The competition among the West Michigan college presidents continues. Last month, Western News reported that Kalamazoo Valley Community College and Sequoia Community College in California had an agreement that was developed during a regular series of informal meetings the presidents have held over the past two years.

The agreement that was developed during a regular series of informal meetings the presidents have held over the past two years. Effort launched to increase educational opportunity

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Members of the new consortium committed as a group to collaborate and share resources in a way that will lead to expanded college opportunities and increase the level of preparedness of the workforce across the region. A formal signing ceremony held at WMU sealed the agreement that was developed during a regular series of informal meetings the presidents have held over the past two years.

The ceremony was hosted by John M. Dunn, president of WMU, and included G. Edward Haring, president of Kellogg Community College; Robert P. Harrison, president of Lake Michigan College; David M. Mathews, president of Southwestern Michigan College; Dale K. Nesbary, president of Muskegon Community College; Marilyn J. Schlack, president of Lake Michigan College; David M. Mathews, president of Southwestern Michigan College; and Jack R. Luderer, president of Kalamazoo College, and Robert P. Harrison, president of Lake Michigan College.

Effort launched to increase educational opportunity

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Thirty-four faculty members receive tenure

The WMU Board of Trustees approved the tenure of 34 faculty members May 26.

The tenure appointments are effective starting with fall 2010-11. The newly tenured faculty and their disciplines are:
- Fritz Allhoff, philosophy; Allison L. Baer, special education and literacy studies; Kathleen M. Baker, geography; Elizabeth Bradburn, English; Maia Bandu, University Libraries; Carla Chase, occupational therapy; Jon D. Davis, mathematics; Liang Dong, electrical and computer engineering;
- Autumn Edwards, communication; Anthony Ellis, English; Lin Foulik, music; Olivia G. Gabor-Feirce, foreign languages; Elena Gavrichko, sociology; Muralidhar K. Gantasala, mechanical and aeronautical engineering; Caroline E. Gore, art; Jill M. Hermann-Wilmarth, special education and literacy studies; Pamela Hoppe, biological sciences; Cynthia Klekar, English; Marilyn S. Kritzman, communication; Todd Kuchta, English; Priscilla A. Lambert, political science;
- David J. Meade, manufacturing engineering; Maureen Mickus, occupational therapy; David W. Montgomery, music; Ginger Y. Owen, art; Kenneth Prewitt, music; Eli Rubin, history;
- David Schuster, physics; Scott Sławinski, English; Jacinda M. Swanson, political science; Mary-Louise Totton, English; Slobodan Urdarevik, industrial and manufacturing engineering; Maarten Vonhof, biological sciences; and Kristina Wirtz, anthropology.

Around Campus

Kendall Center slated lunch talks

For the summer 2010 installment of its Healthy Practices Brown Bag Lunch Chef Series, WMU’s Kendall Center in Battle Creek is offering talks on healthy cooking and the power of vegetables. The talks will feature chef Gary Armon, who will demonstrate how to cook low-calorie nutrient-rich recipes using fresh, in-season local produce. Attendees are invited to bring their own lunch.

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Exchange

For sale—Briarwood condominium off West Main and Sage. Roomy two-story with three bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths and walk-out basement. Real deal at $130,000. Contact beverlee.white@wmich.edu or 533-3660.

For sale—Meade DS-2130/1500 telescope. Autostar computer-guided system automatically locates more than 1,400 celestial objects. Reflector with 130 mm (5”) mirror and 1,000 mm focal length. Includes two ploessel eyepieces (9.7 mm and 26 mm). Assembled and collimated but never used. In original box with everything that came with it, plus laser collimator purchased as a unit. Asking $250 for all. Contact philip.micklin@wmich.edu or 345-6514.

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.

Retiree to head national ethics group

Barbara J. Hemphill, retiree in occupational therapy, will become chair of the American Occupational Therapy Association’s Ethics Commission in July. Hemphill will serve in that role for three years.

In her new role, she will be responsible for enforcing AOTA’s ethical standards, advising and disseminating those standards, and representing AOTA at ethics-related meetings.

Hemphill, who retired in 1999, remains widely known as a national and international conference presenter, consultant and writer.

Since retiring, she has edited the second edition of “Assessments in Occupational Therapy: Mental Health: An Integrative Approach.” In addition, she earned a Doctor of Ministry degree in 2004, and teaches courses in spirituality in the Kalamazoo area.

Professor editing physics publication

Charles Henderson, physics and Mallinson Institute for Science Education, is serving as the Physics Education Research editor for the American Journal of Physics. Henderson has been research editor since November 2008.

Published by the American Association of Physics Teachers, the electronic-only journal is an archival publication, edited to serve teachers of advanced-level physics instruction as well as researchers in the fields of physics and physics education.

Henderson, as WMU faculty member since 2002, was on sabbatical this spring semester as a Fulbright Scholar working with the Finnish Institute for Educational Research at the University of Jyväskylä.

Much of his current focus is on the development of theories and strategies for promoting change in the teaching of science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects.

Researcher chosen national fellow

Jessaca Spybrook, education leadership, research and technology, received a 2010-11 National Academy of Education/Spencer Postdoctoral Fellowship, which includes a $55,000 stipend.

This year, 20 fellows were selected from a competitive pool of more than 160 applications from scholars of education across the nation. The fellowships are administered by the National Academy of Education and support early-career scholars working in critical areas of education research.

Spybrook came to WMU in 2008. She is the principal investigator for a $300,000 project funded by the U.S. Department of Education’s Institute of Education Sciences that is examining the changes in methodology that occur between the design and implementation of field trials in education.
Variety of construction, remodeling projects continue across campus

Work on a variety of campus projects is continuing this summer, but none of the work is expected to create significant road closures or work disruptions.

Ongoing projects of note involve both the Bernhard Center and Ellsworth.

The Bernhard Center is adding functionality to some rooms and refreshing other areas just in time for summer orientation.

Phase I of the project entailed renovating the main entrance and stairwell and was completed June 2. Phase II, remodeling of the entire first floor, will be done by mid-August.

“In the last couple of years, we’ve put millions of dollars into things like chilling towers and a new roof, but that’s not what people see. Now we’re doing the more visible stuff,” says Mitchell Beare, Bernhard Center manager. “This building is used for a lot of events for prospective students and their parents. They think it reflects what’s in our classrooms. We need to upgrade the look, lighting and equipment, so it serves as a showcase facility for recruiting.”

Most of the remodeling being done on the center’s first floor involves updating furniture, floors and wall paint in the lobby and lounge areas; upgrading 105-7, 158-9 and the Presidents Dining Room; and renovating all of the men’s and women’s restrooms.

In addition, 157 will be outfitted with new audio and video equipment. The room is primarily used for meetings, and is the campus location for most meetings of the WMU Board of Trustees.

Meanwhile, half of the work scheduled for Ellsworth was completed last month when the third floor was remodeled to accommodate relocation and consolidation of Extended University Programs.

New e-mail service being introduced at five presentations starting next week

Five presentations introducing Webmail Plus, WMU’s new collaborative e-mail service, are scheduled for June 14-23.

All sessions are open to anyone with a WMU e-mail account. The June 23 session is intended especially for retirees and emeriti and will be presented by James Gilchrist, vice provost and chief information officer.

Ed Kluk, information technology, is scheduled to lead the other four presentations.

Introducing Webmail Plus will be held from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Monday, June 14, in D109 Engineering and Applied Sciences Building; 10:30 a.m. to noon Tuesday, June 15, in Schneider’s Brown Auditorium; 2 to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 16, in Schneider’s Brown Auditorium; 10:30 a.m. to noon Tuesday, June 22, in Schneider’s Brown Auditorium; and 5 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 23, in the Fetzer Center’s Putney Auditorium.

Users of the two current e-mail systems—ECS Webmail and GroupWise—do not need to do anything to prepare for the transition to Webmail Plus, which will occur in stages beginning later this month.

About 15,000 students, faculty and staff use ECS Webmail. They will be migrated seamlessly to Webmail Plus by the end of June. ECS Webmail users will not need to change any settings and will continue to use their Bronco NetID and password to access their e-mail.

The 2,000 GroupWise users will be migrated in batches beginning July 15. Shared calendars and other files and features will be preserved. Users will be notified by e-mail in advance of their scheduled move. A few changes in account settings will be necessary for current GroupWise users, including a shift to BroncoNetID and password to access e-mail.

Barring unforeseen delays, all students, faculty, staff and other users of WMU e-mail will have been migrated to Webmail Plus by July 31.

That will mean everyone at WMU will be using the same e-mail system for the first time since the earliest days of e-mail communication.

Notre Dame scholar wins WMU’s annual Grunder Prize

WMU has awarded the prestigious Grundler Prize to a University of Notre Dame scholar for his book, “Sisters and Brothers of the Common Life: The Devotio Moderna and the World of the Later Middle Ages.”

The prize was awarded at the 45th International Congress on Medieval Studies May 15 to John van Engen, the Andrew V. Tackes professor of history at Notre Dame and author of other works.

The award was established to honor the late Otto Grundler, former director of the WMU Medieval Institute, which sponsors the annual congress.

Chances are, visitors to Extended University Program’s new welcome center will be greeted by Office Assistant Sandra Brooks. (Photo by Joanne Baro)
University introduces new wellness training series this summer

Human Resources is introducing the University's new Mind-Body-Work Connection program with a series of four training sessions from June through August.

Registrations for the first session, "Working on Wellness at WMU," are due by 2 p.m. Monday, June 21.

The Mind-Body-Work Connection program is free and open to all employees. It recognizes that if even one component of people's lives is out of balance, other components such as performance and work attendance will be affected.

Nichele Moses, HR, says the new program will not only improve WMU employees' knowledge of wellness, but also provide tools they can incorporate into their daily lives that, if applied properly, will result in increased productivity and decreased absenteeism.

Pre-registration is required for this summer's four sessions, which are being held from 10:30 a.m. to noon in the Fetzer Center and include refreshments.

Experts in health-related fields will serve as presenters.

The first session is set for Tuesday, June 22, and takes a holistic view of health and wellness. Attendees will learn how to change behaviors, obtain personal happiness, realize contentment, and create a better balance between their work and personal lives.

The remaining sessions in this summer's series are: "Stress: The Power to Choose," Wednesday, July 14; "Take Control of Your Health: Being a Good Health Care Consumer," Thursday, July 29; and "Get Fit the Fun Way: Personal Health and Fitness," Tuesday, Aug. 17.

Visit www.wmich.edu/hr/development/series for more details or to register. Space is limited, so early registration is encouraged.

Questions should be directed to Moses at nichelle.moses@wmich.edu or 387-3650.

Effort launched to increase educational opportunity

"We all agree that there is potential for enormous benefit to our students if, as a group, we are thoughtful and creative about how we leverage existing resources to meet the needs of the populations we serve," Dunn says. "This is our commitment to work closely together to ensure students have the opportunities they need to realize their goals."

Among the consortium's next steps will be a series of meetings in which specific academic programs and ventures will be examined and tailored to the needs of students. Each college will appoint a liaison to the consortium who will be charged with identifying areas of mutual interest with the greatest potential.

Examples of the type of programs that may grow out of the consortium are two pilot dual-enrollment programs serving aviation and engineering students at Kellogg Community College who plan to earn bachelor's degrees from WMU. Those programs launched in the past 18 months. Similar programs already are in stages of formation and implementation with the other community college partners.

Standing in front of trays of brownie bars, M&M cookies and cinnamon muffin tops, Ruth DeYoung admits she has a sweet job as a University baker.

New attached to the Valley 2 dining hall, DeYoung has spent almost 35 years in WMU Dining Services. She's worked in every kitchen on campus, including the snack bar that used to be located in Walwood for East Campus students.

During her more than three decades at WMU, DeYoung says she sees the same student preferences in food year after year, although there's more variety now in food offerings.

"They still like pizza, burgers and ice cream," she says. "But the quantity of desserts has decreased."

DeYoung notes that recent trends in her industry are to provide more self-serve options as well as to prepare more fresh items in front of students. In addition, the University regularly updates its dining halls. For instance, the Valley 2 hall was remodeled in the last 10 years, improving its dessert counter and adding carpeting to keep the noise down.

Individuals also make a difference within Dining Services.

"Sometimes I tweak the recipes," DeYoung says. "After a while, if something isn't working there are things you can do that you learn along the way." That might include changing the amount of an ingredient or adjusting a cook time or temperature. Years of experience have helped DeYoung take recipes and find ways to make them even better.

She and her husband, Steve, live in Kalamazoo and have two grown sons and a four-year-old granddaughter. A passion they have as a couple is working with sound reinforcement (managing sound systems).

"Volunteering for more than 20 years for the Kalamazoo Christian Schools and the Singing Crusaders of Kalamazoo has been such a blessing," she says. "Seeing the talents of children singing and acting is very uplifting."

While DeYoung says she doesn't do a lot of baking at home, her hobbies do include crocheting and crafts. She enjoys recycling materials into new projects, such as knitting dishrags from strings that have been used to bundle towels used in the University kitchens.

"My love is crafts. I make a new Christmas ornament every year," she says.