Board of Trustees meeting scheduled
The next meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12, in 157-159 Bernhard Center. Information about the agenda will be posted online at wmich.edu/news closer to the meeting date.

Take part in WMU ROTC food drive
WMU ROTC is collecting nonperishable food items for WMU’s Invisible Need Project food pantry. A collection point is outside of Ellsworth Hall’s Military Student Lounge through Thursday, Dec. 14. Cadets also will collect items from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at Harding’s on Westnedge Avenue.

Commencement ceremonies slated
WMU will stage three commencement ceremonies Saturday, Dec. 16, in Miller Auditorium with recently inaugurated President Edward Montgomery presiding. The 9 a.m. ceremony is for graduates of the College of Education and Human Development and Haworth College of Business. The noon ceremony is for graduates of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, College of Health and Human Services, and Extended University Programs. The 3 p.m. ceremony is for graduates of the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Aviation, and Fine Arts.

Plan ahead for Sincere closure
The Sincere Health Center will be closed during WMU’s holiday recess, Friday through Monday, Dec. 22-Jan. 1. Prescription requests using a 2017 insurance benefit plan should be submitted by 4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 19, for pickup no later than 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 21. Requests submitted during the recess will be processed in accordance with 2018 insurance benefit rules.

WMU recently earns new accolades
WMU has been named one of the nation’s top colleges for veterans by Military Times magazine. The University came in at No. 99 on the publication group’s Military Times Best: Colleges 2018 rankings. In addition, The Princeton Review has named the Haworth College of Business an outstanding business school. The education services company profiles Haworth in its 2018 annual business school rankings.

Make a faculty scholar nomination
The nomination deadline is Thursday, Feb. 1, for the 2018 Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award. Award eligibility, criteria and nomination guidelines are available online at wmich.edu/facultydevelopment by clicking Awards.

Next Western News will be in January
Western News will be on holiday recess until Thursday, Jan. 11. The deadline to submit items for that issue is 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 5. In the interim, go to wmich.edu/wmu/news to keep up with campus news and events.

South Neighborhood to be redeveloped
WMU’s campus redevelopment work in the coming years will shift to what’s known as the South Neighborhood and will see construction of a student center, new student housing and an eye-catching new presence showcasing the part of campus that runs along Stadium Drive.

“This is all about transforming the student experience on campus—making sure the student center and residential neighborhoods are set up to offer our students a truly transformational environment,” says Diane Anderson, vice president for student affairs.

Anderson points to changing demographics on campus that include strong international enrollment and a growing number of students from other states. She says those changes to the student body coupled with the changing housing preferences of all students make this the time to consider and carefully plan for future housing needs.

“It’s more important than ever that we provide a rich student experience on campus—one that is cutting edge, enriching and engaging,” she notes.

The recent shift in focus will mean the first new student housing in the area will be ready

Planning underway for annual MLK celebration
WMU is continuing its tradition of honoring slain civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr. with events planned in January on campus and across the Kalamazoo community.

They include a convocation, a march, a day of service, educational programs and special presentations. “What is your position in times of challenge and controversy?” is the theme of this year’s celebration.

Next major on-campus event, a poetry reading and competition awards reception featuring Kalamazoo Public Schools students, will be from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11, in the Trimpe Building’s Multi-cultural Center. Next up is a Public School Students’ Visitaton at 9 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 13, in the Bernhard Center’s East Ballroom. The event is open to families from area school districts.

Major communitywide events begin at 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 14, with the Northside Ministerial Alliance’s 32nd annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration in Kalamazoo’s Mt. Zion Baptist Church. This year’s keynote speaker will be Pastor Jonathan Tremaine Thomas of Destiny Church in St. Louis, Missouri.

A world of good wishes
One of the real joys this holiday season is the opportunity to say thank you and wish you the very best for the new year.
Deadline nearing to exchange annual, sick leave hours

Eligible members of the Staff Compensation System and Police Officers Association have until Sunday, Dec. 31, to file their Sick/Annual Leave Exchange Authorization form. Doing so allows them to exchange 40 hours of accrued sick or annual leave or a combination of these leaves for a contribution to their 401(k) plan at their hourly pay rate.

Visit wmich.edu/hr/forms/retirement and click the Sick/Annual Leave Exchange Authorization form to learn more about the exchange program, including eligibility requirements.

Additional details are provided in the WMU Employee Handbook for Staff Compensation System employees at wmich.edu/hr/handbook-leave.

Deadline to consider for publication

Items to be considered for publication should be submitted to the Office of University Relations by 5 p.m. Friday of the week preceding publication. Publication dates for the spring are Jan. 11 and 25, Feb. 8 and 22, March 15 and 29, and April 12; hours may be submitted to Jeanne Baron via email jeanneh.baron@wmich.edu; ext. Campus Mail Stop 5433; phone, (269) 387-8433; or fax, (269) 387-8422.

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Visit Western News

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New web service makes finding funding opportunities easier

A new online service has been launched to help WMU faculty and staff stay abreast of potential funding opportunities for their research and creative scholarship projects. The Office of the Vice President for Research has added a “Find Funding” page to its website, connecting users across campus to a comprehensive list of external funding opportunities that is constantly updated. Separate lists are provided for students and for faculty and staff members.

By following various links on the section’s subpages, users may identify date-driven as well as ongoing opportunities, sorted by general subject area. A link to internal funding sources also is within easy reach.

Sherine Obare, interim vice president for research, says the new FindFunding section is a recent addition to the office’s redesigned website, which was unveiled this summer. It sorts opportunities by four areas: arts/humanities; education/ economic and community development; health; and STEM—science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

“We understand that it can be difficult and very time consuming for faculty and staff to locate relevant funding opportunities that they can apply for to support their work. Our new section consists of funding opportunities obtained from a comprehensive search using various databases,” says Obare, who adds that Karen DeVries in her office has championed this important initiative.

“Our goal is to make the information readily available to all researchers at WMU. Without such a resource, researchers are likely to miss important opportunities that are eligible for. Furthermore, studies have shown that the more information on funding opportunities there is, the more likely there will be an increase in grant submissions.”

The research office updates its FindFunding list weekly and colors recently added opportunities in red so users can quickly spot the latest offerings. Also, researchers can sign up to receive convenient notifications of new funding opportunities. They simply click a “Sign up for funding alerts” button to receive monthly email updates of newly added funding sources.

To find current funding opportunities or sign up to receive funding alerts by email, visit wmich.edu/research/funding/faculty.

Event set to help campus learn about SRC offerings

The Student Recreation Center will hold its New Year, New You event for WMU students and employees Wednesday, Jan. 10. The daylong event showcases a sampling of the SRC’s numerous classes and activities that can help members of the campus community get on a healthy track.

During the event, the SRC will be open from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. Students and employees can—at no cost—show up with their Bronco Card and workout clothes and check out what the facility has to offer.

An employee open house has been slated for 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the SRC’s second-floor main lobby. It will feature tours of the facility and information about its memberships, fitness programs and intramural sports; wellness assessments from Holyn & Associates; and a chance to win prizes. In addition, the campus community may participate in various fitness classes throughout the day and attend a neon glow party from 6 to 10 p.m.

The neon glow party begins with a club sport and vendor open house, photo booth, glow sticks and face painting. It ends with final giveaway drawings starting at 9:30 p.m. During the rest of the party, at set times, many other fun activities have been scheduled.

The SRC offers memberships to WMU students, faculty and staff members, and other affiliates. Benefits-eligible employees pay only the tax on their membership fee. For details, visit wmich.edu/rec/facilities/access.

Soccer players honored

WMU had more student-athletes than any other school named to the Mid-American Conference’s Men’s Soccer Academic All-MAC team, an honor reserved for those who have excelled in academics and athletics. Broncos made up nine of the 40 students who were recognized from the league’s six men’s soccer institutions. To earn Academic All-MAC honors, a student-athlete must have at least a 3.20 cumulative GPA and have participated in at least 50 percent of the contests for their sport. Freshmen and first-year transfer students are not eligible.

Sophomore business student Anthony Bowie of Grand Rapids was the only All-MAC eligible student-athlete with a 4.0 GPA. All nine Broncos will now be eligible to be voted as Distinguished Scholar-Athletes by the league. Distinguished Scholar-Athletes will be announced later this year.

WMU had the men’s soccer program’s most successful season in 2017, winning its first-ever MAC regular-season championship and making an NCAA tournament Sweet 16 appearance. Eight players, including five on the first team, were named All-MAC.
On Campus

With Bethany Gauthier

Whether it’s meeting performers who come to campus, traveling to New York City to preview Broadway shows or dressing up as a princess to promote a premiering WMU show, Bethany Gauthier describes her role as senior marketing specialist for Miller Auditorium as “a dream job.”

“In what other job would I get to do those things?” she asks. “It’s amazing to see the performances and the stage transformations up close.”

“I love Miller and how much joy it brings to people,” she continues. “Every day is different, and I get to meet many different people.”

Gauthier has spent her entire career in marketing, first as a WMU student, then in e-commerce at Borgess Health. She returned to the University and joined the staff in 2008. In her current role, she coordinates email and digital marketing and all website content for Miller, writes grants, and maintains social media accounts.

The job calls on her to appear on local talk shows and represent Miller at publicity events, such as when she debuted as a princess or she answers questions at Bronco Bash. Plus, Gauthier started Miller’s Facebook page, which now boasts nearly 20,000 followers.

Technology has changed her job over the years, allowing her to broaden her list of contacts and reach the public more quickly if a schedule or performance changes.

But she says her main focus is writing. So, she draws on the two degrees she earned at WMU, a bachelor’s degree in creative writing in 2000 and a master’s degree in drama, specifically playwriting, in 2003. In fact, she taught introductory-level writing classes as a graduate student, and has had her plays published and produced locally and nationally.

Gauthier grew up a Bronco. Her family includes an impressive number of WMU degree-holders. Both her parents are graduates; she and her two siblings all earned bachelor’s degrees from the University; and her mother, brother and herself also earned master’s degrees here.

In addition, Gauthier’s husband, Nick, a senior academic advisor for WMU’s Frostic School of Art, holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University. They have one daughter, 10-year-old Madeleine, and one son, 6-year-old Oliver.

It is no surprise the couple frequently bring their children to campus, whether for a show at Miller, for art and music classes, or simply to walk the grounds with their dog, Cletus.

Continued from Page 1

South Neighborhood to be redeveloped

for occupancy in 2020, while a new student center is targeted to come online in 2021. Intense long-range planning for the entire South Neighborhood is expected to begin soon and be completed by next October. That neighborhood master plan will guide development through 2023.

The South Neighborhood is highly visible from the adjacent Stadium Drive. That fact offers the University the opportunity to turn the area into a state-of-the-art campus gateway that offers a “wow” factor along what WMU President Edward Montgomery recently noted is “the longest contiguous face of the campus.”

City administrators have signaled interest in future development along Stadium Drive as well, and the Michigan Department of Transportation is looking at development work near the Stadium Drive-Howard Street intersection.

Continued from Page 1

Planning underway for annual MLK celebration

Federal MLK Day—Monday, Jan. 15—will begin at 8 a.m. with Kalamazoo’s Communitywide Day of Service. Participants should meet at City Hall after checking out the available volunteer opportunities listed at volunteerkalamazoo.org.

The day will continue with a convocation at 10:50 a.m. at Kalamazoo College and a Commemorative Walk starting at 3:30 p.m. at Kanley Chapel that will end at MLK Park in downtown Kalamazoo. Immediately after the walk at about 6 p.m., Kalamazoo will hold its Community Celebration in the State Theatre.

For more information and a complete list of MLK-related events, visit wmich.edu/mlk.

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