Medical school granted full accreditation

In the final step of a journey that began some seven years ago, the Liaison Committee on Medical Education Feb. 13 granted full accreditation to the WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine for five years.

Five is the maximum number of years for which a new school receiving its initial full accreditation can be accredited by LCME, the national accrediting body for educational programs leading to the medical doctor degree.

WMU’s medical school, or WMed as it is commonly known, is set to graduate its first class Sunday, May 13, during a ceremony in Miller Auditorium.

Most state licensing boards require that U.S. medical schools granting the M.D. degree be accredited by the LCME as a condition of licensure of the school’s graduates. U.S. medical schools also must have LCME accreditation to ensure that their students can take the U.S. Medical Licensing Examination. In addition, graduates of LCME-accredited schools are eligible for residency programs accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.

Hal B. Jenson, WMed’s founding dean, shared the school’s latest accreditation news recently with its Board of Directors, faculty, residents, staff and students, and expressed his appreciation for the work of numerous stakeholders that made the important milestone possible.

“The granting of full accreditation by the LCME is a key step in our journey as an institution to move our medical school forward,” Jenson said.

Volunteer by Feb. 23 for Success@WMU task force

Project directors, an advisory committee, a series of task forces and a firm timetable are all now in place to begin implementation of Success@WMU, one of two campuswide transformational initiatives announced by WMU President Edward Montgomery in January (see Page 3 for related stories).

Success@WMU is a large-scale campus commitment to build on past WMU success with learning communities. The initiative ensures that all new undergraduate students have access to a learning community led by a peer leader assisted by faculty and staff.

The learning communities are intended to not only help welcome and orient new students, but also aid them in building skills and making the connections essential for success in college.

With a firm goal of having the initiative ready to offer to some 5,500 new students for fall 2018, Administrative Lead Keith Hearit and Project Co-director Monica Liggins-Abrams are coordinating the work of a 13-member advisory group and 10 different task forces charged with quickly developing elements of the overall initiative.

More complete information and a link to the task force nomination form are available at wmich.edu/president by clicking Transformational Initiative Fund, then Success@WMU. Nominations must be made no later than Friday, Feb. 23.

“We’re using a flat organization structure,” Hearit says. “The work will be done at the task-force level, with each group charged with a discrete purpose, utilizing existing...”

Continued on Page 4

Project makes researching archived WMU news nearly painless

University Libraries has been madly digitizing a wealth of WMU’s historical publications through ScholarWorks at WMU, a cloud-based institutional repository offered on the Digital Commons platform by Berkeley Electronic Press.

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Continued on Page 4
Food Marketing Conference to focus on the customer

The University’s acclaimed Food Marketing Conference is set for Monday and Tuesday, March 19-20, and is expected to draw up to 800 industry executives to DeVos Place in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The event will explore this year’s conference theme, “Retail Reinvention: Making a Home in Grand Rapids, Michigan.” The event will feature keynote speakers and informational sessions covering topics from the future of brick-and-mortar shopping and the millennial impact on the industry to cybersecurity and analytics.

Now in its 53rd year, the WMU Food Marketing Conference brings leading industry experts from around the country to West Michigan to share the latest developments in the industry. The conference is a non-profit event that supports scholarships and programs for unique educational experiences for WMU food marketing students.

Retirement receptions

Kenneth Fife, lecturer, will be honored for 44 years of service to WMU during a retirement reception from 2 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 28, in 1221 Heritage Hall.

Leisa Perry, administrative assistant in the College of Aviation, will be honored during a retirement reception from 4 to 6 p.m. Monday, April 16, in the Fetzer Center atrium.

Jobs

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

Dance emerita honored for advocacy

Wendy Cornish, emeritus in dance, is the recipient of this year’s Partners in Dance Community Dance Advocacy Award.

The award, presented at a reception Feb. 2, celebrates an individual who has demonstrated significant accomplishment in advancing and supporting dance in the greater Kalamazoo area through volunteerism, philanthropy, artistic achievement, teaching, and administrative leadership.

Cornish, who retired from WMU in 2003, has been an advocate and champion of dance for more than 50 years, including 37 years as professor and chair of dance at WMU.

She was instrumental in shaping the department’s vision and curricular approach, evolving classes originally housed in the department of physical education to an independent program within the College of Fine Arts. She also was instrumental in the development of several regional and national organizations, in many cases, serving them for decades.

Faculty member’s gift funds internships

David Houghton, political science, is one of many faculty members who have started a fund to benefit students. The David G. Houghton Internship Endowment was established to support the Capital and Local Internship Program and expand its scope by placing students in internships throughout Washington, D.C.

The former department chair was instrumental in starting the program with the help of the Lee Honors College. Between 1990 and 2012, the program gave more than 880 interns practical work experience in state and local government.

His dream of expanding the program to include Washington has been made possible through the endowment. To add to the fund, make a donation at bit.ly/2C Awes8.

Grad assistant earns two awards

Justine Morneau, facilities graduate assistant for University Recreation, earned the Robert “Bob” England Outstanding Student Award from the Michigan Intramural Sports Association late last year. In addition, Morneau will be one of only 12 graduate students across the country to receive the National William N. Wasson Student Leadership & Academic Award in March from the National School for Recreational Sports Management.

The Bad Axe, Michigan, student is enrolled in the Master of Arts inocolational leadership program with a concentration in higher education and student affairs leadership. She earned that concentration’s 2017 Outstanding 1st-Year Student Award in the area of diversity and inclusion and expects to graduate this April.

In her graduate assistant role at WMU, she assists in overseeing the Student Recreation Center and its student staff.

Around campus and beyond

Free concerts part of conference

The WMU Concert Band and University Symphonic Band will perform Friday, Feb. 23, in Miller Auditorium as part of the College Band Directors National Association North Central Division Conference. The concert features college ensembles from across the northern United States performing today through Saturday, Feb. 24.

Friday, the WMU Concert Band will perform at 7:15 p.m. and the University Symphonic Band at 8:30 p.m. All concerts are taking place in Miller Auditorium and are free and open to the public. For more information, visit wmuchdna.com or call (269) 387-4667.

Workshop slated for researchers

WMU researchers can learn more about what federal agencies value most in evaluating proposals during a free Broader Impacts 101 workshop. Laurie Van Egeren, a member of the National Alliance for Broader Impacts steering committee, will present from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday, March 1, in the President’s Dining Room at the Bernard Center. Registration is required. For details or to register, visit wmich.edu/research/broader-impacts.

Festival brings singers to WMU

One of the largest, oldest and most successful high school choral festivals in the United States will be held on campus Thursday, March 15. The 80th annual Southwestern Michigan Vocal Festival will draw participants from 19 southwest Michigan high schools and culminate in a 7 p.m. performance in Miller Auditorium.

The concert is free and open to the public, and will feature the 90-voice Festival Chorus nearly filling the first level of the auditorium. For additional upcoming music concerts and festivals, visit wmich.edu/music/events.

Films examine inequality, solutions

Stories of inequality in people’s everyday lives and solutions that can help unite the country are themes of a free film festival underway on campus. Featured are three films from the “America Divided Series,” produced by Norman Lear, Common and Shonda Rhimes.

Two films have yet to be shown: “Something in the Water,” Monday, March 19, and “A House Divided,” Wednesday, April 11. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. at the Bernhard Center’s North Ballroom, with films and post-engagement activities running from 7 to 9 p.m.

Sustainable business expert to talk

Developing methods to account for the positive effects of individual and corporate sustainability efforts—and not just the harms being caused—is the topic of a free lecture Thursday, March 15. Gregory Norris from Harvard University will present the talk from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in 1910 Sangen Hall.

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Several faculty, staff members receive Spring Convocation awards

Faculty and staff members across campus will be recognized for their teaching, research, diversity and engagement efforts Friday, Feb. 23, during the "Spring Convocation: Recognition of Discovery, Diversity and Global Engagement" event.

The annual spring gathering will feature symposia, scholarly presentations and award presentations by four units. This year’s awards will go to 15 employees.

Extended University Programs
• Innovative Teaching Awards—Lori Brown, aviation sciences, and Chad and Autumn Edwards, communication.

Little Theatre selected to be site for esports arena

Editor's note: Also see the related transformational initiative story on Page 1 of this issue.

After weeks of reviewing possible campus locations for the new esports@WMU arena, the Little Theatre on the East Campus has been selected as that site that will be home to the effort that is one of two Transformational Initiatives set to launch in fall 2018.

An eight-member project team has spent recent weeks visiting and reviewing campus locations with the goal of finding a location that can be readily renovated into an arena in which students can compete and spectators have a comfortable place to watch competitions, says Scott Puckett, project manager.

Built in 1942 and renovated in 1997, the Little Theatre seats 192 and has a traditional stage and auditorium-style seating. While most colleges and universities have built esports facilities along the traditional computer lab model, Puckett says, the opportunity to use the Little Theatre will give WMU an esports venue focused on interaction and hosting competitions.

With the location decision made, Puckett says the next steps will be to form small working groups to focus on the design and functionality of the Little Theatre stage, electrical and construction needs and creation of a website for the project. Project team members have already begun reaching out to groups on campus to promote the new facility. They visited the Feb. 10 meeting of the League of Legend’s Registered Student Association and had a booth at the Feb. 19 admitted student gathering on campus.

Office of Diversity and Inclusion
• Excellence in Diversity Award—Donna Talbot, educational leadership, research and technology.
• TrailBlazers for Diversity Award—Mancy Peake, education and human development as well as family and consumer sciences.
• Rising Star in Diversity Award—Dawnielle Simmons, graduate student and co-creator of the Student Assembly for Racial Equity and Cultural Inclusion.

Nominate colleagues for semiannual staff award

Nominations for the spring 2018 round of WMU’s semiannual Make a Difference awards are due Wednesday, Feb. 28.

Make a Difference is a campuswide peer-to-peer program that recognizes staff members for their accomplishments and daily investment of energy and creativity. Every fall and spring, semiannual awards are presented to a maximum of 15 people. Those selected for the accolade receive a monetary prize and are eligible to receive the annual Make a Difference Award. For more information, visit wmich.edu/makeadifference.

Nomination instructions and forms as well as lists of previous winners are available year-round on this webpage.

University summit to focus on student success issues

Editor’s note: Also see the related transformational initiative story on Page 1 of this issue.

An afternoon of innovation, collaboration and inspiration has been planned for the spring 2018 Student Success Summit, set for noon to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 7, in the Bernhard Center’s South Ballroom.

Those planning to attend are required to register by Monday, March 5, at wmich.edu/changereview/broncosfirst by clicking Student Success Summit.

Faculty and staff members are invited to attend the semiannual summit, which this semester will mark the campus launch of the Success@WMU Transformational Initiative. Attendees will be able to network and participate in facilitated discussions with national experts who will discuss topics including academic engagement, peer mentoring, black male student retention and mental health as well as facilitate interest-based discussion groups. Lunch will be provided.

The scheduled panel members are Betsy Barefoot, a senior fellow at the John Gardner Institute; Phaedra White Abbot, director of the Discovery Scholars Program at the University of Texas at Austin; Robert Simmons III, president of the Student Faculty Association; and Margaret Price, program director and associate professor of disability studies and English at Ohio State University.

Obituaries—wmich.edu/news/obituaries

Shirley Bach, emerita in philosophy and internationally recognized authority on biomedical ethics, died Feb. 13. She was 86. Bach joined the faculty in 1961 and retired in 1997 after 37 years of service.

John T. Miller, emeritus in health, physical education and recreation and a former assistant football coach, died Feb. 7. He was 79. Miller joined the faculty in 1963 and retired in 1996 after 33 years of service.

Doris A. Ray, formerly an office associate in health, physical education and recreation and administrative secretary for the McCrinnon Reading Center and Clinic, died Feb. 11. She was 79. Ray came to WMU in 1965 and retired in 2006 after 41 years of service.

Clara Van Eck, formerly an accounting clerk for what is now Extended University Programs, died Jan. 29. She was 96. Van Eck joined the staff in 1971 and retired in 1994 after 13 years of service. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 12, in the Langeland Family Funeral Homes Westside Chapel, 1926 S. 9th St., Kalamazoo.
On Campus

with the Beebes and Zackerys

Many Bronco couples are blood relatives rather than spouses. That’s true of Cindy and Jessica Beebe and Darlene and Shayla Zackery, two mother-daughter pairs of custodians.

Although no one in the quartet works together in the same buildings, they share the same bubbly personalities as well as a uniform sense of unit camaraderie and pride in the work they do for the University.

Darlene has been at WMU the longest—31 years this month. She’s stationed in Floyd Hall while her daughter, Shayla, prefers to float, working wherever needs arise.

“She’s one of the good ones,” Darlene says of her daughter, who’s been at the hall since it opened. “I really enjoy my job. If I didn’t, I wouldn’t have been here 31 years!”

Shayla came to WMU after budget cuts eliminated her job at Michigan Works.

“I wanted to know what my mom had been doing for so much of her life and what all the Bronco positivity and hoopla was about,” she says, as her fellow custodians flash knowing smiles.

Now, Shayla is on track to celebrate her fourth year on the staff. That will happen this summer at about the same time she’ll earn a bachelor’s degree from WMU in university studies with a minor in business.

Comparatively speaking, Cindy and Jessica are foals as a Bronco couple. Cindy was hired a decade ago, and Jessica, the youngest of the group, has only been a staff member for a year. She says the University providing free tuition to full-time benefits-eligible employees is a big reason she wanted to follow in her mom’s footsteps.

Financial reasons also played a role in Cindy discovering her niche on campus. A cook at Bronson Methodist Hospital, she started her employment in Dining Services. But having young kids, Cindy couldn’t afford to work only during the academic year. Luckily, she picked up summer work as a custodian after only one year.

“I liked the people so much I decided to bid over to building custodial and support services,” she explains, amid the jovial laughs and hugs of her three compatriots. “And I’ve had positive experiences ever since.”

Darlene notes that she followed a similar path, only quicker. She was a cook at a local restaurant before coming to Dining Services and moving to her current unit after a mere five weeks.

Continued from Page 1

Medical school granted full accreditation

Medical school granted full accreditation

and represents a ringing confirmation that the M.D. degree program at WMed is sound and meets nationally accepted standards of educational quality,” Jenson said.

“We all should be very gratified with this accomplishment,” he said. “Together, we make WMed an outstanding place to learn, teach, care for patients, work and innovate.”

WMed began preparing for LCME accreditation in 2011 as the medical school was still in the planning stages. LCME granted preliminary accreditation in 2012 and provisional accreditation in 2016.

The process for full accreditation included the submission in July 2017 of more than 2,800 pages of required documentation and a comprehensive, three-day survey visit this October.

Continued from Page 1

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Reaching out to students with the Beebes and Zackerys

Researchers able to reach back further to WMU history

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Continued from Page 1

Researching archived WMU institutional magazines and newsletters covering a wide range of years. It also contains such historical records as Board of Trustees meeting minutes and copies of the annual “WMU Fact Book.”

Meanwhile, issues of the Western Herald from 1916 to 2009 are available online through the Digital Reel interface at wmich.edu/library/collections/digital/western-herald-archive.

Sharon Carlson, Archives and Regional History Collections, notes that researchers and others no longer have to browse through microfilm to search back issues of the newspaper. But she also notes that in case it’s needed, the original newspaper and microfilm are still being preserved in the Zhang Legacy Collections Center.

“We’re always looking for more materials to enter into ScholarWorks,” says Maiza Bundza, ScholarWorks librarian. “So if anyone has materials that seem to belong in our institutional repository or see gaps in our collection, please contact me.”

Now that much of the University’s historical publications are well on the way to being preserved, Bundza adds that University Libraries is starting to archive portions of the WMU website through Archive-It. Progress to date on that initiative can be viewed at archive-it.org/organizations/1020.