Grant-related training scheduled

The grants and contracts' spring training schedule is now available on the Web, along with slides from previous presentations. Visit www.obf.wmich.edu/grants-contracts for details about the schedule or to register. Contact the office at grants-services@wmich.edu or 387-4707 for more information.

Eaton, WMU join forces for hybrid-electric research

Eaton Corp. and WMU have signed a five-year agreement to invest in and jointly staff a testing lab to focus on hybrid drive systems for commercial and military vehicles.

A memorandum of understanding, finalized in late December, calls for Cleveland-based Eaton to invest $350,000 for lab startup, and then about $300,000 annually to maintain the testing lab to focus on hybrid drive systems for commercial and military vehicles.

A half-day live distance-learning webinar titled “Vets on Campus” will be offered free to faculty and staff members from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 24, on the 9th Street campus of Kalamazoo Valley Community College. The Advocacy Office for Transfer Students and Military Affairs is partnering with KVCC to offer this six-session, four-hour seminar.

Attendees will learn about what’s working in veteran’s programs and ways to meet the unique needs of student service members, veterans and their families. Participants should bring a brown bag lunch; water and dessert will be provided. Send an e-mail to tracey.moon@wmich.edu to register and obtain room and parking information.

Hearit to oversee strategic enrollment management

Keith M. Hearit, who has managed WMU’s recruiting and enrollment functions on an interim basis for nearly three years, has been named permanent vice provost for strategic enrollment management.

Heart’s appointment, effective Feb. 1 and contingent on approval of the WMU Board of Trustees, will place him in charge of initiatives central to the University’s enrollment planning and recruitment activities. He will focus on:

• aligning enrollment goals with academic programs and campus physical capacities, and determining the best size of the student body at both the undergraduate and graduate levels;
• continuing to build a student body with an academic profile and broad diversity characteristics reflective of WMU’s status as an international research university;
• developing new programs and community college partnerships that create dual enrollment and seamless transfer opportunities for prospective undergraduates, and
• co-chairing a campuswide strategic enrollment management committee aimed at enhancing retention and recruitment activities for all segments of the University community.

A communication professor, Hearit has been a WMU faculty member since 1996 and has served as both dean of the...
Public comment period near for self-study report

Since October 2008, WMU has been engaged in a process of self-reflection and analysis in preparation for its 10-year evaluation review by the Higher Learning Commission. The results of that self-study have been compiled into a first-draft report that the University’s HLC self-study steering committee will release tomorrow.

The committee invites members of the WMU community to read the draft report for themselves and share their observations regarding fulfillment of the self-study goals of performing a data-driven, analytical and future-oriented self-study.

Comments, questions and suggestions also may be sent to wmu-hlc@wmich.edu by Friday, Feb. 20, for the Study of Ethics in Society spring lecture series.

The draft report and a log of comments will be available for public comment from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays in 105 Niles Hall.

W' Club selects 2010 award winners

Josh Brylnsky, health, physical education and recreation, and Fred Sitkins, industrial and manufacturing engineering, have been named the Varsity "W" Club's2010 Women and Man of the Year.

Brylnsky coordinates the University's Master of Arts Degree in Sport Performance and is a former school coach and college athlete, coach and athletic director.

Sitkins serves as director of Cooperative Education for the College of Engineering and Applied Science and is a 1959 alumnus who was briefly a member of WMU's track team.

He has been a caller as well as a team and campaign chair for the Mike Gayl Athletic Fund's annual fund-raising efforts. He also is the faculty athletics representative to the NCAA, Central Collegiate Hockey Association and Mid-American Conference, and has been a member and chairperson of the WMU Athletic Board.

Doctoral student wins poetry contest

Gary L. McDowell, a doctoral student studying poetry and American literature, has won the 2009 Orphic Prize for Poetry from Dream Horse Press, an independent publishing firm.

McDowell earned a $1,000 cash prize and will have his first full-length poetry collection, “American Amen,” published late this year. He also wrote “They Speak of Fruit,” published in 2009, and co-edited “The Rose Metaphors Field Guide to Prose Poetry: Contemporary Poets in Discussion and Practice,” due out in April 2010.

Prof named state’s best string teacher

Bruce Uchimura, music, has been selected as Teacher of the Year by the Michigan chapter of the American String Teachers Association.

Uchimura was present-ed with the honor at a ceremony on Wednesday, Feb. 17.

The award is presented to teachers who distinguish themselves in the field.

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WMU's Everyone Counts initiative kicks off with orientation session

WMU's Everyone Counts Learning Community on Diversity and Inclusion officially kicked off Feb. 3 with a daylong orientation session in the Fetzer Center for its inaugural participants.

Launched this fall past, the Everyone Counts pilot initiative is a campuswide professional-development opportunity that addresses issues relevant to WMU's Diversity and Multicultural Action Plan. It has been embraced across campus, and a full complement of faculty and staff members are participating in the initiative's first year.

During the orientation session, Everyone Counts' 33 group members and six facilitators were welcomed by Lowell Rinker, vice president for business and finance, and Diane Anderson, vice president for student affairs, who also represented Provost Timothy Greene.

They spent most of the rest of the day getting acquainted, engaging in team-building exercises and listening to informational presentations. The participants ended the day by dividing into three smaller communities to continue team-building as well as to set their agendas for the coming year.

"Diversity and inclusion are essential to the fulfillment of our institutional mission," says Martha Warfield, associate vice president for diversity and inclusion.

"Everyone Counts provides us with an opportunity to again enact the Diversity and Multicultural Action Plan to promote and value inclusiveness in learning, curricular and co-curricular programming, campus climate, recruitment, admissions, hiring and retention."

The three smaller Everyone Counts communities will be meeting twice a month from now through December to discuss literature on diversity, listen to guest speakers, attend workshops and conferences, and talk about the challenges and opportunities they face in their work. In addition, group members will receive a small amount of money to create projects that directly integrate what they are learning into their daily work.

Everyone Counts is a collaboration between the offices of Diversity and Inclusion and Faculty Development and is sponsored by the offices of the Provost, Diversity and Inclusion, Vice President for Student Affairs, and Vice President for Business and Finance.

Zarahah El-Am Ansem from the diversity and inclusion office and Andrea Beach from faculty development are co-coordinating the overall initiative. Visit wmich.edu/diversityandinclusion for more information about Everyone Counts.

Bowl games showcase BTR park product

Holiday collegiate football bowl games this year showcased a new product from a division of Tekla Inc., a Kalamazoo-based company located in the University's Business Technology and Research Park.

Introduced last year, the MEDIC mobile athletic training table already is a standard part of home and away games for teams including WMU and Clemson, Princeton, Purdue and Michigan State universities.

With the close of football season, the product has moved indoors to the nation's basketball courts. In addition, interest has been triggered among NFL, NBA and X-Games trainers.

The MEDIC takes injury assessment and treatment off the ground or bench and onto a sturdy and rugged unit that can serve as a base of operations near the playing field or court.

Service

The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 40, 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service during February.

40 Years—Frederick G. Schulz, Facilities Management-construction.
35 Years—Margaret J. Corbin, Dining Services-Davis.
30 Years—Daniel D. Miller, Facilities Management-maintenance services.
25 Years—Barrie J. Tabb, accounts receivable.
20 Years—Sheila Bair, University Libraries; Sherrill D. Busboom, physician assistant; Rebecca S. Cook, Facilities Management-maintenance services; Carla V. Joyner, Facilities Management-landscape services; and Malcolm R. Malott, Human Resources.
15 Years—Kathy Dziepak, disability services center; Stephanie L. Jones, Registrar's Office; and Susan A. Standish, sociology.
10 Years—Brenda L. Chapman, Sindecuse Health Center; Carrick D. Craig, Office of the Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel; Beverly J. Edwards-Thompson, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Charles Heynig, Office of Information Technology; Kristin E. Kesz, Facilities Management-Maintenance Services; Michael E. Osborn, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; David H. Schrader, College of Aviation; Robert E. Taylor Jr., Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Contrina D. Thomas, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; and Amy M. Vorpagel, information technology.

Five Years—Mark Delorey, student financial aid and scholarships; Hollis B. Locke III, Facilities Management-associate vice president's office; Michael S. Sharer, Office of the Vice President for Research; and Michael J. Walenga, Facilities Management-transportation services.

More H1N1 clinics offered

H1N1 vaccinations are available at no cost to WMU students, employees and retirees, and their legal dependents age 12 and older.

Walk-in clinics have been set for 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 16-17, near the Student Recreation Center Service Desk as well as 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 24-25, in 1230 Sindecuse Health Center.

No appointment is necessary, but a WMU Bronco Card or other valid photo ID may be required.

Visit the Flu Information Center at www.wmich.edu/flu for more information about flu prevention and treatment. Questions should be directed to the Sindecuse Health Center at 387-3295.

Dining hall to close until Sept. 3

The Davis Dining facility will close Friday, Feb. 26, to begin significant renovations. The project will continue until the end of August, and the dining hall will reopen Sept. 3.

For more information, visit www.wmich.edu/dining/davis or contact Judy Gibper at judy.gipper@wmich.edu or 387-4846.

Obituary

Lillian T. Wilcox, a former staff member at Western Michigan University, died Jan. 31. She was 79.

Wilcox came to WMU in 1980 as a secretary in the Department of Geography and subsequently held several secretarial positions at the University. She retired in 1993 as a secretary executive II in Media Services after 12 ½ years of service.

The family will receive friends on Friday, Feb. 12, from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Life Story Funeral Home, 409 S. Main Street, Vicksburg, Mich. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, Feb. 13, at 11 a.m. in St. Joseph Catholic Church, 936 Lake St., Kalamazoo.
Diversity subject of student-led discussion series

A student-led discussion series called the Real Talk Diversity Series will kick off at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23, in the Trimpie Building's Multicultural Center.

The first program in the monthly series is “Campus ISMS.” It will feature students as well as faculty members discussing student attitudes about racism, sexism, homophobia and classism. Audience members will be able to participate in the discussion.

Real Talk is geared toward raising awareness, eliminating false ideologies, and stimulating dialogue on diversity and inclusion among WMU students.

The group of students that organized the discussion series invites other students at the University to help plan future events by participating in the group’s weekly meetings at 10 a.m. Thursdays in the Multicultural Center.

For more information, contact Zarina El-Amin Naeem in the WMU Office of Diversity and Inclusion at zarina.el-amin@wmich.edu or 387-6524.

Heard overseeing enrollment

Honors College and interim vice provost for enrollment management since mid-2007, Heard resigned his honors college post Feb. 1 to focus solely on the University’s student recruitment and enrollment initiatives.

Heard will continue to oversee admissions operations and the Registrar’s Office, but Bassam Harik, vice provost for budget and personnel, will now oversee the Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships and the Bronco Express Services Team.

Nicholas Andreidis, acting honors college dean, will lead that college while an internal search for a permanent dean is conducted. The search committee will be headed by Donald McCloud, dean of the Haenicke Institute for Global Education.

WMU launches apartment complex

Phase I is the first part of a multi-year effort to address changing student needs as well as replace on-campus apartments that have been demolished or are slated for future demolition.

“Our current residence halls are designed for beginning students and are meant to encourage interaction and the establishment of a circle of friends. As students mature, they prefer living on their own in apartments. We now have an unmet need for such housing, and Phase I of this project is our first step toward meeting that need.”

The estimated $12 million for Phase I will be financed by floating a bond issue for that purpose. Annual debt service for the bond will be paid from the rents derived from operation of the facilities. The apartment complex will be the first undergraduate student housing built on WMU’s West Campus in nearly half a century.

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“We know many students still want to live on campus after their freshman year, and we know that students who live on campus are more successful academically,” says Diane Anderson, vice president for student affairs.

“Our current residence halls are designed for beginning students and are meant to encourage interaction and the establishment of a circle of friends. As students mature, they prefer the kind of privacy and independence apartment living provides. Our waiting list tells us there is an unmet need for such housing, and Phase I of this project is our first step toward meeting that need.”

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The new complex will feature three-story buildings with two-color brick facades and a traditional look similar to WMU’s East Campus. Parking for resident students will be included as part of the complex.