High percentage of grads finding success

Postgraduate success data for new WMU graduates shows that 91 percent of these new alumni are actively engaged in the next steps of their career paths within three months of their graduation.

Two ideas being funded to transform student life

WMU President Edward Montgomery has announced that funding has been granted for two initiatives that will begin in the fall and help to build a stronger sense of belonging and community among all students.

University names new business dean, research vice president

Following national searches, longtime WMU administrator and professor of management Satish Deshpande has been named dean of the Haworth College of Business while Terri Goss Kinzy of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, has been named vice president for research.

Stay abreast of administrator searches

Provost search listening sessions are slated in the Bernhard Center from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and 3 to 4:30 p.m. today in Room 157 and 10 to 11:30 a.m. and noon to 1:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 12, in Room 210. Visit wmich.edu/news/2017/12/44165 for details.

A search also is underway for a new health and human services dean. The position profile and other details are online at wmich.edu/provost/administrative-searches.

Board of Trustees meeting scheduled

The next meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 24, in Heritage Hall. Information about the agenda will be posted online at wmich.edu/news closer to the meeting date.

Short-term housing made available

Several furnished one- and two-bedroom apartments are available as short-term housing for visiting scholars. The apartments may be rented until May 1. For more information, contact Alice Molvær in the Haenicke Institute for Global Education at (269) 387-3965.

APA scholarship deadline coming up

The application deadline for a $500 scholarship to be awarded to a WMU undergraduate or graduate student who is the child of an active member of the Administrative Professional Association. The award will be announced at the APA general membership meeting from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23, in the Bernhard Center. Eligibility requirements and an application form are available at wmich.edu/apa/awards.

Apply now for 2018-19 faculty funding

The application deadline for the 2018-19 Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award cycle is 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 19. For details, visit wmich.edu/research/funding/faculty/fraca. Contact Kay Mortellaro with questions at (269) 387-8204.

Libraries improve computer access

University Libraries has installed NonVisual Desktop Access on all 240 public computers in Waldo Library, the Swan Education and Maybee Music and Dance libraries, and the Zhang Legacy Collections Center. NVDA is a screen reader that provides computer access to people who identify as having blindness, low vision or print disabilities. Headphones are available for checkout at all but the Zhang Center.

Become a WMU brand ambassador

There are still seats open for those who want to sign up for the three-part Behind the W training and earn a WMU Brand Ambassador certificate. Register for February’s three workshops by visiting wmich.edu/behindthew.
Martin Luther King celebration events kick off Monday

WMU continues its tradition of honoring civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr. with campus events beginning today and others planned here and across the broader Kalamazoo community on and around MLK Day Monday, Jan. 15.

“What is your position in times of challenge and controversy?” is this year’s theme.

Free public events include a convocation, march, day of service, educational programs and presentations.

This year’s on-campus events include a teach-in for community members as well as WMU students and employees. The event features speakers from the community and WMU presenting sessions that combine short inspirational speeches and focused discussion.

Visit wmich.edu/mlk for more information about MLK celebration events.
The master's degree in engineering management has passed its initial certification, becoming one of just six programs in the world to be certified by the American Society for Engineering Management—ASEM. The global certification is designed to recognize master's programs that meet the rigorous standards of the society, and represent "outstanding achievement in quality and content," according to ASEM.

ASEM evaluators visited campus in October and reported being impressed with what they observed and noted the rigor of WMU's program. The recent certification means graduates of the program will now earn the Certified Associate in Engineering Management credential.

David Lyth and Larry Mallak, industrial and entrepreneurial engineering and engineering management, lead the program, which bridges the gap between engineering and business.

Continued from Page 1

Dean, vice president named

In her role as chief research administrator at Rutgers, Kinzy oversaw the offices responsible for research and sponsored programs, corporate contracts, grant and contract accounting, facilitation of major research initiatives and corporate engagement.

In addition, Kinzy was a professor of biochemistry and molecular biology and pediatrics and known around the globe for her work in the area of gene expression. She joined Rutgers' Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in 1995 and has served as director of the RWJMS/Rutgers/Rutgers University M.D./Ph.D. program, executive director of the medical school's DNA Core Facility and senior associate dean of the medical school's Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Research.

Time to review winter weather procedures

This time of year is a good time to review WMU's closure policy and snow- and ice-removal procedures.

Key facts to remember include:

- The University rarely closes but when it does, the closure is announced on the WMU home page at wmich.edu, WMU Alert system, area radio and television stations, and the WMU emergency information line at (269) 387-1001.
- When the University's campuses in Kalamazoo close, the WMU-Battle Creek regional location as well as the College of Aviation in Battle Creek also close. To learn if another regional location is closed, visit wmich.edu/extended.
- In the event of a weather closure, all events on the University events calendar at wmich.edu/news/events will be marked as canceled. Area hosting events that will continue despite a weather closure should notify university relations by sending an email to university-relations@wmich.edu.
- All snow removal needs and requests for special activities or weekend events should go to landscape services, conveyed via a Facility Event Service Request form or by calling (269) 387-8514.
- Accommodation requests related to mobility issues as well as reports of unsafe areas should be directed to the facilities management service center at (269) 387-8514.
- Snow- and ice-removal questions or concerns after normal business hours should be directed to the public safety at (269) 387-5555.

For more information, visit wmich.edu/news/2017/12/44064. To review WMU's Closure Policy, visit wmich.edu/policies/a-z.

Team of WMU ROTC cadets brings home 7 gold medals

Nine Army ROTC program cadets competed for the German Armed Forces Badge at Toledo University Oct. 27-28.

The team was matched against other soldiers of allied countries as well as the German Army, and competed alongside other Midwestern schools, including Michigan State and Ohio State universities.

Vow renewal is in Guinness book

The latest edition of the Guinness World Records book is out, featuring WMU on Page 161 for the largest marriage vow renewal ceremony. On Oct. 8, 2016, 1,201 couples renewed their vows on East Campus in an event organized by development and alumni relations.

Trusted approve retirements of 14 faculty, 4 staff members

The WMU Board of Trustees at its Dec. 12 meeting signed off on the retirements of 14 faculty members and four staff members as well as the resignations of two faculty members and one staff member.

The employees' names, positions, and effective dates of retirement are as follows.

Faculty retirements with emeritus status: Jane Bass, professor of dance, effective June 30, 2018; David Carwen, professor of dance, effective May 14, 2023; Richard de Peaux, professor of art, effective April 30, 2018; Shaila Rass, professor of English, effective April 30, 2023; and John Weitzel, master faculty specialist of marketing, effective May 14, 2023.

Staff retirements: Arlene Buchanon, carpet cleaner in building custodial and support services, effective Dec. 1, 2017; Douglas Engerbretsen, academic advisor in education and human development, effective Nov. 2, 2017; Mark Schwerin, news and communications specialist in university relations, effective Nov. 2, 2017; and Rebecca Solomon, Haenicke Institute, effective Jan. 1, 2018.

Staff resignations: Arlene Buchanon, carpet cleaner in building custodial and support services, effective Dec. 1, 2017; Douglas Engerbretsen, academic advisor in education and human development, effective Nov. 2, 2017; Mark Schwerin, news and communications specialist in university relations, effective Nov. 2, 2017; and Rebecca Solomon, Haenicke Institute, effective Jan. 1, 2018.


Laurel A. Grotzinger, a former administrator and professor emeritus of University Libraries, died Dec. 15. She was 82. Grotzinger joined the WMU faculty in 1964 and retired in 2015 after nearly 51 years of service. She held several administrative posts, including that of dean of the Graduate College, which made her the first woman to be appointed an academic dean at WMU.

Obituaries-wmich.edu/news/obituaries

wmich.edu/news/2017/12/44064
A clear career goal, six years of advanced education and a two-year required internship plus passage of a licensing exam have led to David Dakin spending the past 25 years helping to build or renovate some of the University’s biggest buildings.

Dakin completed his program’s required internship at WMU in 1992 and was immediately hired full time as a project manager. Subsequent promotions resulted in him being named director of the Campus Planning, Space Management and Capital Projects unit in facilities management.

In this role, the licensed architect oversees the three project managers who handle WMU’s large capital projects, makes sure that projects stay in line with the campus master plan, and finds appropriate space on and off campus to meet the University’s facility needs. In addition, Dakin serves on various committees. He has been a nonfaculty member of the Campus Planning and Finance Council for about 10 years, and currently chairs the Space Allocation Committee and sits on the WMU Permanent Art Collection Committee.

“What I’ve enjoyed the most is that all of the capital projects I’ve been involved with have been different enough that it keeps the work new and exciting,” he says. “And when you think about it, I’ve been involved in one way or another in over a billion dollars’ worth of construction for Western. It’s been a very interesting career.”

Dakin says the hardest part of his job is managing funding because people have a vision for their space, but there’s rarely enough money to make that vision a reality. And he notes that buildings cost a lot to operate and maintain, especially older ones.

“Even if our student population increases, we see our square footage footprint shrinking because of the way education is going to be delivered. That’s why old Sangren Hall came down. We didn’t need that square footage, and now we’re saving in the neighborhood of $300,000 a year in operating costs,” he says. “I hope people see in the buildings that have been built since 1990, we try to make them only as large as we need to but make the quality at a higher level than you’ve seen in the past or maybe at other institutions.”

Dakin, lives in Portage, Michigan, with Monica. He has four grown children and one grandchild. He is a past president of his chapter of the American Institute of Architects and an officer of a charitable motorcycle riders club that raises money for various causes.

Dakin enjoys engaging in new experiences, such as signing up to skydive indoors and to race a car around the Michigan International Speedway track at 180 miles per hour. But his favorite pastime is to take his bicycle out for the afternoon and ride trails in the area.

FOLLOWING A MASTER PLAN
(PhotobyJeanneBaron)