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 for the new year.

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.

The first 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 Trimpie Building’s Multi-cultural Center. Next up is a Public School Students’ Visitation 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.

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 Sindecuse closure

The Sindecuse 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.

The area's housing is: 11-Ernest and Smith Burnham halls, 12-Draper and Siedschlag halls, 13-Zimmerman, French and Davis halls, 14-Elmwood Apartments, and not shown-Stadium Drive Apartments.

Auditorium with recently inaugurated President Edward Montgomery presiding.

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Continued on Page 4
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.

National association honors attorney

Carole Hustoles, finance and commercial law, was honored earlier this year by the National Association of College and University Attorneys. Hustoles, an active member of the association since 1991, was one of two people granted lifetime membership in the organization during the association’s annual Honors and Awards Ceremony in Chicago.

“Carole has brought character, energy and great talent to everything she has done for the association,” the organization wrote. “She is a true representative of the association’s core values with a spirit and enthusiasm that welcomed all colleagues with whom she came in contact.”

Hustoles served at WMU’s legal counsel for more than 25 years, including 14 years as vice president for legal affairs and general counsel. After retiring as vice president in 2016, she joined the faculty full time and now draws upon her Juris Doctorate and Doctor of Philosophy to teach law courses.

Professor to lead accounting society

James Penner, accountancy, is the new program chair and president-elect of the North American Accounting Society. A certified public accountant in Michigan, Penner will serve as president during the 2018-19 academic year.

The society is a nonprofit organization that supports the development and recognition of individual efforts in the field of accounting. Its objectives are to promote the association of accounting professionals as well as to provide programs aimed at improving teaching, research and writing. It also provides forums for discussion and information exchange concerning ongoing research activity, and for publishing the results of research and writing.

Penner was previously employed at the Detroit office of Ernst & Young before he moved into academia. His teaching interest is financial accounting. His research interests include capital market effects of financial reporting and the impact of media on capital markets.

Nine feted as top staffers for fall 2017

Nine staff members were honored as outstanding WMU employees during an on-campus reception Dec. 4. The employees received the fall 2017 Semiannual Make a Difference Award. Only members of the nonfaculty workforce of more than 1,800 people are eligible to receive the accolade.

This semester’s award recipients are: Diana Bloisun, biological sciences; Melanie Chapin-Lechner, landscape services; Natalie Fuecik, fine arts; Susan Kramer, building and custodial and support services; Chris Pracedel, development and alumni relations; Ewa Urban, Career and Student Employment Services; Connie Volenekis, economics; Ashleigh Watson, honors college; and Harmony Williams, education and human development.

For more information about the awards program, visit wmich.edu/makeadifference.
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 they 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 type 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 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 Hollyn & 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 SRC offers memberships to WMU students, faculty and staff members, and other affiliates, including retirees. Benefits—eligible employees pay only the tax on their membership fee. For details, visit wmich.edu/rec/facilities/access.

Service—December

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

40 years—John L. Atkin, marketing; John M. Bos, maintenance services; Susan E. Bond, landscape services; Maureen S. Bour, secretary; John B. Hoots, marketing and applied sciences; Tammy D. Betz, arts and sciences; Kelli A. Bond, research; Eva A. Copija, Center for English Language and Culture for International Students; Rhonda Leanne Cosby, landscape services; Ann M. Dancy, building custodial and support services; Cynthia A. Dawson, business college; Tracy J. DeMars, teaching, learning and educational studies; Raymond Hallock Jr., landscape services; Susan E. King-Berry, physician assistant; Robert Wallace, landscape services; and Tanya D. Wolfe, Haenicke Institute.

Five years—Joanne Marie Beary, arts and sciences; Tony O. Dennis, Graduate College, and Kerry L. Eldred, building custodial and support services.

15 years—Sharon L. Atkinson, marketing; John M. Bos, maintenance services; Susan E. Bond, landscape services; Mary Ann Konecki, building custodial and support services; Colleen E. Munson, intercollegiate athletics; and Shaila Rao, special education and literacy studies.

10 years—Tamara Bergman, engineering

Obituaries—wmich.edu/news/obituaries

Borr, Earl, emeritus in education and professional development, died Nov. 5. He was 90. Borr joined the Campus School faculty in 1957 and retired from the education college as an associate professor in 1984 after almost 27 years of service.

Cotton, William H., a former director of the business development services office, died Sept. 12. He was 75. Cotton joined the staff in 1986 and retired in 2001 after 15 years of service.

Stump, Carroll, a custodian in facilities management, died Nov. 23. She was 80. Stump joined the staff in 1987 and retired in 1998 after nearly 12 years of service to the University.

Funding opportunities

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Those seeking additional information about conducting research at the University should contact the research program office assigned to their units.

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.

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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.

“...the chance to develop for our students’ needs at the same time we coordinate with community needs and planning is a very appealing prospect,” Anderson notes. She says that potential is a prime reason Montgomery and others believe the South Neighborhood needs to be next in line for development.

Earlier this year, the South Neighborhood was identified as the site for a long-discussed student center. More recently, Anderson says, a decision was made to also develop new student housing in the area. The first new housing in the South Neighborhood will replace Elmwood Apartments, a tract of 16 low-rise student apartment buildings that house about 220 students.

Students currently living in Elmwood were informed in early November that once the academic year is over and their leases end, the apartments will be demolished to prepare the site for new student housing construction in 2019. Elmwood demolition will begin in late May.

After surveying the wishes of Elmwood residents, Residence Life personnel have been helping those who are interested to transition to other parts of the WMU residence system.

The Valley Neighborhood, home to three major residence hall complexes, Goldsworth Valley Apartments and the Valley Dining Center, was expected to see the next new housing on campus before the shift in development to the South Neighborhood.

To download a map of the WMU campus showing the neighborhood configuration, go to wmich.edu/students/neighborhoods/WMU-neighborhood-map2017.pdf.

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 volunteerekalamazoo.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.