Next employee mixer coming up

The next Fridays With Friends faculty and staff mixer will take place from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Gilmore Theatre Complex atrium Feb. 17. Complimentary light hors d’oeuvres and a cash bar will be available.

Numerous student jobs advertised

WMU is seeking student coordinators for both Bronco Bash and Homecoming 2012 as well as student orientation leaders in August for the fall 2012 International Student Orientation and Registration Program.

The deadline to apply for an international student orientation position is Monday, Feb. 27. Visit www.international.wmich.edu/s sopr for details. The deadline to apply for a Bronco Bash or Homecoming student coordinator position is Friday, March 2. Visit www.coso.wmich.edu for details.

Chavez scholarship available for fall

Southwest Michigan high school seniors who have demonstrated academic success and civic responsibility in their communities have the opportunity to apply for an up-to-$1,000 scholarship for use this fall at a Michigan college or university.

The application deadline is Tuesday, Feb. 28. The Southwest Michigan Cesar E. Chavez Committee will award the scholarship at its annual dinner Saturday, March 31, in the Bernhard Center. Visit www.wmich.edu/sustainability/student/scholarships.html for more information.

Sustainability grant deadline extended

Applications are now due at 11:59 p.m. Thursday, March 1, for a total of nearly $45,000 in spring semester Student Sustainability Grants to support student research, activities and initiatives that will foster a culture of sustainability at WMU. Visit http://wmich.edu/sustainability/student/scholarships.html for complete information and a grant application.

International students get tax help

Information about a free tax-preparation system for international students and scholars is accessible online through the Haenicke Institute for Global Education.

The system helps users prepare U.S. federal income tax forms 1040NR and 1040NR-EZ. Eligible foreign students, scholars, researchers and trainees who need to file a 2011 U.S. tax return may create an account using their Bronco Net ID and access the system for free.

To be eligible to access the system, users must be studying or doing paid or unpaid work at WMU or have previously studied or done paid or unpaid work at WMU.

Most people can complete and print a tax return in about 20 minutes. Visit http://international.wmich.edu and click the “GLACIER Tax Prep” button. University staff are unable to provide any software support or tax advice.

MSU/KCMS to transition into medical school

The board of the Michigan State University/Kalamazoo Center for Medical Studies has announced its organization’s formal merger into WMU’s School of Medicine, effective July 1.

The merger was approved Feb. 3 during a meeting of the MSU/KCMS Board of Directors. The board’s formal approval of the merger follows months of discussion involving WMU and Borgess Health and Bronson Healthcare, WMU’s medical school partners. Those two hospitals operate the center and have provided third- and fourth-year medical education there since 1974 to MSU medical students. MSU/KCMS has more than 60 physician faculty members and nearly 500 community clinical faculty members who teach more than 200 resident physicians and 50 medical students each year.

The ongoing relationship between MSU/KCMS and MSU’s College of Osteopathic Medicine will continue with the WMU School of Medicine. Students in MSU’s College of Human Medicine will continue their medical training in Kalamazoo through June 2014 under a transitional affiliation agreement. WMU’s medical school will welcome its first class of students in fall 2014.

“With this change, the role of Borgess and Bronson grows from being affiliated with a medical school based in another city to being ‘parents’ of a medical school with WMU right here in Kalamazoo,” says Hal B. Jenson, medical school founding dean. “The School of Medicine is extremely fortunate to gain the expertise of the faculty and staff of KCMS as they become the core of the new medical school.”

Under the terms of the merger, MSU/KCMS operations, programs, personnel and facilities will be wholly merged into and become part of the WMU School of Medicine. The current clinic operations, support staff and faculty will remain at their current locations at 1000 Oakland Drive, and the psychiatry clinic will remain on Borgess’ campus.

Some organizational leadership changes may require certain faculty or staff to be moved to WMU’s historic East Hall will regain its connected audiences.

In a variety of an emerging nationwide trend, with the Kalamazoo Center’s South Ballroom. It is the first in an expected series of such meetings for WMU, Borgess Health, Bronson Healthcare and the Kalamazoo Center for Medical Studies.

“The School of Medicine has frequently been the topic of questions in other campus forums,” says WMU’s Bob Miller, who leads the school’s communication committee. “The school is now at a point in which substantial progress is being made in a number of critical areas, and milestones are rapidly being met. We want to make sure our campus community has an opportunity to fully understand, engage and become well informed about an initiative that will transform our University and community.”

Medical school focus of meeting

WMU President John M. Dunn and medical school Dean Hal B. Jenson will lead a discussion of the new medical school and take audience questions during a town hall meeting for members of the campus community at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14, in the Bernhard Center’s South Ballroom.

The Next Fridays With Friends faculty and student orientation position is Friday, March 2. Visit www.international.wmich.edu for details.

Restored grandeur, adapted reuse planned for East Campus

If plans outlined Feb. 1 come to fruition, WMU’s historic East Hall will regain its earlier grandeur and the University’s Prospect Hill birthplace will become home to a boutique hotel, commercial office space and a variety of residential living options.

Last photo: Stairway in East Hall (Photo by John Gilroy)

Randy Doran, senior vice president at KDC Real Estate Development and Investments, outlined the tentative plans during a town hall meeting before an audience of about 25 campus and community members. KDC is the private-sector development partner WMU identified last fall to redevelop the 35-acre East Campus site.

Doran revealed that thus far, plans call for:

• East Hall to be a boutique hotel, part of an emerging nationwide trend, with the gymnastics preserved as a health club and the psychiatry clinic converted to a small conference center designed to serve small gatherings and weddings.

• North Hall to be dedicated to residences that can potentially serve some of the building’s best-known features—arched windows and classic fireplaces.

• West Hall to be focused on moderately priced apartment housing for University-connected audiences.

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Traditional spirituals to be performed

The Fisk Jubilee Singers, an African-American a cappella group from Fisk University, will perform at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. Tickets are available at the door and from Miller Auditorium at www.millerauditorium.com. (269) 387-2300 or (800) 226-9858.

Engineers Week talk scheduled

Harold Glasser, WMU executive director for campus sustainability, will present a talk Tuesday, Feb. 21, about designing sustainable strategies for providing energy, water, food, fiber, transport, shelter, goods and services for a growing global population. This presents potential fields of unprecedented growth for future engineers and scientists.

The talk is part of the local celebration of National Engineers Week and will take place during the annual Engineers Week Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21, in the Bernhard Center. Reservations for the dinner are $25 for professionals and $10 for students. Reservations must be made by Friday, Feb. 17. Visit www.wmich.edu/engineer/eweek/index.html or call (269) 276-3374 for more information or a reservation form.

Japanese author to lecture, read

Hirami Ito, one of the foremost authors of contemporary Japan, will talk about Buddhism and how it affects modern life when she lectures on “Classical Buddhism, Where To? A Contemporary Writer’s Perspective” at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 22, in 2028 Brown Hall. Ito will be joined by WMU’s Steve Covell and Jeffrey Angles. Later that day, Ito will conduct a conversation and bilingual poetry reading at 6:30 p.m., also in 2028 Brown Hall.

Health care rationing to be discussed

Art Caplan from the University of Pennsylvania will address the rationing of health care at 4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23, in 2008 Richmond Center. His talk is titled “The Inevitability of Rationing and How to Be Fair About It.”

Keystone breakfast event slated

The food industry and the upcoming WMU Food Marketing Conference will be the focus of the Keystone Community Bank Breakfast talk Friday, Feb. 24, in the Dean’s Conference Room of Schneider Hall. Frank Gambino, marketing, will be the featured speaker. The free event begins with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Reservations can be made by calling (269) 387-5050.

Corrections

A title was incorrectly attributed to Cathryn Bailey in the Jan. 26 issue. Susan Freeman is director of the Gender and Women’s Studies Program.

Also, employing units for two WMU staff members were incorrectly identified in the Jan. 12 issue. Both Jerry Burhans and Rich- ard Rollback are employed by maintenance services.

Jobs

Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources Web site at www.wmich.edu/hr/careers-at-wmu.html. Please note that applications must be submitted online by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included with each posting.
Student appreciation week celebration honors University’s student employees

WMU will recognize some 4,000 student employees during the 26th annual Student Employee Appreciation Week Feb. 20-24. Career and Student Employment Services, which sponsors the week, is accepting nominations through Thursday, Feb. 16, for the awards it bestows in conjunction with the observance, which this year carries the theme “Student Employees are Superheroes.”

The week is a time to honor all student employees for their hard work and the many ways they contribute to WMU. It also provides an opportunity to showcase the University’s outstanding student employees and student employee supervisors.

Students may make nominations for the Supervisor of the Year award while faculty and staff members may make nominations for the Belleville Student Employee of the Year award. The 2012 award winners and nominees will be announced as well as celebrated during a reception from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23, in the Bernhard Center. Faculty and staff members are encouraged to submit award nominations and to thank their student workers in some way during appreciation week. While supplies last, the career services office will provide small gifts that may be used as thank-you’s for student workers. Gift requests must be received by Monday, Feb. 13.

The office also has developed a list of suggestions for other ways to thank student employees and makes available a template for creating certificates of appreciation.

Visit www.fm.wmich.edu/career/studentemployment/awards/ to make a memorial guestbook entry. For more information and to obtain or request appreciation week materials.

New BRCC head is finance pro

Stephen J. Haakenson has been named executive director of the Biosciences Research and Commercialization Center, effective Feb. 6.

Previously, Haakenson had been a program/portfolio manager since 2006 at the Michigan Economic Development Corp. In that position, he was responsible for managing state investments in companies to help them develop, grow, expand, diversify and commercialize within Michigan.

WMU’s BRCC is a successful life science economic development initiative established in 2003 by the Michigan Legislature with $10 million in state funding. The center has supported life science startups that, in turn, have created some 250 new jobs and attracted $95 million in investment capital.

Haakenson’s appointment coincides with the launch of a second round of funding the BRCC recently received from the state. The new $3.8 million fund, dubbed BRCC-II, will be used for additional life science startup investments.
On Campus with Tammy Miller

Tammy Miller and a small cadre of colleagues in the Office of Institutional Equity are responsible for making sure WMU complies with state and national laws as well as University policies related to employment, civil rights and harassment.

Miller, the office’s assistant director, has a human resources background and works with an attorney, psychologist and technical wizard.

“We work closely and really well, together. We all have different skills that we bring, and we work as a team on most cases,” she says. “One person can’t do everything. Laws are changing all the time, and different people have different perspectives.”

Before coming to WMU, Miller worked locally in HR for 17 years. She came to WMU in 1999 after applying for a job in that field focused on information processing.

“It turned out to be a lot of systems work. I like technology, but not as a job. Here, I get to work much more with people,” she says about transferring to institutional equity in 2000. “I joined the office when it moved into the Trimpe Building. I was told, ‘Wear jeans, we’re moving.’ That was my first day.”

Miller began as an equity compliance specialist, then assumed her current role in 2010 when her predecessor retired. Now, she spends the bulk of her time doing employee relations and counseling, providing advice and training, reviewing hiring files, participating in search committees to help units diversify their applicant pools, and helping WMU to implement its Diversity and Multicultural Action Plan.

She is often busy finding ways to level the playing field for individuals with disabilities by recommending job accommodations and assisting with resolving disputes related to Americans with Disabilities Act.

“Our goal is to prevent problems and improve situations so people can do their jobs in a bias-free workplace. We’re trying to be a light that shines on what the University can do better,” she says. “We don’t want to be viewed as a necessary evil or scary place to visit. We want people to do the right things for the right reasons. When we can help make something a win-win for everybody, that’s the best part of the job.”

Miller and her husband live in Paw Paw and have a son age 20 and a daughter age 17. Their son played college hockey for a while, which helped Miller become a fan of the sport. She also loves to scrapbook, read and “play” with technology, especially her iPad.

Restored grandeur, adapted reuse planned for East Campus

• The Speech and Hearing Center to be targeted for reuse as a commercial office building with its interior largely preserved.

The cost of redeveloping the four structures is pegged at $55 to $60 million or about $200 per square foot—about twice the cost of new construction for such facilities.

Doran said that high cost makes receiving state and federal tax credits essential for development to take place and makes the uncertainty surrounding Michigan’s new tax-credit structure a point of concern.

“Without tax credits, it becomes very difficult to make financial sense of a development like this,” Doran said. “This will be something that has been part of every set of plans during the process,” Doran said. “This will be something hot off the press, the WMU Board of Trustees granted sabbatical leaves for 36 faculty members.

A sabbatical was granted for the 2012 fall semester for Nina Nelson, chair of dance. The remaining 35 faculty members were granted sabbaticals for the full 2012-13 academic year.

They are: Carla Aukstien-Bradley, counselor education and counseling psychology; Fritz Alhoff, philosophy; Andrea Beach, geological sciences; Karen Bondarchuk, art; Sandra Borden, nursing; Karen Lancendorfer, marketing; Albert LaVeque, art; Duke Leingpibul, marketing; Lezsek Lilien, computer science; Steven Mackey, mathematics; Christine Moser, economics; Pablo Parra-Camacho, Spanish; Heather Petcovic, geosciences; Alan Poling, psychology; Eli Rubin, history; Bade Shrestha, mechanical and aeronautical engineering; C. Richard Spates, psychology; Owen Tarbox, English; Yvonne Unrau, social work; Udaya Wagle, public affairs and administration; and Allen Webb, English.