Commencement ceremonies set

WMU will stage two commencement ceremonies Saturday, June 23, in Miller Auditorium. WMU President Edward Montgomery will be presiding. The 9 a.m. ceremony is for graduates of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, College of Health and Human Services, College of Fine Arts, and Haworth College of Business. The noon ceremony is for graduates of the College of Aviation, the College of Education and Human Development, and Extended University Programs.

New York Times available through 2021

The New York Times digital edition will continue to be provided to members of the WMU community by University Libraries through June 2021. The new three-year agreement will provide stability for those who want to develop class assignments around this resource. Access instructions are available online at libguides.wmich.edu/nyt.

Free employee photo session slated

Faculty and staff may have their official University photos taken between 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday, June 18, in Walwood Hall’s Heimgem Emeriti Lounge. No appointment is required. Photos will be available for download within three weeks at photos.wmich.edu. Direct questions to Sue Beougher at sue.beougher@wmich.edu or (269) 387-8402. For more about Office of University Relations photography services, visit wmich.edu/universityrelations/photography.

PSSO plans trip, membership drive

Faculty, staff and guests are invited to join the Professional Support Staff Organization for a day of Amish dining, shopping and sightseeing in Shipshewana, Indiana, Saturday, June 23. To register or obtain details, email brittney.young@wmich.edu or brooke.brody@wmich.edu by Monday, June 18.

In addition, PSSO’s annual membership drive is underway. The organization represents benefits-eligible nonexempt (hourly) nonbargaining employees covered under the Staff Compensation System. Membership also is open to University retirees who are former PSSO members. The membership year runs July 1 to June 30; annual dues are $10. Learn more or obtain a membership form by visiting wmich.edu/pssomin. Direct questions to Beth van den Hombergh at beth.vandenhombergh@wmich.edu or (269) 387-2754.

Western News to go on hiatus soon

The next issue of Western News will be distributed on Thursday, June 21. This will be the last issue for the summer. The deadline to submit items for the issue is 5 p.m. Friday, June 15. Western News will resume publication at the beginning of the fall semester.

Continued on Page 4
Summer entertainment continues

Next up in the Broncos Night Out series will be live music featuring Boardman Brown Friday, June 8. Outdoor games will begin at 7 p.m. and the show will begin on the outdoor stage at 7:30 p.m.

The series, organized by development and alumni relations, takes place on Heritage Hall's Grand Lawn. All Bronco alumni, families and fans are invited to these open-air monthly events featuring free outdoor entertainment and snacks.

Montgomery to speak in Southfield

Edward Montgomery, WMU’s ninth president, will be the featured speaker at a special luncheon in Metro Detroit to celebrate the first year of his presidency. Montgomery will provide a University update and cast his ambitious vision for the future in a presentation titled “A Year in Review from WMU President Montgomery.”

The event is set for 11:30 a.m. Thurs. June 28, in the Westin Southfield’s Charlevoix Ballroom in Southfield, Michigan. Attendees will enjoy a fresh, chef-prepared lunch buffet and a selection of desserts. Remarks will begin at 12:15 p.m. The cost is $25 per person. Free, convenient on-site parking will be available in front of the hotel. To obtain more information or register, visit bit.ly/2LrEtwk.

Canadian scholar earns WMU’s 2018 Gründler Prize

A Canadian scholar who specializes in Middle English literature earned WMU’s 2018 Otto Gründler Book Prize for his volume that investigates the widespread belief in fairies and fairyland in medieval culture.

Richard Firth Green, a Humanities Distinguished Professor of English Emeritus at Ohio State University, won for “Elf Queens and Holy Friars: Fairy Beliefs and the Medieval Church.”

This year’s prize, which comes with a $1,000 cash award, was announced at WMU’s 53rd International Congress on Medieval Studies—one of the world’s largest medieval scholar gatherings.

Richard Firth Green and Jana K. Schulman, Medieval Institute (Photo by Mike Landa)

Profs receive mentoring project grant

Jennifer Heymoss, clinical experiences, and Regena Falls Nelson, teaching, learning and educational studies, have been awarded a $25,638 grant from the Michigan Department of Education.

The grant will fund the Leading the Next Generation of Teachers: WMU Summer Institute, which is designed for teachers in partnering area districts to gain coaching skills to mentor new teachers and lead professional learning communities focused on improving student mastery in mathematics and English.

Heymoss and Nelson are being joined on the project by Jill Hermann-Wilmarth, teaching, learning and educational studies; Kate Kline, mathematics; and Cody Williams, Mallinson Institute. Heymoss, Nelson, Hermann-Wilmarth and Kline will all lead professional development sessions at the summer institute. Williams will perform the project evaluation.

Counselor starts endowed fund

Joseph Morris, counselor education and counseling psychology, has bequeathed a gift that creates the Joseph R. Morris Endowed Professorship in Race and Psychology. The fund will enable his department to recruit and retain faculty who have made exceptional contributions to the study of race in counseling psychology or race and psychology.

Morris came to the Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology in 1984 as the first African American tenure-track faculty member in the department. Over the past 34 years of his WMU career, he has left a legacy of instilling multiculturalism into the fabric of the department through his leadership as well as his scholarship.

Morris also is actively engaged in community outreach projects that benefit students in the Kalamazoo Public Schools.

Educator selected as writing fellow

Charlotte Thralls, English, has been chosen by the Association of Teachers of Technical Writing to be elevated to the position of fellow. She was the only person to be so elevated this year.

The honor recognizes those who have made significant long-term contributions to technical communication, and only members who have established natural reputations based on their teaching, scholarship or academic administration are considered.

In bestowing the award, the presenter said, “Professor Thralls, you're contribution to the knowledge of the field, your exemplary teaching record, and the extraordinary range of your service, from the local to the national levels, over a career of four decades testify to the appropriateness of this recognition.”
Trustees approve retirements of 3 faculty, 8 staff members

The executive board room at the W.E. Upjohn M.D. Campus was renamed May 22 to honor WMU’s former president and his wife.

The third-floor conference room will now be known as the Dr. John M. and Linda T. Dunn Executive Board Room after a celebration and unveiling in honor of the Dunns.

“The evening was very, very special, as was the setting and the people who participated, and of course the unveiling of the signage acknowledging not only me, but also, importantly, my wife, Linda,” said John Dunn, who retired as president of WMU in August 2017 and is now a professor emeritus at WMU and president emeritus of WMU.

The naming of the executive board room is in recognition of a significant gift to WMU from the Dunns.

Laws change prescribing practice for certain meds

In response to dramatic increases in opioid overdoses and deaths, several new laws covering opioid and controlled substance prescribing in Michigan took effect June 1. The laws are aimed at preventing harm occurring as a result of controlled substances and opioid use or abuse. Patients receiving pain-relieving medications at medical offices and pharmacies across the state, including Sidnecuse Health Center, will be affected.

“Opioids such as Norco, Percodan, Oxycontin and even cough syrups containing codeine will now have added regulations,” said Jim Middleton, Sidnecuse pharmacy.

Arcadia awards WMU-KVCC sustainable brewing scholarship

A student in the WMU-Kalamazoo Valley Community College joint sustainable brewing program is the first to receive a scholarship in support of women in the industry from Arcadia Brewing Company.

Junior Ellie Maddelen of Naperville, Illinois, pictured with Arcadia brewer Coll Dykstra, will receive a $2,000 scholarship for 2018-19 in recognition of her successful performance in the rigorous sustainable brewing curriculum.

Support for sustainable brewing scholarships is provided by companies and individuals to strengthen the educational ties between WMU, KVCC and the brewing industry. Maddelen’s award is specifically provided by Arcadia to further enhance career and learning opportunities for women in brewing.

Arcadia inaugurated the scholarship fund in 2017 as part of its annual Arcadia Alex Classic golf outing. A portion of the proceeds from the event were used to establish scholarships for students in the institutions’ joint sustainable brewing program. This year’s golf outing takes place Monday, Sept. 24, at Moon Golf Club in Portage, Michigan. More information will be available at westhillsathletic.com.

West Hills membership benefit available to employees, retirees

WMU employees and retirees are encouraged to activate their membership benefit now and join the University’s West Hills Athletic Club.

Those eligible for the benefit only pay taxes on the value of the yearly membership, which ranges from $150 to $270, depending on which membership option is chosen.

West Hills offers more than 80 free group fitness classes per week, featuring Les Mills brand. It also has a wide range of cardio equipment, free weights and weight machines.

Plus, members can take advantage of the club’s indoor track, and full service locker rooms with hot tub and sauna.

Added services include personal training, weight loss programs, tennis lessons and court time, small group training classes, Pilates Reformer and Kids’ Club. There also is a massage therapist on site.

Visit westhillsathletic.com/schedule-visit to take a guided tour of all West Hills has to offer or westhillsathletic.com/wma employee-membership for more information and to sign up today.

Direct questions to Heather Davidson, West Hills sales manager, at heather.davidson@wmich.edu or (269) 387-0410.

Obituaries

Griselda Daniel will be remembered during a memorial service at 3:30 p.m. Friday, June 22, in Walwood Hall’s first-floor Walwood Commons on East Campus. Daniel, a retired administrator in the Graduate College, died April 1 at age 80.

Leona Heerlyn, formerly a medical office assistant in the Sidnecuse Health Center, died April 14. She was 81. Heerlyn joined the staff in 1980 and retired in 1997 after 17 years of service to the University.

Margaret Large-Cardoso, emerita in health, physical education and recreation, died May 28. She was 102. Large-Cardoso joined the faculty in 1949 and retired in 1979 after 30 years of service to the University.

Edgar Inselberg, emeritus in biological sciences, died May 11. He was 87. Inselberg joined the faculty in 1966 and retired in 1999 after nearly 33 years of service to the University.

Executive board room at medical campus named for Dunns

John and Linda Dunn. (Photo by Mike Landa)

Through John Dunn’s visionary leadership and relentless passion, he championed the medical school beginning in 2007 and garnered broad support, enthusiasm and engagement for the new endeavor from the University, Borgess Health, Bronson Healthcare, donors and the community. In 2011, WMU was formed through a collaboration of WMU, Borgess Health and Bronson Healthcare. Dunn served as the founding chair of the board for the medical school.

During the unveiling, Linda Dunn equated the development of the medical school to giving birth to a child and then watching as the institution as its first steps, experienced a few scrapes and bruises, and grew and matured.

John Dunn said he hopes the glass plaque bearing his and his wife’s names outside the board room will remind people of the privilege the Dunns were given of playing a role in helping to develop the medical school and that all great things happen through the cooperation and support of lots of people.

“I think the next big breakthroughs we’re going to see will be in the areas of research, and we have some very, very fine scientists here,” he added.

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3
On Campus with Lindsey Palar

Lindsey Palar’s new title and responsibilities in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion are a testament to the University’s commitment to growing inclusive programs across campus. Formerly program coordinator, Palar became director of diversity education in May. She continues to promote valuable diversity programs such as the Everyone Counts Learning Communities, applications for which are being accepted through Wednesday, June 20, the Real Talk Diversity Series, and MLK Celebration activities and other office functions, as well as works to make the office a campuswide resource. Her new role better defines her directive to coordinate these efforts across campus.

“I’m really passionate about how we develop opportunities on campus, especially for faculty and staff because these are the individuals who are positioned to provide a truly inclusive experience for our students,” she says. “[The director position] is exciting in that it provides more opportunity to collaborate across campus.”

Palar was raised in Kalamazoo and earned a bachelor’s degree from Hope College and a master’s degree from the University of Michigan. She worked at a nonprofit organization in Dearborn, Michigan, working alongside a diverse population in Metro Detroit, including Arab-American immigrants and refugees starting or growing small businesses. In 2015, she returned to Kalamazoo to be near her family, worked in substance abuse counseling for a while and joined WMU, drawn by a desire to work in a setting that encourages ongoing education and growth, social justice, and openness to equality.

“I feel that there is a responsibility and opportunity in higher education to carry out critical work. So many important shifts are happening at WMU and in much broader context nationally and internationally,” Palar says. “I strive to balance what I know about the historical context at WMU with what we know today and how to best serve our campus community. Admittedly, I want it to move much faster,” she reflects. “I have to remind myself that real change takes time.”

Palar and her partner, Paul Vugteveen, live in Kalamazoo with several pets. They own a vegan food catering business, OPEN Vegan Eats, and are committed to participating in social justice events in the greater Kalamazoo area.

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VP, two unit head appointments announced

DJRAWN TO WMU
(Photo by Deanne Puca)

forward, ‘transformational change’ has been our guiding principle and our goal for every major aspect of this institution. I believe Tony Proudfoot has the transformational ideas, experience and thinking to reshape and elevate our efforts in marketing, brand positioning and communication,” Montgomery says.

“Our challenge is to make WMU the university of choice for this region and beyond. Tony’s results-oriented approaches and deep expertise in higher education marketing will be crucial to this work.”

Greg Rosine, vice president for government affairs and university relations, will continue to serve as vice president for government affairs while assisting Proudfoot in his transition to campus and the university relations office.

“I am honored and humbled to be entrusted with the responsibility of strengthening the University’s brand. WMU’s strengths were apparent almost immediately when I stepped on campus,” Proudfoot says.

“Reimagining how we present those strengths to the world will enable WMU to become an undisputed first choice. I look forward to working collaboratively across the University to focus our greatest assets into a clear, compelling voice that attracts attention, students, research talent and financial support.”

Since 2015, Proudfoot has served as associate vice president for marketing communications and brand management at the University of Arizona. This past January, he was tapped to additionally serve as the university’s interim senior vice president for marketing and communications.

Previously, Proudfoot spent eight years at Ball State University, where he was associate vice president for marketing and communications.

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Fostering success center announces new partner, transition plans

for the statewide network is in its final year, she notes. Plus, Maddy Day, director of outreach and training for the center who has been the face of the statewide network, will leave June 30 to pursue national consulting work with the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The New Foster Care is slated to take the lead on continuing to build Fostering Success Michigan’s statewide network of organizations, professionals and key stakeholders. WMU’s Karie Ward, project coordinator for the network, will step up to lead the transition efforts.

The WMU Center for Fostering Success will continue its system change work through its Policy Action Network and research collaborations, which will be led by Linda Schmidt, social work.

Staci Perryman-Clark

The new associate dean of the Lee Honors College has been director of First-Year Writing at WMU since 2010 and also is serving in her second year as associate director of the Office of Faculty Development.

Perryman-Clark is a champion for understanding cultural diversity in the teaching of writing and a key leader in the creation of the University’s new general education program, WMU Essential Studies.

Her work focuses on creating culturally relevant pedagogies and curriculum designs to support all students’ expository writing practices. She is a nationally recognized expert on Afrocentric pedagogies in relation to language rights for writing students.

Alicia Kornowa

Kornowa was selected as the University’s director of admissions following a nationwide search. She will be developing prospecting, recruiting and yield activities to meet enrollment targets and priorities.

She has spent the past six years at the University of Cincinnati, where she now leads a 24-person team and manages marketing, recruitment and yield activities for domestic first-year and transfer students.

Previously, Kornowa was senior associate director of admissions at Cornell University. She also has held positions at the University of South Florida, the University of Central Florida and WMU, where she was assistant director of admissions and orientation.

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