Board of Trustees meeting set
The next meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 12, in 157-159 Bernhard Center. The agenda will be available at wmich.edu/trustees closer to the meeting date.

Trustees approve AFSCME contract
Acting during a special conference-call meeting Monday, Aug. 20, the WMU Board of Trustees OK’d a three-year contract with Local 1668 and Council 25 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees union. The new contract is effective through Aug. 12, 2021.

The union’s 418 members include employees who work in building maintenance and custodial capacities, dining services, landscaping, and several other roles.

Under the new agreement, members will see wage increases in each year of the contract. Increases will vary each year based on the pay grade level of an employee’s position.

In the first year of the pact, increases of 1.5 to 2.5 percent will be provided. In the second year, the contract calls for increases of 1.75 to 2.5 percent, and increases between 2 and 2.5 percent go into effect for the third year of the contract.

Other elements of the new agreement include changes in employee health care premium contributions as well as health care plan modifications.

Pact with teaching assistants OK’d
WMU trustees approved a four-year contract with teaching assistants in June. The union’s old contract expired Aug. 21, and the new pact will run through Aug. 19, 2022.

The approximately 500 members of the Teaching Assistants Union include assistants with appointments that range from one-half to full time, with about 72 percent of the members having full appointments.

Under the new TAU contract, wages for union members will increase 2 percent for each year of the contract. Teaching assistants returning to an appointment for a second or subsequent academic year will receive a one-time payment of $75 during each fall and spring semester.

Teaching assistants who are on appointment and do not use the full amount of their allotted credits of tuition remission during either the fall or spring semesters may defer the unused credits to the subsequent summer or summer II session.

Free employee photo session slated
WMU employees may have their official university photos taken between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 13, in 2150 Schneider Hall. No appointment is required. Photos will be available for download within three weeks at photos.wmich.edu. For details, visit wmich.edu/universityrelations/photography or contact Sue Beougher at sue.beougher@wmich.edu or (269) 387-8402.

WMU goes all in to promote student success
This fall’s 4,700 incoming freshman and transfer students will have unprecedented opportunities to succeed in college at WMU.

The reason—Success at WMU, a sweeping new peer mentoring program that immediately connects these students to campus and orients them to college life and the University.

Launched at the start of the 2018-19 academic year, it is one of two new programs largely being paid for by awards from the Presidential Transformational Initiative Fund that President Edward Montgomery inaugurated in 2017.

Montgomery challenged faculty and staff to come up with ideas for building a stronger sense of belonging and community among all students. More than 60 proposals were submitted, with Success at WMU and Esports at WMU selected as the first initiatives to be funded.

“Student Success is President Montgomery’s top priority, and by supporting students in their transition to Western, we’ll make WMU a campus of choice,” says Monica Liggins-Abrams, director of Success at WMU. “He also wants us to show a significant gain in the retention of new first-year and transfer students. I believe Success at WMU is an initiative that will allow us to do those things phenomenally well.”

The initiative is a large-scale commitment that takes advantage of the University’s past success with student support programs for targeted populations of students and learning communities. It has dramatically increased overall peer mentoring, from about 1,650 incoming first-year freshman and transfer students last year to 4,300 students in this category who are enrolled this fall.

Continued on Page 8

New administrators named, VP search launched
WMU has announced a new vice president and associate provost as well as launched a national search for a chief development officer.

Candy McCorkle was tapped to lead the University’s diversity efforts, effective Aug. 1. Previously, McCorkle was director of diversity and inclusion at Aloma College, where she also managed the college’s King Chavez Parks Mentor Program Grant. She replaces Martha Warfield, who retired in July.

“Dr. McCorkle brings an extraordinary vision, passion and expertise to the challenge of building and maintaining a truly diverse and inclusive campus community,” says President Edward Montgomery. “I’m confident that, working with the WMU community, she will help make us a diverse and inclusive school of choice.”

McCorkle is a WMU alumna who has served as assistant dean of the honors college at Jackson Community College as well as director of the Global Campus Counseling Program at Central Michigan University and of the Master of Arts in counseling at Spring Arbor University. She also has worked as a substance abuse therapist.

Continued on Page 8

Fall Convocation features presidential address, awards
President Edward Montgomery will deliver his State of the University address at a Friday, Sept. 14, Fall Convocation that recognizes faculty and staff achievement for excellence in teaching, research and service.

The campuswide celebration will take place in the Bernhard Center and start with a Teaching and Learning Bash from 9 to 10:45 a.m. in 239-240. To sign up for a bash program, visit wapps.wmich.edu/workshops.

The award ceremony will start at 11 a.m. in the North Ballroom and recognize the 2017-18 campuswide winners of WMU’s Distinguished Service, Distinguished Teaching, Distinguished Faculty Scholar, Emerging Scholar and Annual Make a Difference awards (see Page 6 for details about the winners).

Montgomery’s State of the University address will follow at 11:45 a.m., also in the North Ballroom. This year’s convocation will conclude after Montgomery’s address with a luncheon in the South Ballroom for those attending Fall Convocation. Fall event details are available by visiting wmich.edu/facultypeddevelopment.
Fall opening activities continuing
Classes started Aug. 29, but the one-stop service center in the Bernhard Center will remain open today through Friday, Aug. 31. In addition, some fall opening activities have yet to take place.

The Resource Fair for Graduate Students will be held from 3 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 5, in the 1400 corridor of Schneider Hall. The celebratory event will include a short program featuring Edward Montgomerry, WMU president; Dick Haworth, chairman emeritus of Haworth Inc.; and other dignitaries.
The display was installed over the spring and summer semesters on the lower level of Schneider Hall, where the majority of classrooms are. It is the beginning of a process to transform the 1400 hallway of classrooms into a museum space that will educate students and others in the building about significant alumni and donors.

The ethical standards and professional responsibility of neuroscience researchers will be explored in a talk that kicks off the neuroscience researchers will be professional responsibility of neuroscience researchers will be professional responsibility of neuroscience researchers will be professional responsibility of neuroscience researchers will be professional responsibility of neuroscience researchers will be professional responsibility of neuroscience researchers will be professional responsibility of neuroscience researchers will be professional responsibility of neuroscience researchers will be professional responsibility of neuroscience. Her presentation is free and open to the public. It is the first in the ethics center’s lecture series that includes talks and events related to both the practice and application of science and technology.

APA, PSSO schedule joint meeting for WMU staff
Outcomes of the employee engagement survey conducted in late 2017 by WMU’s Administrative Professional Association and Professional Support Staff Organization will be reported at a general meeting from noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 27.
The meeting, to be held in the Grand Tier Lobby of Miller Auditorium, is open to all salaried (exempt) and hourly (non-exempt) employees. No registration is required. The gathering also will serve as a member drive for both organizations. To incentivize new membership, the groups are hosting a competition that will begin at the meeting and run through Friday, Oct. 5. For the competition, current members are encouraged to bring prospective members to the Sept. 27 meeting, where they will be able to register and pay dues. New members will be asked to note on their registration form the person who recommended that they join. Current members can continue to enlist new members during the following week. They will receive one raffle ticket for each new member signed up within the week.

Prizes will be awarded to the top-three current members in both APA and PSSO who enlist the most new members.

For more information about the two groups, including their dues, visit wmich.edu/apa and wmich.edu/pssso.

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**Summer News**

**WMU continued to make significant news throughout summer**

The University didn’t stop making noteworthy news over the summer hiatus, as the following highlights show.

**Aviation college partners with Delta**

WMU announced in July that it is partnering with Delta Air Lines in the newly launched Delta Propel Career Path Program, an initiative designed to identify and mentor the airline’s next generation of pilots.

The program draws future pilots from colleges, the company itself and the broader community. WMU aviation students accepted into the program will be put on an accelerated path to becoming a Delta pilot.

The airline began accepting student applications in August. Delta expects to hire more than 8,000 pilots to staff the thousands of daily flights it operates around the world as other pilots approach mandatory retirement age during the next decade.

“This is a first-of-its-kind program with a major airline, and the College of Aviation is proud to be recognized by Delta Air Lines as an initial collegiate aviation institution partner,” says Dave Powell, dean of the college.

**ISM program gets top-10 ranking**

The integrated supply management program landed No. 8 on national researcher Gartner’s list of Top U.S. Supply Chain Undergraduate Programs.

The ranking is the third consecutive time the University’s program cracked the list’s top 10 and put WMU within the top tier of programs nationwide along with elite programs at Michigan State, Rutgers and Pennsylvania State universities, and the Georgia Institute of Technology.

“Gartner’s report is a result of what employers view as the perfect job candidate. The overwhelming answer was a blend of engineering, business and information technology skill sets,” says Sime Curtovic, management. “We have been and will continue to be a program that gives employers exactly what they need.”

**Team posts nation’s second highest GPA**

Bronco gymnasts achieved the second-highest grade point average in the nation for the 2017-18 academic year, according to the Women’s Collegiate Gymnastics Association.

As a team, the Broncos carried a 3.793 GPA, marking the seventh straight year WMU has finished in the top 10 nationally. Individually, 14 Bronco gymnasts earned Scholastic All-America Awards.

WMU once again had the highest GPA among Mid-American Conference institutions, marking the seventh straight season leading the league. WMU also had 87.5 percent of its roster earn a 3.5 GPA or better, which led to 14 of its student-athletes named WCGA Scholastic All-Americans.

**Women aviators are flying high**

Three WMU pilots from Michigan captured first place in the collegiate division and fifth place overall in the women-only Air Race Classic cross-country flying event.

Of the 52 teams and more than 100 women competing, 20 teams this year represented 17 aviation colleges around the nation. Pilot Lauren Quandt of Grosse Ile, co-pilot Shelby Satkowiak of Mio and teammate Kelly Erdmann of Southfield finished the 2,600-mile course June 19 to 22 against an aircraft-specific handicap, rather than head-to-head against other competitors.

Last year, WMU ranked fifth in the collegiate race and 10th overall. The University first entered a team in 2000 and raced every year through 2008, returning to the competition in 2014. A WMU team also placed in the top spot for the collegiate division in 2005, when the University came in eighth overall.

**WMU hosts international conference**

Scholars and policymakers from around the globe came to campus in August to present their research and solutions related to sustainable development for African nations. The group made their presentations at the 10th International Conference on African Development.

The event is held biennially, with the location alternating between WMU and Ethiopia. Its primary purpose is to provide people with a better understanding of cultural, political and socioeconomic development in Africa. The conference is hosted by the Center for African Development Policy Research in the Haenicke Institute.

**Obituarie**

Editor’s note: Visit wmich.edu/news/obituaries for more details about these WMU family members.

William Appel, emeritus in music, died July 7. He was 85. Appel joined the faculty in 1965 and retired in 2001 after nearly 36 years of service.

Keith Bailey, emeritus in education and professional development, died June 22. He was 91. Bailey joined the faculty in 1955 and retired in 1989 after 34 years of service.

Sharon Flickinger, a retired word processor, died June 3. She was 71. Flickinger joined the staff in 1970 and retired in 2002 after 32 years of service. Survivors include her husband, Thomas Flickinger, also a former staff member.

Norman Greenberg, emeritus in anthropology and social science and emeritus senior advisor to the president for international affairs, died May 26. He was 93. Greenberg joined the faculty in 1972 and retired in 1992 after nearly 20 years of service. Survivors include his wife, Gilda Greenberg, emerita in humanities and social science.

Ruth Kaarela, emerita and chair of blindness and low vision studies, died Jan. 8. She was 88. Kaarela joined the faculty in 1963 and retired in 1986 after nearly 23 years of service.

Dorothy Kaczmarek, a retired utility food worker in the Bernhard Dining Service, died May 13. She was 78. Kaczmarek joined the staff in 1956 and retired in 2006 after nearly 20 years of service.

Phyllis E. Seabolt, emerita in consumer resources and technology, died July 13. She was 93. Seabolt joined the faculty in 1970 and retired in 1987 after more than 16 years of service. Survivors include a sister, Martha Warfield, immediate past vice president for diversity and inclusion.

Werner Sichel, emeritus in economics, died Aug. 4. He was 83. Sichel joined the faculty in 1960 and retired in 2004 after more than 44 years of service.

Robert Swinehart, a retired upholsterer, died July 5. He was 88. Swinehart joined the staff in 1964 and retired in 1991 after 27 years of service.

Constance S. (Waltz) Weaver, emerita in English, died July 21. She was 76. Weaver joined the faculty in 1965 and retired in 2005 after 39 years of service.

**117/127 Wilson Hall Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49008 (616) 383-3300**
University trustees approved a total of 16 faculty resignations and five leaves during their June 27 meeting. They also signed off on seven faculty and staff resignations and six leaves.

Faculty resignations
All of the faculty members who are retiring are doing so with emeritus status. Their names, positions and effective dates of retirement are:
- Margaret Dupuis, master faculty specialist of English, effective Aug. 31, 2019; Barbara Feizier, professor of family and consumer sciences, effective May 1, 2019, (change in date only); Charles Ikle, professor of biological sciences, effective Aug. 31, 2019; Stephen Malcolm, professor of biological sciences, effective July 1, 2019, (change in date only); Robert Rock, professor of marketing, effective Dec. 31, 2018; Mary Ann Stork, professor of nursing, effective Jan. 1, 2019; and Jay Wood, professor of mathematics, effective April 30, 2023.

Faculty retirements
The WMU Board of Trustees approved the WMU Board of Trustees approved the Faculty retirements of dance, effective July 30, 2019, (change in effective July 1, 2019; Nina Nelson, professor of dance, effective July 30, 2019, (change in effective July 1, 2019; Barbara Loney, administrative assistant I, cash operations, effective June 1, 2018; Pamela McCarty, administrative assistant senior, chemistry; effective May 23, 2018; Bradley Morgan, associate director of education technology, information technology, effective May 1, 2018; Juan Tavara, director of international admissions and services, Hauenstein Institute, effective June 1, 2018; Connie Volsenki, administrative assistant II, economics, effective June 2, 2018; John Waltz, office assistant, registrar's office, effective June 1, 2018; and Martha Warfield, vice president for diversity and inclusion, effective July 31, 2018.

Faculty resignations
Due Seok Choi, assistant professor of educational leadership, research and technology, effective July 12, 2018; Emily Carril, assistant professor of special education and literacy studies, effective June 30, 2018; Kelley Halladay, faculty specialist II-professional specialist of counselor education and counseling psychology, effective Aug. 31, 2018; Capt. Russell Kavallour, executive director of flight operations, aviation, effective June 8, 2018; David Montgomery, master faculty specialist-professional specialist, music, effective June 30, 2018; Caron Reeling, assistant professor of economics, effective Aug. 31, 2018; and Robert Sutton, faculty specialist-professor of chemistry, effective Aug. 31, 2018.

Other personnel matters
Sabbatical leaves were granted to Lisa Coons, associate professor of music, and Andrew Henrich, associate professor of art, effective academic year 2018-19, and Kirk Korista, professor of physics, effective fall 2018. Leaves of absence were approved for Magdalena Niedawodomsa-Bugaj, professor of statistics, effective fall 2018; Luigi Andrea Berto, professor of history, effective Jan. 1, 2019, through April 30, 2019; and Joan Conway, master faculty specialist-language specialist, Center for English Language and Culture for International Students, effective July 1, 2018, through Aug. 31, 2018.

Promotions approved for 50 faculty members during trustees’ June 27 meeting

The WMU Board of Trustees approved the promotions of 50 faculty members at its June 27 meeting, effective with the beginning of the 2018-19 academic year.

Faculty promoted to professor: Marc Alspector-Kelly, philosophy; Kathleen Baker, geography; Karen Bondarchuk, art; Scott Cowan, music; Whitney DeCamp, sociology; Bruce Ferrin, marketing; Scott Gaynor, psychology; Chien-Juh Gu, sociology; Lynne Heasley, Institute of the Environment and Sustainability; Dae Kim, blindness and low vision studies; Karen Schieman, nursing; Dee Sherwood, social work; James Springstead, chemical and paper engineering; Vivian Valkmanis, interdisciplinary health programs; Zeljka Vidic, human performance and health education; and Marcel Zondag, marketing.

Faculty promoted to master faculty specialist: Joan Conway, Center for English Language and Culture for International Students; Eva Copija, Center for English Language and Culture for International Students; Mingming Feng, accountancy; Jennifer Foster, counselor education and counseling psychology; Brett Geier, educational leadership, research and technology; Angel Gullon-Rivera, family and consumer sciences; Wanda Hadley, educational leadership, research and technology; Annette Hamel, communication; Andrew Hentlnsch, art; Jennifer Hudson, mechanical and aerospace engineering; Kristina Lemmer, mechanical and aerospace engineering; Elena Livinova, physics; Derrick McIver, management; Laurel O'Beirne, management; Fahad Saeed, computer science; Karen Schieman, nursing; Dee Sherwood, social work; James Springstead, chemical and paper engineering; Vivian Valkmanis, interdisciplinary health programs; Zeljka Vidic, human performance and health education; and Marcel Zondag, marketing.

Faculty promoted to master faculty specialist: Joan Conway, Center for English Language and Culture for International Students; Eva Copija, Center for English Language and Culture for International Students; Kristy Eisenhart, mathematics; and Dennis McCrum, educational leadership, research and technology.

Faculty promoted to faculty specialist II: Kimberly Doudna, family and consumer sciences; Beth Effron, business information systems; and Anne-Marie Gudiy-Oladu, business information systems.
The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 50, 45, 40, 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service during August.

50 years—Bradley E. Huitema, psychology. 45 years—Bob E. White, industrial and entrepreneurial engineering and engineering management. 40 years—Ronald C. Kramer, sociology; Joseph W. McKeen, statistics; and Zahir A. Quraeshi, marketing. 35 years—Paul V. Engelmann, engineering design, manufacturing and management systems; Donna Kaminski, computer science; Gregory B. Lozeau, information technology; and Bradley A. Wong, music. 30 years—Christine Browning, mathematics; Jim Butterfield, political science; Mike J. Dekau, information technology; Dee Roberts Gauthier, music; Tanun Gupta, industrial and entrepreneurial engineering and engineering management; Tracy A. Hennessey, art; Azam Houshyar, industrial and entrepreneurial engineering and engineering management; Gloria Johnson, building custodial and support services; Sheldon A. Langsam, accounting; William C. Olson, English; Charles T. Osterberger, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences; Donald R. Schreiber, chemistry; and Amy J. Seth, University Recreation.

25 years—Janice L. Bedrosian, speech, language and hearing sciences; Bob Bensley, interdisciplinary health programs; Susan M. Carlson, sociology; Steven J. Culver, mathematics; Alvina Gipson, admissions; Scott P. Hennessey, admissions; Kathy L. Houser, university budgets; Jeffrey L. Lillard, public safety; Molly Lynde-Recchia, world languages and literatures; Larry A. Mollak, industrial and entrepreneurial engineering and engineering management; John Martino, mathematics; Regina Fails Nelson, teaching, learning and educational studies; Lisa Paulius, physics; Robert A. Peters, public affairs and administration; David S. Reinhold, university assessment; Wendy Rose, music; Jack M. Ruhl, accountancy; Larry J. Simon, history; and Amy S. Washington, intercollegiate athletics.

20 years—Hablas Abdul-Qader, electrical and computer engineering; Joetta L. Carr, gender and women’s studies; John A. Clark, political science; David W. Clemens, Miller Auditorium; Jennifer K. Clements, Joetta L. Carr, gender and women’s studies; Lin Foulk, music; and Zachary C. Schreiner, mathematics; Jesse M. Smith, sociology; Robert L. Stewart, music.

15 years—Carolyn Enskie Johnson, counselor education and counseling psychology; Shiva Om Bade Shrestha, mechanical and aerospace engineering; Andrea L. Beach, educational leadership, research and technology; Steve Booser, student transitions; Christopher C. Cheatam, provost’s office; Stephen G. Covell, comparative religion; Kirsty J. Eisenhart, mathematics; Steve Feffer, English; Lin Foulk, music; Jon D. Holtman, anthropology; Chaiyang James Hueng, economics; Pavel G. Ikonomov, engineering design, manufacturing and management systems; Wendy Kedersha, nursing; Mustafa Mughray, world languages and literatures; Hanif Naderi, gender and women’s studies; Ginger V. Owen, art; John A. Patton, industrial and entrepreneurial engineering and engineering management; Cynthia J. Pierras, psychology; Troy Place, industrial and entrepreneurial engineering and engineering management; David M. Powell, aviation; Kaseopong Ro, mechanical and aerospace engineering; Kimberly A. Searing, nursing; and Zijiang Wang, English.

10 years—Kelly D. Ackerson, nursing; Mary Louise Anderson, counseling and human development;Upul Bandara Attanayaka, civil and construction engineering; Cathryn D. Bailey, gender and women’s studies; Rebecca E. Branch, Sindecuse Health Center; James Scott Centilli, education and human development; Ann M. Chapleau, occupational therapy; Jacqueline T. Eng, biological sciences; Sharon A. Gill, biological sciences; Ramakrishna Guda, chemistry; Peter A. Gustafson, mechanical and aerospace engineering; Lucia F. Hallert IV, geography; Jeffrey N. Jones, teaching, learning and educational studies; Dae Shik Kim, blindness and low vision studies; Carrie C. Leatherman, University Libraries; Kevin T. Lehmann, intercollegiate athletics; Rafael Mendeza, building custodial and support services; Dini Metelko-Roland, teaching, learning and educational studies; Brandy Ann-Skjold Pleasants, Mallinson Institute; Doris J. Rosastos, interdisciplinary health programs; Jessica L. Richards, building custodial and support services; Gail Y. Rouchou, College of Aviation; William A. Saurbeck, public safety; Kahler B. Schuemann, president’s office; Xiaoyun Shao, civil and construction engineering; Andrew J. Sleek, landscape services; Bradley R. Smith, art; Vivian Isabelle Stremers, world languages and literatures; Andre R. Venter, chemistry; Margaret A. Von Steinem, government affairs; Yuan-kang Wang, political science; and Justin S. Woodhams, building custodial and support services.

Five years—Wendy Scott Beane, biological sciences; David Thomas Benac, information technology; Teresa A. Bingman, interdisciplinary health programs; Scott M. Blaum, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences; Heather Luai, socia; work; Peter Dragicevich, landscape services; Dalandra D. Fry, Bernhard Center Dining Service; Daniel G. Guyette, fine arts; Amanda K. Hill, landscape services; Yufeng Hu, civil and construction engineering; Hilary A. Hunt, cash operations; Greg Jasperse, music; Penny Jernigan, intercollegiate athletics; Douglas A. Johnson, psychology; Kenneth B. Janes, Haworth; Susan A. Kramer, building custodial and support services; Nicholas M. Kader, Art; Dylan Leddibetter, information technology; Ryan D. Lewis, art; Elena Livinova, physics; Thayma Colleen Darby Luz, mathematics; Andro H. Mondala, chemical and paper engineering; Aaron Michael Morona, information technology; Melissa Ottesen, Center for English Language and Culture for International Students; Alisa M. Perkins, comparative religion; Renuka Marian Phillips, Haworth College of Business; David L. Pretwills, Davis Dining Service; Joseph Isaac Ruppert, Center for English Language and Culture for International Students; Mark A. Schreiner, mathematics; Jesse M. Smith, sociology; Robert L. Stewart, Haworth College of Business; Beverly Vандrer, counselor education and counseling psychology; and Aaron P. Whitsack, public safety.

July service anniversaries

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

40 years—Robert L. Johnson, information technology, and Vance C. Phillips, provost’s office. 35 years—Joan E. O’Byrnan, information technology. 30 years—Marguerite Clay, Human Resources, and Delores J. Minshall, information technology. 25 years—Matthew T. Sroo, chemical and paper engineering. 20 years—Mary Choker, Davis Dining Service; Alan D. Rhoderick Sr., maintenance services; and Laura M. Thomas, Registrar’s Office. 15 years—Judy Carroll, Registrar’s Office; Emily R. Dougery, theatre; Michael A. Lininger, public safety; Bette A. Lubig, psychology; Kate E. Paspas, Residence Life; and Linda Zoeller, nursing. 10 years—Lori J. Bingman, accounts receivable; Sara E. Clark, occupational therapy; Katie DeCamp, Valley Dining Center; Steve Durbin, electrical and computer engineering; Victoria A. Hastings, public safety; Nan Janecke, enrollment management; Sarah Joann McBrien, intercollegiate athletics; DeVon Caprice Miller, maintenance services; Julie Ann Obrecht, Haenicke Institute; and Jennifer L. Trout, geological and environmental sciences.
Emerging Scholar Award

This award recognizes the contributions of faculty who are in the first decade of their careers at WMU and who, by virtue of their contributions to scholarship or creative activity, have achieved national recognition and demonstrated outstanding promise to achieve renown in their continuing work. It is going to the following person.

Maria Selena O. Protacio, associate professor of special education and literacy studies. She came to WMU in 2012 and focuses her research on the literacy motivation and engagement of English learners. Her publications related to that rarely researched area are filling an important gap in literacy literature. Protacio also is praised for her extensive student mentoring and work to advance the literacy research profession.

Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award

This award, the highest annual honor for a faculty member, recognizes those whose work constitutes a significant body of achievement that is widely recognized within the national and international academic communities. It is going to the following person.

Susan Poco, professor of economics, directs the global and international studies program and came to WMU in 1982. She is known for being the first to study real-world topics that later became front and center in national policy discussions, especially remittances and immigration policy. Poco serves as a referee for prestigious journals, reviews grant applications for several government agencies and is invited to present her research at premiere conferences.

Distinguished Service Award

This award recognizes exceptional service in areas that reflect innovative and effective programming, increase WMU’s stature, or in areas that reflect innovative and effective engagement of the academic community. It is going to the following people.

Stephen G. Covell, chair and Mary Meader Professor of Comparative Religion, directs a study abroad seminar and is founding director of the Soga Japan Center. He came to WMU in 2003. Covell was lauded for setting “a standard that few others can meet” when it comes to helping organize international seminars, conferences and workshops for faculty and students so they can expand their knowledge of global issues. He also was praised for encouraging students to expand their understanding and appreciation of different religions.

Michael C. Braun, a master faculty specialist of Spanish who died unexpectedly Aug. 27, oversaw the Spanish secondary education program and came to WMU in 2004. He had received the Barbara Ort-Smith Award from the Michigan World Language Association, the most prestigious distinction an educator in the field of world languages can receive in the state. Braun presented award-winning workshops and conference sessions for local school districts and national organizations. His students and colleagues cited him for the enthusiasm he brought to the classroom and for the constructive interactions he had with prospective, current and former students.

Scott Cowan, associate professor of jazz studies, directs the WMU Jazz Orchestra as well as coaches chamber ensembles. He is a published composer and arranger who has performed with internationally recognized jazz artists. Cowan’s students report that he is humble as well as knowledgeable and professional. They also stressed that he is a teacher who has guided WMU’s jazz programs along a path of world excellence and prestige and he is “hugely generous with his time and resources.”

Scott Slawinski, associate professor of English, is graduate director for his department and came to WMU in 2005. He has received a grant from the Maine Women Writers Collection to begin his second book project. College students also cite him for having a “warm, inviting presence” in the classroom, being a patient listener and willing student advocate, and having exceptional ability to navigate complex content.

Make a Difference Award

This award is the highest accolade WMU bestows specifically on non-faculty employees for their service. Annual round honors go the following people.

Katie DeCamp, manager of the Valley Dining Center, came to WMU in 2013. She oversees an operation that serves hundreds of people daily and employs some 250 students and nearly 40 full-time University staff. DeCamp was praised for being phenomenally dedicated, organized, professional and pleasant—no matter how busy or demanding her day becomes. She also was described as an innovative problem-solver who shows personal initiative, and a role model and mentor for both her assistant managers and student employees.

Susan A. Kramer, custodian, came to WMU in 2013, initially working in Dining Services. She is stationed in the Seibert Administration Building, a four-story facility that Kramer nearly always cleans by herself and houses a variety of major University offices. Without fail, occupants of her building marveled at how thoroughly she does her job, given that as one put it, “She is on the go from the moment she steps in the door to the moment she leaves.”

Jeff Stone, deputy athletic director, is primarily responsible for managing and monitoring the academic progress of all WMU student-athletes as well as supervising the University’s compliance with NCAA and other rules. He came to WMU in 1987. He was praised for creating an environment of support and care, “along with a little tough love.” In addition, both students and colleagues cited him for working long hours behind the scenes and being a key reason why the University’s student-athlete graduation rate continues to soar.

Connie Volenski, administrative assistant II in economics, came to WMU in 2002 and retired earlier this year. She began her employment in Human Resources and had worked in economics since 2007. Volenski was credited with keeping the administrative side of her department running smoothly, one co-worker characterizing her as “the life-blood of our department.” She was consistently praised for maintaining a welcoming and positive attitude and for her exceptional dedication, organizational and problem-solving skills, professionalism, and innovations.
Fall News

Ample resources on hand for switch to WMU Essential Studies

Faculty are encouraged to take advantage of an upcoming workshop as well as a variety of other resources that are available to prepare them for the University's move to a new general education curriculum.

The new curriculum, WMU Essential Studies, will go into effect at the start of the fall 2020 semester. It comes with a more focused set of educational intents, learning outcomes and assessment criteria for faculty that will result in new and updated courses for students.

WMU Essential Studies will apply to all new undergraduates who are covered under the 2020-21 Undergraduate Catalog.

Available resources

Among the helpful resources already available is a workshop called Navigating WMU Essential Studies: Design, Assess, Submit. The workshop will be presented from 1 to 3 p.m. Fridays, Sept. 14 and 28, Oct. 12 and 26, and Nov. 9 and 30, in Sangren Hall's Swan Library. It features three concurrent breakout sessions:

- "Understanding the WMU Essential Studies Design: Where Does My Course Fit? What Is Needed for a Successful Review?"
- "Electronic Submission: A Tutorial."

Information about the new general education curriculum also is available on the WMU Essential Studies website. Faculty Senate's WMU Essential Studies website, an interactive webpage showing the program model and student learning outcomes with assessment rubrics will soon be added there.

Other resources scheduled for posting within the first couple of weeks of the fall 2018 semester are a user guide for the electronic course submission process and a template for the course assessment piece.

In addition, a variety of academic committees, councils and other campus groups will have the opportunity to hear presentations on WMU Essential Studies in upcoming weeks.

Enforcement phase for research policy starts Sept. 1

Full enforcement of the Proposal Submission Policy for External Funding that was announced earlier this year will start Saturday, Sept. 1.

The policy was established to help ensure that WMU's principal investigators have sufficient time to obtain the support needed to guarantee that all proposed documents are compliant with sponsor requirements.

Implementation is being enforced in two stages. During Phase I, the July 1 to Aug. 31 transition period, the Office of the Vice President for Research expected principal investigators to learn about the new standards and follow them as closely as possible. Phase II begins Sept. 1 and signals the start of full enforcement.

The Proposal Submission Policy for External Funding and its procedures lay out a specific timeline for when major elements of a proposal must be completed and provided to OVPR. The process aims to limit potential problems that could be encountered if principal investigators leave too little time for themselves or OVPR to complete their respective responsibilities.

Key aspects of the submission timeline now being enforced call for:

- The Proposal Approval Form to be completed and routed to a PI's research officer by noon, seven business days before the deadline.
- All administrative items and ancillary documents to be in their final version by noon, five business days before the sponsor deadline.
- The proposal, in its final form for submission to the sponsor, to be submitted to the sponsor by noon, two business days before the sponsor deadline.
- For additional details, visit wmich.edu/research/proposal-submission. Direct questions to the appropriate program research officer and ensure that the necessary policies and procedures are in place in time for its 2020 launch.

They began the course development process last spring, and the course approval procedures and forms were finalized this summer. This semester, faculty across campus will be configuring their planned course offerings so an essential studies committee can review the courses during the spring semester.

Elliott notes that the University's college curriculum units must submit their WMU Essential Studies courses by Monday, Dec. 31.

For more information, visit wmich.edu/facultysenate/wmuesentialstudies. To sign up for the Navigating WMU Essential Studies workshop, visit wapps.wmich.edu/workshops. Direct questions to Elliott at wmu-essentialstudies@wmich.edu.

New student course-ratings instrument adopted

Following the 2017 contract negotiations between WMU and its faculty union, the University penned an agreement with Campus Labs for a new student course ratings instrument to replace the Instructor and Course Evaluation System—ICES.

A WMU-AAUP committee worked with representatives from information technology to research and select the Campus Labs Course Evaluation. The committee's selection was based on a list of preferred instruments that had been researched and identified by a joint committee of administrators and faculty members chosen by the Faculty Senate and WMU-AAUP.

The new system will allow for greater ease of access for students, quicker return of results to faculty and the opportunity to create research-based incentives for student participation.

It is anticipated that most faculty will experience little change in the way they access and use the new system, compared to their previous experience with ICES.

For more course evaluation details, visit wmich.edu/assessment. More information is also available on the electronic course submission process and a template for the course evaluation system or contact Dave Reinhold at david.reinhold@wmich.edu or (269) 387-4564.

Obituaries—September services

Todd Havener, a police officer, died unexpectedly at home Aug. 9. He was 47. Havener joined the staff in 1993 and had been a member of the public safety department for more than 24 years.

A visitation will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 8, in the Betzer Life Story Funeral Home, Kalamazoo. It will be followed by a memorial service at the Betzer Funeral Home.

Ellis Ruthburn, a retired locksmith, died Aug. 16. He was 87. Ruthburn joined the staff in 1969 and retired in 1993 after 24 years of service. A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 8, in Evart Free Methodist Church, Evart, Michigan.
The program assigns members of those undergraduates to communities of up to 25 people that are led by a peer mentor.

"Peer mentors help our new students practice good study habits, explore internship and job opportunities, and engage on a social level so they feel like they belong here and have an easier time adjusting to college," Liggins-Abrams says.

"As a result, we expect new students will have fewer adjustment problems, feel comfortable seeking help when they need it and be motivated to stay in school. Ultimately, we should see a significant improvement in the number of students who are satisfied with their educational experience at WMU, helping us to make this their campus of choice."

More than 100 student employees are serving as peer mentors this year after receiving special training. They, in turn, are being mentored by some 60 faculty and staff who have volunteered to be their champions.

Liggins-Abrams says individual cohorts will remain in place for the 2018-19 academic year, although students are not required to participate.

Success at WMU is being administered by the Division of Academic Affairs, which also is providing space for the peer mentors and on the University Computing Center's second floor for the program's main office.

In addition to an $818,500 award from the Presidential Transformational Initiative Fund, it is being paid for by a matching fund created of a Faculty and Staff Signature Fund that will increase employee engagement in WMU initiatives as well as recognize those who amp up their engagement.

Amanda Aguirre-Jaimes is a relatively new staff member in Human Resources, but she has quickly moved through the ranks at WMU. Aguirre-Jaimes started as a student employee in H.R. in May 2017 and was hired as senior office assistant a year ago.

While continuing to pursue her bachelor's degree in human resources at WMU, she works full time answering phone calls, conducting background checks for students and temporary employees, and compiling packets used for new-employee orientation sessions every Monday. She is on track to graduate in summer 2019.

"I enjoy working with international student employees the most, discovering where they are from and how long they will be here, and working with them to get official documents," Aguirre-Jaimes says.

She adds that mid-August to early December is the office's busiest time, as students are returning and departments are hiring new employees.

Prior to coming to WMU, Aguirre-Jaimes attended Grand Rapids Community College, close to where she grew up and where most of her immediate family still lives. Now a Kalamazoo resident, she was born in Sacramento, California, and moved to Grand Rapids with her family when she was 11 years old.

Aguirre-Jaimes is an advocate for students, helping them network and have the contacts and resources needed to be successful. In fact, she serves as secretary of a local chapter of the national Association for Latino Professionals for America that she helped form at WMU this past fall. The networking group hosts recruiters and company representatives who come to speak to members.

Her involvement with fellow students extends to her membership in the Latino Student Alliance, a registered student organization that plans community events as well as participates in WMU's popular International Festival held each spring semester.

"I think it is important to have these groups represented to support any groups that help students in the future," Aguirre-Jaimes says. "It's beneficial for them, and I know they've also helped me a lot, making contacts and pointing us toward resources for majors."

Continued from page 1

WMU goes all in to promote student success

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