Miller, electrical and technology; Kathleen M. Kline, statistics; Michelle Kominz, and engineering management; Michelle L. Hastings, leadership, research and technology; and Allen T. Webb, English.

15 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. Kuester, sociology; Iouri S. Ledyaev, mathematics; Dave Lemberg, geography; Berit O. Miller, occupational therapy; Damon A. Miller, electrical and computer engineering; Mark Orbe, communication; James R. Palmisano, history; Alan Rea, business information systems; John Saillant, English; Lori Sans, music; Vince Torano, art; Xiaojun Wang, world languages and literatures; and Steven W. Ziebarth, mathematics.

10 Years—Onur Arugaslan, finance and commercial law; Kim Ballard, Center for Academic Success Programs; Karen Bondarchuk, teaching, learning and educational studies; Kieran J. Fogarty, College of Health and Human Services; Olivia G. Gabor-Peirce, world languages and literatures; Charles R. Henderson, Mallinson Institute; Sarah Hill, Institute of the man Services; Olivia G. Gabor-Peirce, world languages and literatures; and Steven W. Ziebarth, mathematics.

Five Years—Karen R. Blaustein, family and consumer sciences; David Loberg, code, music; David J. Flanagan, management; Jil C. Larson, English; Debra K. Miller, electrical and technology; Kathleen M. Kline, statistics; Michelle Kominz, and engineering management; Michelle L. Hastings, leadership, research and technology; and Allen T. Webb, English.

The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 10, 5 and 4 years of service during July.

10 Years—Christopher Biggs, music; Denise Bowen, physi- cian assistant; Jennifer Brown, nursing; Tracy DeMaris, teaching, learning and educational studies; Kathryn Docherty, biological sciences; Jessica Frieder, psychology; Maria Gigante, English; Jennifer Harrison, social work; Jeremy Hierholzer, aviation sciences; James R. Springstead, chemical and paper engineering; Joyashish Thakurta, geosciences; Katherine Van DerMaas, 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, physi- cian assistant; Jennifer Brown, nursing; Tracy DeMaris, teaching, learning and educational studies; Kathryn Docherty, biological sciences; Jessica Frieder, psychology; Maria Gigante, English; Jennifer Harrison, social work; Jeremy Hierholzer, aviation sciences; James R. Springstead, chemical and paper engineering; Joyashish Thakurta, geosciences; Katherine Van DerMaas, development and alumni relations; and Marcellis M. Zondag, marketing.
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 pathways, 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 lot 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-mail-stop-addresses.html. Campus mail stop codes remain an important part of campus mailing 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 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. Dunlap is also recognized in the team’s ‘Black Ghost’ display located in the Zhang Center and encountered at some football games.

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 Patchen, 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 Guangzhou 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.
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.

Faculty retirements: Kaiflah Bafna, professor of industrial and entrepreneurial engineering and engineering management, effective Jan. 5, 2023; Michael Barcelone, professor of chemistry, effective June 30, 2017; Barbara Frazier, professor of family and consumer sciences, effective April 30, 2020; Katelyn Cicolini, senior director of budget and personnel and professor of communication, effective June 30, 2018; Donna Kaminksi, associate professor of computer science, effective April 30, 2022; Jachlyn Ryan, master faculty specialist of occupational therapy, effective Aug. 14, 2018; and Namdev 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 Byrd, 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 information technology, effective June 5, 2017; Sharon Boyle, systems programmer analyst senior in admissions, effective July 1, 2017; Ann Gan, study abroad specialist senior in the Haenicke Institute, effective July 1, 2017; Michael Lee Glenn, appliance repairperson in building custodial and support services, effective July 1, 2017; Yam Lam Hong, piano technician 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, application 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; Sharon Russell, lifelong learning program manager in Extended University Programs, effective Aug. 19, 2017; Shelly Russell, gardener in landscape services, effective April 29, 2017; Darshana Shah, business manager associate, College of Fine Arts, effective April 1, 2017; Linda Ware, direct support assistant in the Center for Disability Services, effective June 1, 2017; and Jiansong Zhang, assistant professor of civil and construction engineering, effective Aug. 14, 2017.

Property purchase

After using rented space for 17 years, a senior day care program offered through the College of Health and Human Services has a permanent location thanks to trustees authorizing purchase of the property at 110 W. Cork St. in Kalamazoo for $230,000 from the Foundation for Behavioral Resources.

The program is a service of the college’s Center for Disability Services—Aging Division. The longest-standing such program in Kalamazoo County it fills a crucial community need. Through the program, WMU faculty, staff and students have helped hundreds of people delay the need for nursing home placement.

Governering 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: Luis Betto, history; Scott Boerma, music; Carla Chase, occupational therapy; Jon Davis, mathematics; Autumn Edwards, communication; Lin Fouk, music; Olivia Gabor-Feirce, world languages and literatures; Edward Montgomery, economics; Susan Piazza, special education and literacy studies; Kenneth Prettitt, 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; Amy Bowser, 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 Bente, teaching and educational studies; Sally Thelen, Center for English Language and Culture; and Kelly Weatherly, family and consumer sciences.
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.)

Montgomery hits the ground running as WMU’s ninth president

An engaged Montgomery does a pre-presidency media interview at the Lee Honors College.

Montgomery poses with Gov. Rick Snyder at a higher education summit at WMU Aug. 24.

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.

On a campus walkabout, Montgomery greets WMU staffer Paula Davis, university relations.

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 Montgmerys 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 storytelling 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.

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]. I see [our writing] as more of a blog—special interest-type writing. 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.”

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. on 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 campuswide award winners. It will immediately be followed by President Edward Montgomery’s 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, 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 wnmich.edu/homecoming when it becomes available.

Continued from Page 1

Make a Difference staffers to be feted at convocation

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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. on 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 campuswide award winners. It will immediately be followed by President Edward Montgomery’s 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, 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 wnmich.edu/homecoming when it becomes available.

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