Accreditation efforts appreciated

A University-wide thank-you celebration is scheduled for 3:30 to 5 p.m. today in the Bernhard Center’s North Ballroom to honor the campus community’s two-year-long efforts associated with the Higher Learning Commission’s 10-year accreditation review of WMU. There will be brief remarks to those assembled at 4 p.m.

President John M. Dunn asks supervisors to ensure that employees will be able to attend the celebration at some point. The review process culminated earlier this week with a visit from the commission’s site-review team. The visit lasted three days and included open meetings, one-on-one interviews, facility tours and an in-depth examination of the University.

Funds available for tech development

Technology Development Funds of up to $20,000 are available to help faculty prepare their inventions for commercialization. Applications are due Nov. 17. Proposed projects must be based on technology or intellectual property disclosed to the research office.

The funds are intended to bridge the gap that often exists between research-stage technologies and technologies that are ready to be licensed by existing companies. For details, visit www.wmich.edu/research/ip-technology/tech-dev-fund.html or contact Michael Shauer at (269) 387-8218.

Program to address humanities study

Friday, Oct. 22, is the deadline to register for a program on the university in the 21st century and the place of the humanities in professional and vocational education. WMU President John J. Dunn and Vice Chancellor Janet Beer from Oxford Brookes University will lead the discussion.

The event is set for noon to 2 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 28, in the President’s Dining Room of the Bernhard Center. Lunch will be provided by the WMU Center for the Humanities. Visit wmich.edu/humanities/event-rsvp.html to make a reservation.

Internationalization awards offered

Faculty are invited to apply by Nov. 15 for funding to support projects that improve international education at WMU. The awards are available through the International Education Faculty Development Fund, a joint program of the Office of the Provost and Haenicke Institute. The maximum award is $1,200 and cannot exceed 50 percent of the total project budget.

Application deadlines for each academic year are Nov. 15 and April 1 for travel and projects that occur within the following 12 months. Award announcements are made about two weeks after each deadline. For guidelines and an application, visit www.wmich.edu/international or contact Michelle Metro-Roland at michelle.metro-roland@wmich.edu or (269) 387-5890.

Meeting set to explain valuable new fellowship

WMU is offering a new option for people to become part of a national effort to reform the way math and science are taught in the United States—the W.K. Kellogg Foundation’s Woodrow Wilson Michigan Teaching Fellowship Program.

The University is one of six Michigan universities now accepting applications for entry into the program, which is open to career changers who already hold undergraduate degrees in the arts and sciences as well as recent alumni and students who will graduate this year.

Foundation officials will be on campus for an information session about the program at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 16, in 1040 Fetzer Center. Fellows will receive a $30,000 stipend and a chance to spend a transformative year earning a master’s degree and teaching in a high-need middle or high school classroom.

Applications for the two final rounds of consideration for 2011 are due Dec. 1 and Jan. 12, respectively.

The fellowship program is aimed at those with bachelor’s degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics—known as STEM programs. The Michigan fellowships were unveiled early this year by President Barack Obama during a Washington, D.C., news conference.

The program, which already exists in Indiana, begins next year in both Michigan and Ohio. In Michigan, it will be funded by a $16.7 million grant from the Kellogg Foundation.

In Michigan, the fellowship will prepare 240 teachers for two years beginning in summer 2011. Through the program, some 90,000 students will receive high-quality instruction in the critical STEM subject areas from teaching fellows in their first three years in the classroom.

Fellows will attend an enriched, school-based master’s-level teacher education program. Throughout the program, their coursework will be blended with teaching experiences completed alongside a master teacher in a high-need middle or high school classroom.

WMU seeking proposals for East Campus development

Efforts to revitalize the historic East Campus have moved to a new phase, with WMU seeking proposals from private firms to find new uses for the area that is the University’s birthplace.

WMU is accepting letters of interest from firms that want additional details about the area’s potential and a tour before submitting redevelopment proposals.

The action follows a two-year effort by a campus and community task force charged with finding a way to revitalize the 35-acre tract and five buildings that were built in the early 20th century. To be included in the selection process, questions must be posed in writing and letters of interest submitted by 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 7.

A pre-proposal conference will be held Thursday, Jan. 20, allowing qualified potential developers who have submitted letters of interest to tour and examine the site and take an in-depth look at the infrastructure that exists. A second round of written questions will be accepted through Friday, Feb. 4, and proposals for development will be due at WMU by 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 25. All proposals will be held in confidence until contract awards have been made.

“The eventual use of these buildings does not have to be University related, but it cannot run counter to the mission of WMU,” says Bob Miller, associate vice president for community relations. “The eventual use of these buildings does not have to be University related, but it cannot run counter to the mission of WMU,” says Bob Miller, associate vice president for community relations. “The architectural integrity of any building selected for redevelopment must be preserved, but we cannot allow them to be put to any economically viable idea.

Development calls for the University to retain ownership of the land itself, but ownership of the buildings can be transferred to allow developers to take advantage of the full range of tax incentives and development tools that are available for private developers but not available to WMU because it is a public institution that is not assessed taxes.

Contact Don Penskar, director of logistical services, at donald.penskar@wmich.edu for more information or to ask for a copy of the request for proposal, submit a letter of interest or pose questions in writing.

Sparks the Future: Teach.

Woodrow Wilson teaching fellowship advertisement

For guidelines and an application, visit technology/tech-dev-fund.html or contact Michelle Metro-Roland at michelle.metro-roland@wmich.edu or (269) 387-5890.
Two targeted career fairs scheduled
A Broadcast Media Career and Networking Fair is set for noon to 3 p.m. today on the second floor of Brown Hall and a Nonprofit Opportunity Day is set for 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 26, in the Bernhard Center’s East Ballroom. Visit www.wmich.edu/career and click Calendar of Events for more information.

Development expert to talk on Iraq
Matthew S. Mingus, public affairs and administration, will speak on “Stabilizing Iraq: A View from the Front Lines of Democratic Development” at 7 p.m. today in the Fetzer Center’s Patney Auditorium. Mingus spent 2009-10 in Iraq as a senior governance specialist with the U.S. Department of State.

Practical aspects of math explored
Ivars Peterson, director of publications at the Mathematical Association of America, will show how math can manifest itself in streetscapes, sculptures, architectural structures and more during an illustrated presentation titled “Geometry in the City” at 4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 22, in 1110 Rood.

Comic relief coming to campus
WMU students will present a free night of comic relief Saturday, Oct. 23, in Miller Auditorium by sponsoring “The Ques of Comedy.” The show will feature performances by Joe Torry and other professional comedians as well as student comics. It will begin at 7 p.m. and be followed by a comedy workshop and question-and-answer session with the performers from 9 to 10 p.m.

Still time to give blood, get shots
Members of the University community and public can help WMU win this year’s WMU-CMU American Red Cross Blood Challenge by donating at drives taking place 11 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. today in the Bernhard Center; Friday, Oct. 22, in Garneau-Harvey; and Thursday, Oct. 28, in the Bernhard Center.

Also, employees may get vaccinations against the flu, meningitis and whooping cough Wednesday, Oct. 27, at the St. Cloud State Health Center or at clinics from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 26, in D120 Engineering and Applied Sciences Building and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 10, in the Student Recreation Center.

Social media Keystone talk topic
How businesses can interact in a positive way with social media will be the subject of the Friday, Oct. 29, Keystone Community Bank Breakfast Series lecture. Jason Kehler, chief problem solver at the Image Group, will speak at 8 a.m. in the Dean’s Conference Room of Schneider Hall. The free event begins with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Reservations are required by calling (269) 387-6259.

Renowned taiko performer to visit
Japanese-style drumming will take center stage when the Kenny Endo Taiko Ensemble performs at 8:15 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 3, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. Tickets cost $5. Additionally, Endo will present a free lecture and demonstration from 4 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 4, in R1084 of the Richmond Center for Visual Arts.

Haunted hall to benefit charities
WMU students will hold their annual haunted hall Thursday through Saturday, Oct. 28-30, in Elmhurst-Fox. The public will have a night of frightful fun, and the proceeds will benefit local charities.

This year’s haunting will take place from 8 to 10 p.m. Thursday and 9 p.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday. For children age 15 and under, a mini-haunted hall as well as games and art activities will be available from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

The entry fee on Friday and Saturday is $6 or three canned goods per person. The fee on discount Thursday is $5 or two canned goods per person.

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.

Event to highlight WMU research, related resources
Research and related resources at WMU will be highlighted during a Research and Dessert Open House from 1 to 4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 22, in the Fetzer Center.

Sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Research, the event is chance for faculty to learn about funding opportunities and strategies. Roundtable discussions and resource stations will allow attendees to network, learn about colleagues’ research projects and explore possible collaborations.

Registration is encouraged to plan for seating and order desserts for the event. For more information or to register, visit www.wmich.edu/research or call (269) 387-8205.
Hybrid electric vehicles research gets big boost

Battery and hybrid electric vehicle drive testing in West Michigan took a significant leap forward Oct. 7, when Eaton Corp. and WMU formally opened a laboratory that is part of the University’s celebrated Center for Advanced Vehicle Design and Simulations, or CA ViDS.

The new CA ViDS Hybrid Electric Applied Research—CLEAR—Lab in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences was announced last December. This unique lab is designed to be one of Michigan’s premier battery and hybrid electric vehicle drive testing facilities.

The cost for the lab’s development and first year of operation comes in at just over $1 million, with most of that support coming from Eaton. The lab will provide a location where the hybrid electric drive business group at Eaton and WMU’s engineering college can collaborate to promote innovative ideas and research solutions for challenges associated with commercial and military hybrid drives. The focus of the lab will be on systems integration.

WMU well represented in art chosen for governor’s residence

The work of four artists with current or former WMU ties has been selected for display in the Michigan Governor’s Mansion for one year that will end in August 2011.

Oil paintings by Ellen L. Armstrong, academic advisor for the Frostic School of Art, and acrylic and mixed media work by part-time art instructor Paul Nehring are on display, as well as photographs by student George Crow. In addition, former WMU part-time art instructor Brenda Snipe has her work exhibited. Their creations are among the work of 37 Michigan artists whose art was chosen. Selected artists passed an initial screening process, with the final choices of artwork made by Gov. Jennifer Granholm and First Gentleman Daniel G. Mulhern. During the one-year exhibition, the artwork on display will be available for sale.

Obituaries

Virginia D. Lytle, a former utility food worker for Burnham Dining Services, died Oct. 6 in Kalamazoo. She was 62.

Lytle retired in 2006 after 14 years with the University. Memorial contributions may be made to the Susan B. Komen Center for Breast Cancer Research in Kalamazoo or Hospice Care of Southwest Michigan.

Betty Jane McNees, a former WMU Dining Services employee, died Oct. 4 in Elkhart, Ind. She was 83.

McNees retired in 1990 after 28 years with the University. Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer’s Association.

Bette E. McGuire, a retired secretary who worked in the Office of Instructional Development for 12 years, died Oct. 12 in Kalamazoo. She was 84.

Visitations will be from 4 to 8 p.m. today at the Life Story Funeral Home, Better-Larmann-Kalamaazoo. A burial Mass will be held at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 22, in St. Augustine Cathedral in Kalamazoo.

Partners in the project will first identify children exposed to violence in Kalamazoo County. They will then use a tiered-intervention approach to reduce the impact of that violence on the children’s neurodevelopmental, relational and emotional progress.

The Children’s Trauma Assessment Center has been awarded a Grant, the 3-D virtual lab will allow the University to play a significant role in the HP Catalyst “New Learner” consortium, which the company calls “an elite cohort that will be exploring what the future of STEM+ learning and teaching can be.”

Trauma center gets $1 million to reduce impact of violence

WMU’s Southwest Michigan Children’s Trauma Assessment Center has been awarded a $1 million, four-year grant through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention’s Safe Start Promising Approaches Initiative.

The grant, awarded in partnership with New Genesi, the Kalamazoo Hispanic Council and several other community agencies, will fund Project Partnering to Effectively Reduce the Impact of Violence to Children in Kalamazoo. Partners in the project will first identify children exposed to violence in Kalamazoo County.

It will create five global consortia in 2010, each focusing on a specific innovation or theme for transforming STEM education, building on the Obama Administration’s “Educate to Innovate” coalition that seeks to improve national outcomes in STEM subjects.

Prima Ari-Gur, mechanical and aeronautical engineering, will direct the effort at WMU. The University will receive an award valued at more than $150,000. The award will include $20,000 in cash as well as equipment, software and services. Ari-Gur’s team will use the award to create a 3-D virtual laboratory for engineering and applied sciences education.

The award and the 3-D virtual lab will allow the University to play a significant role in the HP Catalyst “New Learner” consortium, which the company calls “an elite cohort that will be exploring what the future of STEM+ learning and teaching can be.”

HP grant will boost global educational collaboration

The University is one of 30 educational organizations across 11 nations selected to participate in HP’s Catalyst Initiative. A global social innovation program, the initiative aims to develop more effective approaches to education in the STEM disciplines—science, technology, engineering and mathematics education.

It will create five global consortia in 2010, each focusing on a specific innovation or theme for transforming STEM education, building on the Obama Administration’s “Educate to Innovate” coalition that seeks to improve national outcomes in STEM subjects.

Prima Ari-Gur, mechanical and aeronautical engineering, will direct the effort at WMU. The University will receive an award valued at more than $150,000. The award will include $20,000 in cash as well as equipment, software and services. Ari-Gur’s team will use the award to create a 3-D virtual laboratory for engineering and applied sciences education.

The award and the 3-D virtual lab will allow the University to play a significant role in the HP Catalyst “New Learner” consortium, which the company calls “an elite cohort that will be exploring what the future of STEM+ learning and teaching can be.”

Partners in the project will first identify children exposed to violence in Kalamazoo County. They will then use a tiered-intervention approach to reduce the impact of that violence on the children’s neurodevelopmental, relational and emotional progress.

The grant, awarded in partnership with New Genesi, the Kalamazoo Hispanic Council and several other community agencies, will fund Project Partnering to Effectively Reduce the Impact of Violence to Children in Kalamazoo. Partners in the project will first identify children exposed to violence in Kalamazoo County. They will then use a tiered-intervention approach to reduce the impact of that violence on the children’s neurodevelopmental, relational and emotional progress.

James Henry, social work, directs the Children’s Trauma Assessment Center, which is a program of the College of Health and Human Services and the college’s affiliated United Clinics. The center assesses the impact that traumatic events and suspected fetal alcohol exposure have on children.

Service

The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service during October.

35 Years—Ruth A. DeYoung, Dining Services-Valley #2.
30 Years—Dennis E. Boyle, information technology.
25 Years—Laverne Jones, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Patricia A. Purman, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; William E. Rogers, Haworth College of Business; Julie A. Scott, information technology; Terri D. Stowers, University Libraries; and Lois J. Tolhurst, University Technology; Terri D. Stowers, University Libraries.
20 Years—Roy A. Middlebrooks, Dining Services-Bernhard Center; Carolyn R. Nosack, Facilities Management-recycling; Diane M. Sayers, Dining Services-Burnham; Bryan K. Sutton, Facilities Management-maintenance services; Tony M. Thompson, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; and Moon Walters, Dining Services-Bernhard Center.
15 Years—Don R. Beyer, intercollegiate athletics; Susan Ann Nap, College of Arts and Sciences; Debra K. Stoyanoff, Mallinson Institute for Science Education; and Kathryn A. Wright, geosciences.
10 Years—John M. Coffey, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Rainer B. Liebert, Sindecuse Health Center; Peggy L. Miller, Human Resources; Nancy S. Wilson, public safety; and Michael D. Wolfe, West Hills Athletic Club.
5 Years—Kent A. Buchanan, Miller Auditorium; Melissa K. Kuepfer, student conduct; Nicole Marie Lockwood, admissions; Theresa L. McGee, biological science; Kara J. Nusser, Bernhard Center; Ken R. O’Connor, Facilities Management-maintenance services; Nicholas K. Petruska, catering; Terri L. Riemland, Student Activities and Leadership Programs; and Shari L. Rose, admissions.
On Campus with Bill Emmert

Bill Emmert has described himself as a “tinkerer” for as long as he can remember. A WMU mechanic for almost 10 years, he recalls standing in his parents’ driveway when he was as young as six years old watching his father fix equipment and handling tools. “My mom and dad would keep stuff around for me to tinker with. I love to fix cars, motorcycles. I usually buy a project and fix it up for myself. Buying something more current helps me stay fresh with the new technology that I’m not used to,” he says, admitting he has two pickup trucks and a Volkswagen Beetle in his garage right now that he’s fixing. Emmert and fellow mechanic Michael Walenga maintain more than 300 pieces of equipment for the University, including all vehicles and about two dozen servicing generators on campus. About the only equipment they aren’t responsible for at WMU is small lawn equipment, which is handled by landscape services.

Their jobs are overseen by garage supervisor Jeffrey Alexander and coordinated by office associate Carolyn Lynn.

“I like working with the people on campus and for the people on campus. It’s a team effort,” Emmert says. “When something breaks, we’re called to fix it.”

His busiest time is the fall when the University purchases new vehicles and older models have to be fixed for resale. During this time of the year, all of the University’s generators are checked and updated and its snowplows are inspected and readied for the winter.

“Plus, we have to take care of the day-to-day maintenance,” Emmert adds. He was a mechanic prior to coming to WMU and also worked for construction and landscaping businesses.

“When time allows, I enjoy fishing and camping and taking day trips with his wife, Nancy, who is a bus driver for Mattawan Consolidated Schools. The couple lives in Mattawan and has two grown children and a 19-month-old grandson.

“Family is a big part of our lives, and we try to make time to be together,” Emmert says.