Construction affecting traffic patterns

Construction for the new pedestrian mall and continued work on the new Sangren Hall has triggered major changes to campus driving and parking patterns. Michigan Avenue at the Bernhard Center’s Archer Drive stop sign is now closed, and several other parking and pedestrian areas have been temporarily closed or shifted. They include changing Lot 48, behind the Bernhard Center, into visitor parking only.

Visit wmich.edu for links to updates and maps for each phase of construction for the pedestrian mall and Sangren projects. Questions about specific walking and driving routes should be directed to Bob Loper, construction administrator, at robert.j.loper@wmich.edu or WMU’s construction office at (269) 387-8543.

Numerous summer camps scheduled

Writing fiction, singing jazz or playing their favorite sport or instrument are all options for young people this summer at numerous camps offered on the WMU campus. Registration is under way for many of these camps, and space is limited for most. Visit wmich.edu/news/2012/04/362 for a partial list of camp offerings.

Housing rates to increase slightly in fall

A 2-percent increase on residence hall room-and-board rates and rental rates for most campus apartments will become effective with the start of the fall 2012 semester.

The increase, which does not apply to the Western View apartment-style complex, means that a new student living in a campus residence hall and subscribing to the mid-level 15-meal plan will pay $8,206 for the academic year—up $161 over the 2011-12 rate.

The rate increase will not affect current students returning to traditional campus residence halls. As part of the Western Edge, WMU’s Residence Hall and Dining Advantage program will continue to ensure that food and housing rates will remain the same for four consecutive years. The program has saved families $1.5 million since its inception in 2008.

Autism focus of new graduate program

A 36-credit-hour autism specialization has been added to the master teacher option offered within WMU’s Master of Arts in Special Education. The program will complement the master teacher option’s existing specializations.

Also, the University is collaborating with Residential Opportunities Inc. to establish the Great Lakes Center for Autism Treatment and Research in Portage, Mich. ROI will run, develop and manage the physical facility. WMU will integrate practicum students and provide consultation services under the direction of Lloyd Peterson, special education and literacy studies.

Stapleton named Graduate College dean

Susan Stapleton, an internationally recognized scientist who has served as mentor to scores of high school, undergraduate and graduate students, has been named dean of the Graduate College, effective May 15.

Stapleton, who holds a joint appointment as professor of both chemistry and biological sciences, has been a WMU faculty member since 1990. She has a long history of research funded by the nation’s top health science organizations, and for the past five years, has served as associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

In recent years, she has engaged students from WMU and other institutions in research training opportunities through her long-standing role as program director for an NSF-funded Research Experience for Undergraduates program and as project director for the recently funded Howard Hughes Medical Institute Undergraduate Science Education Award.

Stapleton’s expertise and professional input is continually sought by colleagues around the nation. She reviews manuscripts for numerous journals and has served on review panels and as an ad hoc reviewer for various federal and private funding agencies.

The Graduate College serves more than 5,000 students—20 percent of WMU’s total enrollment of 25,286. The college supports WMU’s 101 graduate degree programs, including 30 at the doctoral level.

WMU-developed technology to have huge industry impact

A device developed by WMU researchers is at the “cutting edge” of new technologies designed to speed the processing of brittle materials and could soon have a huge commercial impact on the manufacture of difficult-to-machine engineered components.

The technological breakthrough was spearheaded by John Patten, director of the WMU Manufacturing Research Center, and Deepak Ravindra, a senior research associate and postdoctoral fellow.

It uses high pressures generated by diamond cutting tools, along with an intense and focused laser beam, to cut hard, brittle objects, such as glass, ceramics, semiconductors, porcelain, stone and much more. The technology could revolutionize the processing and manufacturing of brittle materials, drastically reducing the time and the cost to manufacture everything from complex semiconductors to optical mirrors.

Patten has been working on the concept since 1995, with related work starting in 1985. It took 10 years to envision an engineering application for it. By 2006, he had decided how it would work, having already submitted a patent the year before in WMU’s name. WMU has further supported its development through its Technology Development Fund program.

“This is cutting technology done by splitting hairs,” Patten says. “We are the only ones in the world doing this.”

Already the research has garnered international recognition, and a business has been formed—Micro-Laser Assisted Machining.

Event to help employees take advantage of tuition benefits

A Family Education Fair Tuesday, May 22, will help benefits-eligible WMU employees go back to school this year alongside the students they teach and serve.

The fair, set for 4 to 6 p.m. in the second floor Bernhard Center ballroom, helps faculty and staff and their families take full advantage of one of the most significant parts of their employee benefits package—tuition remission.

Attendees will be able to meet with academic department representatives and advisors as well as staff members from admissions, financial aid and Human Resources. They will have their application fee waived if they apply for admission for the 2012-13 year.

The event gives benefits-eligible employees a chance to get their questions answered about the process of applying for admission and taking classes—either to begin a degree program or meet their own professional development goals.

This is the second year for the event, which garnered enthusiastic campus response when it was first held in August 2011. The Office of Admissions opted to hold it earlier in the calendar year this time to give employees and families more time to explore and plan for the fall semester.
Western View complex to be enlarged by fall 2013

WMU will add two or three new buildings to its popular Western View residential complex, using a fast-track construction plan to complete the effort for a fall 2013 opening. Phase II of Western View will be located immediately west of the first phase. The construction project, details of which are still being finalized, will consist of new residential buildings as well as a community building that will be available for use by all Western View residents.

The project will build on the success of Phase I of the Western View complex that opened in fall 2011. That 330-bed apartment-style complex was at full capacity nearly a year in advance of its opening.

“The Western View construction project is part of a continuous long-range housing and dining assessment and improvement strategy,” says Diane Anderson, vice president for student affairs. “We are very excited about moving ahead quickly in the coming months to address the current demand for on-campus housing.”

Western View Phase II reflects WMU’s commitment to having updated learning-oriented facilities that support ongoing recruitment and retention efforts. During a meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees in April, President John M. Dunn discussed and broadly outlined plans for campus housing and dining enhancements. The basic premise of his message was that “stay tuned” as new projects are announced and brought online with an aggressive timetable.

Additional details will be announced in the coming weeks. They also will be posted at wmich.edu/students/planning, a site that outlines housing and dining resources on campus and recent accomplishments in those areas.

Lifelong Learning Academy announces summer session

The Lifelong Learning Academy is offering a short summer session of courses from June 5 through July 31, and registration has begun through Extended University Programs.

Although programs are geared toward older Kalamazoo-area residents, individuals of any age are welcome to participate. Academy courses are provided for the joy of learning—there are no tests or grades.

Topics this summer include digital photo editing, the historical highways of southern Michigan, the social history of baseball, landscaping with native plants and more.

The low-cost summer session classes will meet on campus, in the First United Methodist Church or in the Portage Senior Center two to three times a week.

Proposals, registrations sought for Asia region conferences

Scholars and teachers will be able to examine issues that span Asia during two concurrent conferences Friday through Sunday, Sept. 21-23, in the Fetter Center. The events are the 61st Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs, which is a regional conference of the Association of Asian Studies, and the Himalayan Studies Conference, which is being presented by the Association for Nepalese and Himalayan Studies.

Proposals for panel and paper presentations are due by Friday, May 18, at ahhs-himalaya.org/hsc for the Himalayan Studies Conference and by Friday, June 15, at international.wmich.edu/mca for the Asian Affairs conference. Those hoping to present at the Himalayan Studies Conference must also register to attend the event by May 18.

Organizers of both conferences will accept proposals from undergraduate and graduate students as well as other scholars from any academic discipline on any topic involving Asia. Abstracts must accompany proposals for papers.

Exchange

For sale—Indian Lake/Vicksburg home. Prime lot on Lake with 210 feet of frontage. Brick walkout, 3,000 square feet. $675,000 or best offer. Must see. Call (269) 649-0492.

Prime lot on lake with 210 feet of frontage. Brick walkout, 3,000 square feet. $675,000 or best offer. Must see. Call (269) 649-0492.

Jobs

Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources Web site at wmich.edu/hr/careers-at-wmu. Please note that applications must be brought online with an application. For paper applications as well as other scholarships from any academic discipline on any topic involving Asia. Abstracts must accompany proposals for papers.
Deadline approaching to select WMU's top four staffers for 2012

Twenty-three staff members are in the running for WMU’s Make a Difference annual awards.

The 23 are recipients of 2011-12 Make a Difference semianual awards. As such, they are now eligible to be considered for one of the four annual awards bestowed by this peer-to-peer staff recognition program.

Members of the WMU community have through Thursday, May 31, to help decide who will be this year’s “final four.”

In the running are: Jennifer F. Bailey, University Recreation; Paula Bucknoll, Extended University Programs; Jeffrey Carr, maintenance services; Tracy Corstange, College of Education and Human Development; Myra Currie, public safety; Cheri Edgar, business information systems; Christina Fawley-Zehner, Valley I Dining Service; David Florida, electrical and computer engineering; Frances Frazier, building custodial and support services; Margaret Hamilton, College of Fine Arts; Anthony Helms, College of Education and Human Development; M’Myia Hughes, College of Education and Human Development; Nicole Kalmbach, student affairs; Kristine Kling, foreign languages; Lori Krum, physics; Julie Lenczycki, projects and construction; Rainer Liebert, Sindecuse Health Center; Jessica Parker, Extended University Programs; Scott Puckett, enrollment management; Roxann Swank, College of Education and Human Development; Veronica Thomas, residence life; Robert VanDyke, dining services; and Lisa Yousty, marketing.

A selection committee will review new information about the candidates, as well as their previously submitted semianual nomination materials. New information should include specific examples of the candidates’ dedication to outstanding service.

Visit wmich.edu/hr/make-a-difference for details and nomination forms.

Trustees approve retirements

The retirements of four faculty members and 13 staff members were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees at its April 19 meeting.

Trustees also signed off on one faculty resignation.

Three of the faculty members who are retiring are doing so with emeritus status. Their names, positions, years of continuous service and effective dates of retirement are: Ronald B. Chase, geosciences, 39 years, effective Aug. 31; Richard R. MacDonald, sociology, 45 years, effective Dec. 31; and William F. Santiago-Velles, African studies, 13 years, effective Dec. 31. The other retiring faculty member is G. Thomas Ray, teaching, learning and educational studies, 20 years, effective Dec. 31.

The staff members retiring are: Crista Boyle, Valley II Dining Service, 17 years, effective June 30; Saut Chamigranont, University Libraries, 20 years, effective April 15; Marianne DeAngelis, Valley I Dining Service, 11 years, effective Jan. 13; Alexander A. Gray, maintenance services, 12 years, effective July 1; John H. Horton, computer science, 11 years, effective Feb. 29; Betty L. Kirk, building custodial and support services, 31 years, effective March 31; Nancy A. McFadden, student affairs, 10 years, effective March 30; Gayle S. McMillen, Lee Honors College, 30 years, effective June 30; Russell P. Northey, power plant, 22 years, effective June 30; Munselle H. Pientka, human performance and health education, 11 years, effective June 8; David S. Prentice, power plant, 31 years, effective June 30; Gail Heflin-Puffer, building custodial and support services, 34 years, effective March 31; and Susan B. Reed-Will, information technology, 26 years, effective March 31.

The faculty member resigning is: Deanna Swoboda, music, effective Aug. 19.

Service

The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service during May:

30 Years—Cynthia L. DeRyke, teacher certification, and Gayle S. McMillen, Lee Honors College.

25 Years—Christina Bradshaw, Center for Disability Services; Dale S. Jansen, information technology; and Barbara J. Peacock, psychology.

20 Years—Khanh Hoang, University Libraries; Thomas A. Mills, Center for Disability Services; and Kathlene M. Scheffers, College of Health and Human Services.

15 Years—Miranda Howard, University Libraries, and Timothy W. Strunk, student affairs.

10 Years—Caryn M. Hanson, financial aid; Debra M. Robinson, financial aid; and Faith A. Wicklund, Miller Auditorium.

Five Years—Thomas W. Blackmon, Unified Clinics; Kelly Kuhlmann, financial aid and scholarships; and David J. Wright, Bernhard Center.

Obituary

James W. Hill, emeritus in management, died April 9. He was 83. Hill joined the faculty in 1968 and remaindered in 1990 after nearly 20 years of service. He served as chair of the management department from 1983 to 1988.

Dale D. King, emeritus in mechanical engineering, died April 9. He was 88. King joined the faculty in 1957 and retired in 1984. Memorial gifts may be made to the King family.

Dale P. Pattison, emeritus in music, died April 16. He was 83. Pattison joined the faculty in 1963 and retired in 1995. Memorial gifts may be made to the WMU Foundation and directed to the Dale P. Pattison Memorial Scholarship Fund. Visit langelands.com to make a memorial guestbook entry.

Louwina Petersen, a former custodian, died April 26. She was 86. Petersen joined custodial and support services staff in 1978 and retired in 1989 after 10 years of service. Memorial gifts may be made to the Kalama-zoo Gospel Mission or the Borgess Heart and Vascular Center.

Carol L. Stamm, a former associate vice president for academic affairs and emeritus in management, died April 15. She was 67. Stamm joined the faculty in 1981 and retired in 2001. A memorial service and reception will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 13, in the Dorton Center Recital Hall. Memorial gifts may be made to the Alzheimer’s Association.

Gerald H. “Gib” Youngblood, a former head baker, died May 3. He was 69. Youngblood joined the Bernhard Center Dining Services staff in 1986 and 1995. Memorial donations may be made to Arbor Hospice/Hospice Care of Southwest Michigan. Visit langelands.com to make a memorial guestbook entry.
Applications being accepted for Everyone Counts

Applications are due Friday, June 15, for WMU’s 2012-13 Everyone Counts Learning Community, a professional-development opportunity that fosters diversity and inclusion.

Graduate teaching and research assistants, as well as full- and part-time faculty and staff members, are encouraged to apply.

This year, participants will focus on a variety of topics as they relate to race and racism, including but not limited to multicultural leadership, ethics, conflict resolution, facilitation, systems thinking, university structure and university culture.

Everyone Counts began in 2010 and annually brings together about 50 graduate students and faculty and staff members from across the University for a yearlong exploration of how to increase diversity and inclusion on campus. The program aims to produce both personal and institutional transformation by equipping all levels of employees with necessary skills to respond to WMU’s increasingly diverse campus.

It is a joint offering of the Office of Faculty Development and Office of Diversity and Inclusion. Visit wmich.edu/facdev for an Everyone Counts application form or more information.

Questions may be directed to Andrea Beach at andrea.beach@wmich.edu or (269) 387-0711; Diana Hernandez at diana.hernandez@wmich.edu or (269) 387-4429; or Tierra Marshall at tierra.marshall@wmich.edu or (269) 387-6324.

Keystone breakfast talk set

Robert DeWit, president and chief executive officer of the Southwest Michigan Innovation Center, is the featured speaker for the next Keystone Community Bank Breakfast Speaker Series talk, which starts with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Friday, May 25, in Schneider Hall’s Dean’s Conference Room.

DeWit will discuss the growth of the center, which provides support and assistance to nurture the formation, survival and growth of innovative, entrepreneurial life science businesses. His talk is free and open to the public.

Reservations are required and may be made by calling (269) 387-5050.

WMU developed technology

Technologies LLC—with Ravindra seated as co-founder and chief technical officer and Patten as co-founder and chief scientific officer.

The National Science Foundation recently awarded Patten and Ravindra an NSF Innovation Corps Program, or I-Corps, grant of $50,000 to pursue the technology’s commercial viability and ready it for commercialization.

Ravindra, who earned bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees from WMU in mechanical engineering, is the entrepreneurial lead. Tom Gross, a senior entrepreneur and current CEO of another university startup, is the team’s business mentor. Gross is a fellow WMU alumnus and a recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award.

WMU is one of two research universities in Michigan to receive an I-Corps grant, along with several top engineering institutions, including Yale, MIT and Princeton. The WMU team was among the 24 teams selected this year from among 350 applicants.

Tom Mills began his career as an artist, earning his degree in art from Spring Arbor University in 1990. But while in school, he worked in group homes for people with developmental disabilities, and that experience steered him in a new direction.

Mills, support coordinator for the WMU Center of Disability Services, says he enjoys working with people and finds it rewarding. He assists people who have mental and physical disabilities, monitoring their daily progress and helping them at doctor’s appointments and with paperwork associated with obtaining health care and social security benefits.

A WMU employee for more than 20 years, Mills started with CDS as a direct-care worker responsible for the day-to-day care of adults with developmental disabilities. Within five years, he began moving into several different supervisory positions and was working with staff and client counselors at the center.

Mills assumed his current job in 2007 and now works the cases of about 30 adults with developmental disabilities. In this position, he monitors clients’ care and sets clients up with services they need.

“We provide support for them, linking them to services, advocating for them and monitoring their care.” Mills says, adding the adults he works with are all clients of Kalamazoo County Mental Health.

He says the most rewarding part of his work is “seeing the change in people; seeing the growth and interacting with clients.”

Mills still works on his art—primarily painting—and enjoys music as well as spending time with his wife, Holly; one son; and two daughters.

The family lives in Portage, Mich., not far from where Mills grew up. He earned his master’s degree in social work from WMU in 2002.

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