University award nominations sought
Nominations for the Distinguished Service, Distinguished Teaching and Emerging Scholar awards are being accepted through Friday, April 1. These are some of the most prestigious awards WMU bestows on faculty and staff members. Visit www.wmich.edu/ provost/announcements/awards/fac-staff.html for eligibility requirements, nomination criteria and nomination forms.

Special opportunity open to advisors
In an effort to expand the campus knowledge base about the unique benefits students experience studying abroad, the Haeftle Institute will sponsor three academic advisors to participate in a short-term, faculty-led study abroad program this summer. The deadline to apply is Wednesday, March 30. Advisors at the department or college level are eligible, but must be nominated by the dean of their respective colleges. The three advisors selected may choose from six overseas programs. Visit http://international.wmich.edu/content/view/2386/2 for more information and an application form.

Polar Plunge fundraiser scheduled
WMU community members will plunge into the icy waters of a makeshift glacial pool in Lawson Ice Arena Saturday, March 19, to raise money for Special Olympics Michigan. A registration fee of $50 is required to plunge, and plungers are encouraged to seek pledges from family and friends. Registration begins at 11 a.m., while the costume parade begins at noon. Participants will start taking the plunge at about 12:15 p.m. An award and post-plunge party will be held at 1 p.m. Visit www.firstgiving.com/polarplunge/Event/KalamazooPolarPlunge2011 to pre-register or donate.

Multi-unit center slates open houses
The Center for Academic Success Programs will be holding open houses from 3 to 6 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, March 14-15, in the center’s new office space on the first floor of Ewood Hall. The events will give campus community members a chance to learn about the many academic services and student success programs the center offers.

Register now for assessment event
Faculty and staff members should register by Friday, March 18, for Assessment in Action Day, being held Friday, March 25, in the Ferris Center. Attendees will learn about WMU’s assessment resources. Mary Allen, a well-known consultant, will deliver the keynote address and lead several workshops.

The day includes breakout sessions, lunch and a poster session. It will start with check-in at 8:30 a.m. followed by the keynote at 9 a.m. and end at 3:30 p.m. Write to karen.stokeschapo@wmich.edu to register.

University releases detailed visual identity guidelines
An expansive and detailed set of identity guidelines for use in representing WMU visually has just been released by the Office of University Relations and is now available for campuswide use.

In development over a two-year period, the guidelines reflect the input of marketing and communication professionals across the campus. They are designed to help WMU personnel produce print materials with a consistent and professional look and feel.

Posted at www.wmich.edu/ur is a detailed 40-page publication that outlines the guidelines and is available as a PDF document. The site also will serve as a location for PowerPoint templates and a range of other templates as they are developed.

“The basic elements of the guidelines draw heavily on our great traditions,” notes President John M. Dunn in an introduction to the WMU Visual Identity Program publication. “Our treasured seal and signature combination has been updated and will continue to represent WMU for formal use. In addition, we have assigned a new role for a very old mark—the ‘W,’ which has been a part of our history for nearly 100 years. That mark will now be the choice for daily and less formal uses.”

The publication outlines when and how units should use the “W” and the University seal.

Western Michigan University

Example of one acceptable way to combine WMU’s new promotional mark and signature.

International Festival helps bring the world together
The music, dance, food and fashions of 13 cultures representing five continents will be spotlighted during WMU’s 2011 International Festival from 4 to 8 p.m. Sunday, March 20, in the Bernhard Center’s East Ballroom.

The event features displays, cultural performances and a fashion show. Admission is free, and for a nominal fee, attendees may sample traditional foods prepared by international students in campus kitchens under the supervision of employees of WMU Dining Services.

International Festival annually attracts more than 2,000 students and community members. Attendees are able to “travel” around the world in a single evening while gaining an appreciation for the diversity of student cultures prevalent at WMU.
A series of six movies that examine religion and film start today and run through April 14. The films will be shown on consecutive Thursday nights and be followed by discussions. All of those programs are open to the public free of charge. Comparative religion faculty members and graduate students lead the discussions.

Each of the programs will be held from 7 to 9:30 p.m. The first feature a screening of “Cabeza de Vaca” and will take place tonight in the Richmond Center. All other screenings take place in 2028 Brown Hall.


Corporate revitalization is talk topic

Sheeldon L. Stone will present “What is the New Normal?” at 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 23, in Schneider Hall as part of the Haworth College of Business Distinguished Speaker Series. Stone is a partner in Ambert Partners, LLC, an investment banking, turnaround and consulting management firm. Register to attend at shawna.cassada@wmich.edu or (269) 387-6599.

Trio to present high-energy concert

Project Trio, a Brooklyn-based ensemble known for fusing high-energy chamber music with hip-hop, rock and pop, will perform at 8:15 p.m. Sunday, March 13, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. Prior to its performance, the group will offer a master class and beat-boxing workshop at 7 p.m. in 1120 Dalton Center. General admission for Project Trio’s concert costs $5 at the door and is free for current WMU students.

Community to honor Greg Jennings

Greg Jennings, star receiver for the Super Bowl champion Green Bay Packers and a WMU alumnus, will be honored at a community homecoming celebration on campus from 6 to 7 p.m. Monday, March 14, in University Arena.

This free event will feature entertainment, a video salute, and remarks by Jennings, WMU head football Coach Bill Cubit and community leader Tim Terrentine.

Frostic Reading Series features Eимерs

Celebrated WMU poet Nancy Eимерs, English, will read from her works at 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 15, in 105 Bernhard Center. The event is part of the Gwen Frostic Reading Series.

China’s economy focus of lecture

Thomas Rawski, an economics and history professor from the University of Pittsburgh, will give a historical perspective of the Chinese economy in a presentation from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 16, in 2028 Brown Hall. The talk, “China’s Economy: Historical Legacies and Modern Growth,” is part of the Werner Sichel Lecture Series.

Exchange

For sale by owner—Beautifully updated home at 702 Draper St., Vicksburg, Mich., within walking distance of Sunset Lake beach. Four bedrooms, two bathrooms, and kitchen with hickory cabinets, side-by-side refrigerator, range, built-in microwave and dishwasher. Three large bedrooms with large closets plus laundry hook-up upstairs. New drywall and insulation, paint and flooring throughout, and high-efficiency gas furnace. Central air conditioning, glassed-in front porch, large wooded deck and oversized detached garage. Shaded yard with mature trees. $95,000. Call (269) 998-5467.

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.

Francophone fest set for March 16-20

A highlight of the 10th Francophone Film Festival of Kalamazoo, running Wednesday through Sunday, March 16-20, in the Little Theatre, will be the appearance of noted Algerian filmmaker Abdelkrim Bahloud.

Bahloud will be on hand to lead post-screening dialogues when his film “A Trip to Algiers” is premiered in the United States at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 19, and 4 p.m. Sunday, March 20.

Visit www.wmich.edu/fffkazoo for more information, including additional films being featured, screening times and admission prices.

Fairy-tale economics to be discussed

Dorothy Noyes from Ohio State University will speak on “Fairy-tale Economics: Scarcity, Risk and Choice” at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 17, in 3025 Brown Hall.

Her lecture will address how the Western fairy tale, which was initially formed in a world of scarcity, persists in industrial and capitalist societies.

Civil War sesquicentennial examined

The 150th anniversary of the Civil War and its implications for American history are topics of the annual H. Nicholas Hammer Lecture, set for 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 22, in the Fetzer Center. David Blight from Yale’s Gulid Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance and Abolition will deliver the lecture.

Meet author, listen to panel as part of CHHS Book Read

Area residents are invited to join in reading “Strength in What Remains” by Tracy Kidder during the fourth College of Health and Human Services Book Read.

The Kalamazoo Public Library also is featuring the book in its Reading Together program from mid-February through mid-April. CHHS is collaborating with the library in the effort.

People can meet Kidder, a Pulitzer Prize winner, from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. today in 1010 Health and Human Services Building.

The public also is invited to attend a panel discussion on the challenges of providing health care to people in poverty that is set for 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. Wednesday, March 16, in the same room and building.

Chinese music to be performed

Hong Zhang, a nationally renowned mezzo-soprano and senior lecturer of Chinese at Binghamton University, will give a recital and lecture on “China’s Ethnic Groups and Their Songs” at 2 p.m. Thursday, March 24, in Kalamazoo College’s Dalton Dalton Theatre, 1200 Academy St.

Tickets are available at the door or in advance through the Confucius Institute. General admission tickets cost $5 and tickets for WMU and K-College students with student IDs cost $2.

For more information, contact the Confucius Institute at WMU by sending e-mail to wmu-confucius@wmich.edu or calling (269) 387-3951.

“Sharia: Islamic Law and America” is the topic of a free talk and dinner at 5:30 p.m. Friday, March 18, in the Bernhard Center Ballroom. The talk is part of an annual dinner program at WMU that aims to improve understanding of Islam and Muslims.

This year’s featured speaker is Sherman Abd Al-Hakim Jackson, the Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of Near Eastern Studies, visiting professor of law and professor of Afro-American studies at the University of Michigan.

He will speak following a dinner featuring Middle Eastern cuisine. Online registration is required at www.msa-wmu.org to attend the dinner and talk, which is being sponsored by WMU’s Muslim Students and Arab Students associations.

Around campus and beyond

Six movies examine religion and film

A series of six movies that examine religion and film start today and run through April 14. The films will be shown on consecutive Thursday nights and be followed by discussions. All of those programs are open to the public free of charge. Comparative religion faculty members and graduate students lead the discussions.

Each of the programs will be held from 7 to 9:30 p.m. The first feature a screening of “Cabeza de Vaca” and will take place tonight in the Richmond Center. All other screenings take place in 2028 Brown Hall. Visit www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2011/03/013.shtml for descriptions of the films in the series.

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University hosting public recruiting events for state government

Recruiters will be on the WMU campus next week as part of a major recruitment initiative by the Michigan Department of Human Services that ultimately is expected to add 500 professionals to the state's civil service roster.

The recruiters will hold one statewide event each to attend by Mary Swartz, a bachelor's or master's degree in one of 10 areas. The 10 areas are social work, sociology, psychology, family ecology, family studies, consumer/community services, counseling psychology, family and/or child development, criminal justice or guidance/school counseling.

Trustees approve seven faculty, staff retirements

The retirements of three faculty and four staff members were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees at its Feb. 24 meeting. Trustees also accepted the resignation of one faculty member. All 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: Roberta Allen, professor of business information systems, 32-1/2 years, effective April 30, 2012; William H. Fenn, professor of physician assistant, 25 years, effective April 30, 2011; and (change in retirement date) G. Gwen Raaberg, director of physician assistant, 25 years, effective Aug. 7, 2011;

For student financial aid.

Human Resources offers retirement seminar series

Human Resources will be offering six retirement-related programs in a 2011 seminar series designed exclusively for university employees. The programs will be conducted by Sanford Advisory Services, which provides administrative and consulting services for the WMU retirement plan to all employees.

Each seminar will focus on one aspect of retirement planning. All six will take place in the Bernhard Center and will be presented at 9 a.m. and again at 4 p.m. to accommodate different schedules. Employees may attend all of the seminars or any individual seminar.

The first program will be held Thursday, March 31, and is titled “Asset Allocation and Market Update.” It will explain asset allocation and diversification. Next up will be “Long-term Care Insurance and Life Insurance” Thursday, April 21, and “Medicare and Social Security Benefits” Tuesday, May 17.

The remaining three programs have been scheduled for this coming fall. “Estate Planning for the Middle Class” is set for Tuesday, Sept. 20, and will deal with such issues as wills, trusts, powers of attorney and patient advocates. “Identity Theft” is set for Wednesday, Oct. 12, and will offer tips to avoid identity theft. “Alzheimer’s and Elder Care” is set for Thursday, Nov. 10, and will focus on caring for a spouse or parent with dementia or Alzheimer’s.

Reservations are required and reminder notices will be sent. For more information or to register, call Sanford Advisory Services at (269) 488-6902.

Differential tuition plans OK’d

The WMU Board of Trustees has signed off on separate plans for the College of Fine Arts and Haworth College of Business to use differential tuition models this fall. For students in the two colleges, the move will boost the cost of tuition, reduce the amount of fees assessed, and preserve and enhance the quality of the student experience.

The fine arts college plan will apply to all students beginning with their freshman year. The business college plan will only apply to students in their junior and senior years.

SOMALI PIRATES, HIGH SEA PIRACY TO BE DISCUSSED DURING TALK

A March 21 talk on piracy will conclude WMU’s local offerings in this year’s “Great Decisions Foreign Policy Lecture Series.”

Retired Navy Capt. Gordon VanHook will present “Pirates on the High Seas” at noon in the Fetter Center’s Putney Lecture Hall.

All three local DHS events will take place in the Bernhard Center’s East Ballroom.

• The first event is a panel presentation called “A Career in Child Welfare Services for the Social Sciences” set for 5 to 6:20 p.m. Tuesday, March 15. Seating is limited to 300 people, and pre-registration is required. After the presentation, interested candidates will have a chance to sign up to return for a one-hour session the following day.

• The March 16 event will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is open only to people who registered to attend the panel presentation. During the one-hour sessions, groups of job applicants will complete a written exercise and application as well as a 10-minute behavioral-based interview.

• The March 17 event is just for applicants who were notified the previous day that they were selected to come back for a 30-minute behavioral-based interview. This second round of interviews also will take place from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with the selected candidates needing to be on site only during the one-hour time slot they signed up to attend.

WMU has reserved Parking Structure No. 1 by Ellsworth Hall and metered spaces in lots 80, 44, 48, 68, 69 and part of lot 13 to accommodate the expected March 15 crowd. Parking Structure No. 1 has been reserved for the March 16 and 17 crowds. Members of the campus community are asked to avoid parking in reserved areas on the affected days.

Visit https://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?form%3D...UVFjY2pHckZxNnc6MQ for more detailed information. Questions about WMU’s role in the initiative should be directed to Surangi M. Pradhan at surangi.pradhan@wmich.edu or (269) 387-2749.

Annual Chavez day event set

Southwest Michigan will celebrate the life and work of civil rights leader Cesar E. Chavez with a scholarship fundraising dinner and program Saturday, March 26, in 157 Bernhard Center.

The event will start at 6:30 p.m. and the cost is $40. Reservations are required by Friday, March 18. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Juan Andrade Jr., president of the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute.

This is the fifth year that WMU’s Division of Multicultural Affairs has teamed with the Southwest Michigan Cesar E. Chavez Day Committee and area businesses to sponsor a banquet on or around Chavez’ March 31 birthday.

To register, call (269) 760-8138. For more information, contact Miguel Ramirez at migm.ramirez@wmich.edu or (269) 387-3329.

WESTERN NEWS MARCH 10, 2011
Chris Wang is one of WMU's biggest fans. As head coach for the University's cheerleading team, he's on the sidelines from September to the end of March working with the 24-member squad. The cheerleaders train three times a week to prepare their routines for the football, volleyball, and men's and women's basketball games. Once a year, the cheerleaders also perform a more than three-minute routine at halftime for the men's basketball team that goes all out and includes pyramids, back flips, and team members being thrown into the air.

“The first thing a lot of people think of (with cheering) is that it’s all rah, rah and yelling,” Wang says. “But there is a lot more to the athleticism of it. There’s a lot of wear and tear on your body.”

The season spans an eight-month period. Tryouts are held in late April or early May, and practices are held sporadically throughout the summer. The team also attends the Universal Cheerleaders Association College Camp in August.

“It’s a hectic season,” Wang says. “For me, it’s the game atmosphere—being on the sidelines—that makes it all worth it.”

A temporary WMU employee, Wang choreographs routines during the Cheer Team’s evening practices, all while holding down his job as ice events coordinator for Wings Stadium in Kalamazoo.

The winner of the 31st Annual PEN/Faulkner Award will receive $15,000. The other four finalists will each receive $5,000. Some 320 novels and short story collections published in 2010 by American authors were reviewed for the award.


University releases detailed guidelines for medical school offices

A communitywide facilities committee has decided on temporary locations for some WMU Medical School offices.

Founding Dean Hal Jenson and some initial staff members will operate out of space in the Bronson Upjohn Building, 301 John St., beginning in May. Since Jenson is arriving in late March, he will temporarily occupy an office in the Innovation Center on the Parkview Campus.

The office is in the same suite occupied by Interim Dean Jack Lodder and Sherrill Bushboom, who also will be moving to the John Street location.

In addition, a small number of “walk-up” offices will be used in the University Medical and Health Sciences Building at 1000 Oakland Drive. The building houses the Kalamazoo Center for Medical Studies and WMU’s United Clinics.

Temporary sites identified for medical school offices

WMU Medical and Health Sciences Build

University Medical and Health Sciences Build (Photo by Neil Rankin)