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For and about WMU faculty and staff

Building donated to house medical school

A science and research facility in downtown Kalamazoo will be renovated and repurposed to become the home of WMU’s School of Medicine, it was announced Dec. 8.

The 33,000-square-foot structure is widely known as Building 267 and located just off the northwest corner of Lovell and Portage streets.

MPI Research, headquartered in Kalamazoo, Mich., has made a commitment to donate the building to WMU for the new medical school, which is a private partnership involving the University and Kalamazoo’s two teaching hospitals, Borgess Health and Bronson Healthcare.

WMU will extensively renovate and slightly expand the facility to become the medical school campus. Renovation will begin in early 2012 and be completed by mid-2014, in time for the first entering class of medical students in August 2014.

“Locating the School of Medicine within Building 267 presents a unique opportunity for our region,” says MPI research chairman and CEO William U. Parfet. “The School of Medicine will not only advance the University’s academic programming and curriculum, but also increase the vibrancy of our downtown community and add critical mass to our long-standing and leading-edge life science corridor in Southwest Michigan.”

Among those on hand for the Building 267 donation announcement were, from left: Paul A. Spaude, CEO of Borgess Health; Frank J. Sardone, CEO of Bronson Healthcare; William U. Parfet, CEO of MPI Research; Dennis W. Archer, chair of the WMU Board of Trustees; Hal B. Jenson, dean of the medical school; and John M. Dunn, president of WMU. (Photo by Mike Lankas)

2012 MLK events include presentation by noted author

Award-winning author, talk show host and scholar Michael Eric Dyson will speak this month at WMU as part of events celebrating the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Dyson will speak on “Martin Luther King Jr. and (African) American Leadership in the 21st Century” at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 15, in Miller Auditorium.

A professor of sociology at Georgetown University, he has written and edited some 18 books illuminating such luminary black American figures as King, Malcolm X and Marvin Gaye as well as detailing the disaster of Hurricane Katrina.

He used the 40th anniversary of King’s assassination as the launching pad for his provocative book “April 4, 1968: Martin Luther King Jr.’s Death and How it Changed America.” The book examines how King fought and faced his own death and provides a starting point for a comprehensive reevaluation of the fate of black America over the four decades since King’s death.

A wide variety of additional free events are being held for the general public at WMU as well as at Kalamazoo College and across the broader Kalamazoo community as part of the local 2012 Martin Luther King Jr. celebration.

WMU and Kalamazoo College are again partnering with the Northside Ministerial Alliance and

WMU home page remains focused on prospective students

WMU’s home page has new features, but remains focused on serving as the front door of the University for prospective students and first-time and infrequent visitors to the WMU website.

A new series of front-page features went live in December. The first four rotating features, along with additional features now in production, are designed to convey critical University marketing messages about student, faculty and alumni success; groundbreaking research; global and local engagement; and opportunities for students to work one-on-one with top-notch faculty.

“For the past year, we’ve focused our front-page efforts exclusively on traditional first-year students. It’s been very effective, along with other marketing efforts, in attracting healthy increases to our number of traditional applicants,” says Cheryl Roland, executive director of
Chinese culture courses offered

The Confucius Institute at WMU is accepting registrations for spring 2012 Chinese culture courses that begin Tuesday, Jan. 17. Nine courses are being offered, and most will be repeated in a second session beginning the week of March 12.

The low-cost courses are open to the public. Tuition discounts apply for part-time and full-time WMU employees and students as well as individuals aged 55 and older. Visit www.wmich.edu/confucius to register or obtain more information.

Summit scheduled for students

Registration has opened for a Gender and Leadership Summit for WMU students that will be held from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 27, in the Bernhard Center. The summit’s keynote speaker will be Adriana Garriga-Lopez from Kalamazoo College.

The cost to attend is $10 if registering by Friday, Jan. 20, and $15 if registering from Jan. 21 through summit day. Visit www.wmich.edu/leaders/gender.html to register. Questions should be directed to Sarah Schultz at salp-roleadership@wmich.edu or (269) 387-2482.

Employee program to be explained

A new information session has been set for a summer study abroad program for WMU employees that was recently renamed “Language and Culture Experience in Mexico for Faculty and Staff.” The session is set for noon Wednesday, Jan. 18, in 2039 Brown Hall. Visit http:// littlejohn.wmich.edu/content/view/26162/1 for details.

Plug in vehicles are focus of talk

The dynamics of the emerging plug-in vehicle market supported by the advanced energy storage sector will be explained during a luncheon talk Friday, Jan. 20, in Holland, Mich. The talk, co-sponsored by the WMU College of Engineering and Applied Sciences and Lakeshore Advantage, will feature David Hurst, senior analyst at Pike Research in its clean transportation practice.

The event will take place at 11:30 a.m. in the DoubleTree by Hilton, 650 E. 24th St. It costs $10 for students and $35 for others. Seating is limited, and registration is required by Thursday, Jan. 19, at (616) 772-5226.

New Ethics Center season begins

The rights guaranteed under the Ninth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution will be examined when Brian C. Kalt from Michigan State University speaks at 2:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 20, in the University Center for the Humanities, Room 2500 Knauss Hall. His presentation is titled “Unenumerated Rights in Congress.”

Faculty survey, luncheon series address sustainability issues

A faculty survey that went live Jan. 9 seeks to identify and prioritize the types of support structures that faculty members believe are necessary to foster the integration of sustainability across the academic enterprise.

Harold Glasser, campus sustainability, says results from the faculty-only survey will help identify and prioritize potential incentives, resources and policies that will help faculty to integrate and influence sustainability across WMU’s teaching and research efforts.

“The survey is also intended to stimulate and support the creation of a universitywide learning community around sustainability-related research and teaching,” Glasser says. “We believe that this ground-up effort will bear significant fruit for helping to implement the University’s strategic plan and meet WMU’s sustainability commitments.”

The Office for Sustainability is planning a series of luncheons during the spring semester to launch the campuswide learning community.

The results of the survey will be discussed in those luncheons to help explore information gleaned and refine initiatives and areas in which more research needs to be done. Ultimately, that will lead to a series of recommendations compiled in a report to the president and provost.

Art emeritus publishes retrospective

Joseph De Luca, emeritus in art, has published a book chronicling his work that is titled “Joseph De Luca, Selected Works: Five Decades—Drawing, Paintings and Constructions.” The book includes 139 pages in color and was published in 2011 by Signature Books.

It is the result of a retrospective exhibition of 80 works produced from 1958 to 2010 held in Gallery Fifty of Building Fifty in the Village Commons in Traverse City, Mich.

De Luca’s work may be found in private collections throughout the United States, Europe and South America as well as many public collections, including those of corporations, museums and universities.

He retired from WMU in 1996 after 30 years of teaching, drawing and painting and resides in Traverse City, where he continues to paint and exhibit.

Prof reelected to national group

Jim Hopfensperger, art, has been elected to a second term as president of the National Council of Arts Administrators. The council is the premier national forum for leaders to exchange views on issues confronting visual arts, design and arts education administrators in higher education today.

The group promotes communication among institutions while provid- ing meaningful collaborative opportunities for arts administrators within academia and leaders in related arts organizations.

Hopfensperger was recently selected to a two-year term as chair of the Professional Practices Committee of the College Art Association, an academic organization with more than 14,000 members advancing the highest standards of instruction, knowledge and practice of the visual arts among professionals at museums, colleges and universities, and cultural and nonprofit organizations.

Faculty member part of state forum

Timothy Palmer, management, is joining entrepreneurial educators from top programs across the state to serve on a new forum to advance entrepreneur- ship among students and alumni in Michigan.

During the Michigan Entrepreneurship Education Leaders Forum’s inaugural meeting Dec. 9, participants addressed how entrepreneurship programs can individually and collaboratively provide students with necessary entrepreneurial skills and effective practices. The forum discussions included teaching and funding models and strengthening the student entrepreneurial experience.

The forum was created through the joint partnership of the entrepreneurship units in the University of Michigan’s Ross School of Business, Michigan State University’s Broad College of Business. In addition to WMU, UM and MSU, the forum includes educators from Central Michigan, Eastern Michigan, Grand Valley State and Wayne State universities.

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WILLIAM J. HOPFENSPEGER, president emeritus, Kalamazoo College

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Western News, Office of University Relations, Walwood Hall, Western Michigan University, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5433.

DEADLINE: Items to be considered for publication should be sent to the Western News by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures must be submitted online by the stated deadline. For sale—“university and institution.” It is the result of a retrospective exhibition of 80 works produced from 1958 to 2010 held in Gallery Fifty of Building Fifty in the Village Commons in Traverse City, Mich.

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Medical school names first faculty member, five administrators

Six appointments were announced last month for the WMU School of Medicine, including five new administrators.

All five are part of the Kalamazoo Center for Medical Studies, an entity managed by Borgess Health and Bronson Healthcare, Kalamazoo’s two teaching hospitals and WMU’s partners in developing the medical school. They will continue in their current roles as it transitions over the next year to become a core element of the new school.

The administrators, along with their WMU titles and KCMS affiliations, are: Elizabeth A. Burns, associate dean for clinical affairs, KCMS president and CEO; Richard L. Lammers, assistant dean for simulation, KCMS director of emergency medicine research; David T. Overton, associate dean for educational affairs, KCMS emergency medicine program director; Peter J. Ziemkowski, associate dean for student affairs, KCMS clerkship program director; and Thomas E. Zavitz, associate dean for administration and finance, KCMS chief operating officer.

Also, Eli Collins-Brown was named a faculty member in the department of medical education, making her the first faculty member for the medical school. Collins-Brown, formerly dean of educational technology and faculty development at Methodist College of Nursing, will be facilitating curriculum development and implementation.

Policy on reporting wrongdoing affirmed; ethics hotline offered

University trustees at their Dec. 8 meeting officially affirmed a set of campus expectations for how students and faculty and staff members should report criminal or ethical violations they might encounter.

Their resolution on the matter was followed by President John M. Dunn reiterating those policies in an email message sent the same day to all WMU employees.

The unanimously adopted resolution charges all members of the University community “to promptly report acts having any connection to the University that they in good faith believe could be criminal in nature.” In addition, the document notes that WMU’s Department of Public Safety is the primary place to make such reports.

It also states that campus community members are expected to be vigilant for the well-being of colleagues, students and visitors and to be cognizant of the special needs of those populations the University serves that are particularly vulnerable to criminal abuse.

WMU has contracted with an external company so possible criminal or ethical violations may be reported anonymously online at www.wmuhotline.ethicspoint.com or by phone at (855) 247-3145.

Dunn invited to help open new campus in Haiti

WMU President John M. Dunn is traveling to the Dominican Republic and Haiti this week to take part in the opening of a new Haitian university campus designed to serve 10,000 students and help that nation rebuild its education infrastructure.

Dunn was invited to attend the high-profile event by D.R. President Leonel Fernandez when he was visiting the Dominican Republic in July. WMU has had a partnership with that nation since 2008 that has brought more than 270 D.R. students to Kalamazoo for undergraduate study and produced 45 new Bronco alumni who are back in their home country.

A delegation traveled from the Dominican Republic to the new Haiti campus Jan. 12, for the formal opening of the $30 million facility. The new campus was built entirely by the D.R. government and private sector as a gift to its earthquake-ravaged neighbor.

While in the Dominican Republic, Dunn and Juan Tavares, director of international admissions and services for WMU’s Haenicke Institute, also planned to host an alumni reception and meet with Fernandez as well as Ligia Amada Melo de Cardona, the D.R. minister of education and an official who has visited WMU several times.

Divisional champion Detroit Tigers to visit WMU Jan. 20

The Detroit Tigers will be on campus for a luncheon Friday, Jan. 20, at the Bernhard Center. This will be the team’s only public appearance in West Michigan during the club’s Winter Caravan.

The event is scheduled to feature 15 Tigers players, headlined by 2011 All-Star catcher Alex Avila. The players will not be available for autographs during or after the event.

The program will include the 2011 Detroit Tigers highlight video and comments by David Dombrowski, Detroit Tigers president, CEO and general manager and a WMU alumnus, who will talk about the upcoming season. Three coaches also will be attending.

Fans will be able to enter a drawing for Tigers memorabilia and ticket packages. Tickets for the luncheon are $10 and available by calling the WMUFamily Experience Office at (269) 387-8746.

Obituaries

Cora Campbell, a retired WMU staff member, died Nov. 11. She was 83.

Campbell worked at WMU for more than 11 years before retiring in 1993 as a member of the house staff at the Fetzer Center. She also owned and operated Home Bakery for 20 years.

Memorial donations may be made to the West Michigan Cancer Center or the Michigan Heart Fund.

Joyce L. DeRight, former director of admissions and advising in the College of Education and Human Development, died Dec. 15. She was 68.

DeRight, who retired in 2008 after more than 35 years of service, also served stints as assistant director of student financial aid and scholarships and associate director of the Sincalde Health Center.

Memorial donations may be directed to the West Michigan Cancer Center or Kalamazoo Humane Society.
Closure policy updated; snow removal unchanged

On the rare occasion when WMU closes due to weather, news of the shutdown is posted on the University's home page at www.wmich.edu and emergency information line at (269) 387-1001.

After completing those postings, WMU communicates closure details to local television and radio stations.

Official closure of the main campus always includes the Parkview Campus in Kalamazoo and both the College of Aviation and the WMU-Battle Creek regional location.

Building donated for med school

WMU President John M. Dunn says the medical school's facilities committee and its architectural engineering firm carefully analyzed Building 267, along with other proposed sites in the community. While the cost of renovation and the cost of new construction are roughly comparable, he says, the seven-story Building 267 affords all the space needed immediately and ensures ample room for future growth.

"In the final analysis," Dunn says, "the opportunity to develop Building 267 for our use gives us a long-term financial advantage. This remarkable gift will start us at a level significantly above what we could afford with new construction, and five years from now, as the medical school grows, we won't be strained by the need to acquire or build additional space."

Kevin Darrow has a nemesis—tennis ball fuzz.

"The fuzz gets tracked all through the building and into the corners," says Darrow, a custodian at the West Hills Athletic Club. "You wouldn't believe how much it can add up."

He and his two co-workers, termed attendants at West Hills, and they work Sunday through Thursday. They keep the facility spruced up until it closing, which is 10 p.m. most nights during the academic year, then tackle the more involved jobs. "I work 30 hours a week," Darrow says, flashing a grin. "I'm a full-time part-time employee."

The attendants have a variety of tasks, such as emptying trash, spot mopping, washing towels and changing light bulbs. Each attendant also has major areas of responsibility. For Darrow, this means taking care of the club's nine indoor tennis courts as well as its indoor running track and basketball court, which is slated to be converted to a tenth tennis court and will soon be adding to his fuzz woes.

He notes that his areas are so large he can't sweep and clean them all in one night, even with a riding scraper at his disposal. So, he cleans three tennis courts a night for three days and alternates doing the track and basketball court to finish out the week.

"There's a lot of floor here. One tennis court is about 120 feet by 40 feet, I do a lot of walking. Winter time is a challenge because of the salt and because the building is busier," Darrow says. "But I like working here. It's a comfortable atmosphere, it's quiet once the building closes, I have good co-workers, and we have a good relationship with management."

Darrow joined WMU's custodial staff in 1999 and spent his first five years on the main campus. He worked in dining hall kitchens, the Student Recreation Center, Parking Services and Kohrman Hall before moving to West Hills seven years ago.

He is a single father with 16- and 10-year-old sons. The Kalamazoo resident frequently bikes or walks to work and loves being out in the woods. He enjoys fishing and hunting, but confesses he's not particularly successful at hunting.

What Darrow isn't shy about confessing is his pride in his work and his building.

"The best part of my job is helping out," he says. "This is a neat building. It's one of my favorites. It's been voted best health club three years in a row in the Kalamazoo Gazette Readers' Choice Awards."