Dean candidates to give presentations

Two candidates for dean of the Haworth College of Business will make presentations to the WMU community later this month. Speaking Monday, Jan. 25, will be Nicholas van der Walt, professor of business administration and the dean responsible for the Dubai Campus of the Hult International Business School. Speaking Wednesday, Jan. 27, will be Ajay Samant, WMU professor of finance and commercial law and interim dean of the business college.

Each candidate will speak on the topic, “Building on the Haworth College of Business Foundation in the Michigan and Global Economic Climate.” Their presentations will be from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. in 1040/50 Fetzer Center, with receptions following until 4 p.m. Visit www.wmich.edu/provost to review the candidates’ vitae.

Trustees approve AFSCME contract

Acting during a special conference-call meeting Dec. 9, the WMU Board of Trustees approved a new three-year contract with Local 1668 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. AFSCME represents about 420 custodial, dining services, grounds and maintenance employees at WMU.

Under the new contract, made effective Aug. 12, 2009, wages for union members will rise 2 percent across the board during the first year, with that raise retroactive to July 1. During the second and third years, there will be across-the-board wage increases of 1 percent each year. The contract also calls for union members to be covered by the same Blue Shield self-funded preferred provider health plan as other employee groups.

W-2 forms for 2009 available online

W-2 forms will be available next week through GoWMU and will be mailed Jan. 30 to the home addresses of those who do not choose to view them electronically. Employees are urged to confirm their home address in their employee records and provide consent for electronically viewing their W-2s. That consent must be renewed this year.

Visit https://gowmu.wmich.edu, click the Employee Self Service Channel then click Payroll and Compensation and select the consent form from the drop-down menu.

Western News gets new nameplate

The Western News is starting out the new year with a new front page nameplate that features a block “W.” The fresh look reflects guidelines developed for the University’s new Visual Identity Program, which will be available campuswide later this semester. The guidelines will impact the look of all University communications and address topics such as how to incorporate fonts and colors as well as how to use University marks such as the seal and “W.”

Obama IDs WMU role in STEM initiative

WMU is part of a new effort unveiled Jan. 6 by President Barack Obama to develop an elite group of teaching fellows charged with improving math and science education across the state.

At a White House ceremony, Obama lauded the W.K. Kellogg Foundation’s new Woodrow Wilson Michigan Teaching Fellowship as a model program and named the six Michigan universities and five Michigan school districts selected to be part of the effort. The fellowship program, funded with $16.7 million from the Kellogg Foundation, will train and place in those five districts a corps of teaching fellows who will promote education in what are known as the STEM disciplines—science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

“America’s leadership tomorrow depends on how we educate our students today, especially in science, math and engineering,” Obama said. “That’s why I’m pleased to announce the expansion of our ‘Educate to Innovate’ campaign today and applaud the several new partnerships that will help meet our goal of moving American students from the middle...

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Daniel Litynski appointed vice president for research

Veteran researcher and administrator Daniel M. Litynski has been named WMU’s vice president for research, effective Jan. 1.

Litynski, whose appointment is pending approval of the WMU Board of Trustees, assumes the post following a search process that involved Universitywide consultation and feedback. Litynski is a professor of electrical and computer engineering who has served as engineering dean, provost and interim WMU president.

“Dr. Litynski brings an enormous body of experience and a critical set of leadership skills for our research enterprise,” said President John M. Dunn of the appointment.

“Not only is he a highly regarded researcher in his own right, but he has also spent time in Washington, D.C., over the past few years and has become intimately familiar with federal funding practices and the organization of agencies like the National Science Foundation, where he served as a visiting program director.”

Litynski came to WMU in 1999 as dean of the engineering college after 23 years at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He has been active in research in electrical engineering, optics, physics, lasers and electro-optics.

Collaboration key to staging 2010 MLK tribute

WMU is again joining forces with Kalamazoo College, the Northside Ministerial Alliance and the city of Kalamazoo to stage a series of events beginning next week honoring slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

Events kick off Friday and Saturday, Jan. 15-16, at both higher education institutions. They will be followed by the Northside Ministerial Alliance MLK Community Celebration on Sunday, Jan. 17, and the city’s Communitywide Day of Service on Monday, Jan. 18. Other events include a march to MLK Park, educational sessions, film presentations, panel discussions and a “diversity lock-in.”

“This year’s theme, ‘The Strength to Love,’ is exemplified in this community by the outpouring spirit of giving, from the Kalamazoo Promise to the United Way campaign and more,” says Martha Warfield, WMU associate vice president of diversity and inclusion.

“Our community is stronger as a result of our collaborations, our caring for each other through good times and tough times, for the well-being of everyone in this community. The observances of Dr. King’s birthday, planned for this year, include all segments of our community, education, health care programs and the city. That is how we define Dr. King’s legacy of ‘the strength to love.’

Visit www.wmich.edu/mlk and click Events for details about the activities scheduled for this year’s MLK celebration.
Around Campus

Multicultural posters on display
A poster depicting the social, political and aesthetic concerns of different cultures opened today in the Monroe-Brown Gallery of the Richmond Center for Visual Arts. Admission is free.

“The Graphic Imperative: International Posters for Peace, Social Justice and the Environment, 1965-2005” will be on display through Friday, Feb. 19. Elizabeth Resnick from the Massachusetts College of Art and Design will give a public lecture about the exhibit at 5:30 p.m. today in 208 Richmond Center.

Festival to showcase Japanese films
The Japan Foundation’s spring 2010 film festival will feature four new films from Japan. All of the films being shown during the free, public festival are in Japanese with English subtitles. Screenings will be held in the Little Theater over four Wednesdays. The festival schedule is as follows: Jan. 20, “The Girl Who Lepat through Time”; Feb. 17, “Always—Sunset on Third Street”; Feb. 24, “Memories of Matsuko”; and March 10, “I Just Didn’t Do It.” Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and the films will start at 7 p.m.

Gov. Granholm signs legislation addressing three longstanding University property issues
Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm signed new legislation Jan. 5 that will enhance the Business Technology and Research Park, add a new asset to the University’s Oakland Drive Campus and help bring a solution to a vexing vacant property problem.

First, the bill’s passage means the Legislature has lifted use restrictions from a 53-acre parcel adjacent to the BTR Park known as the Colony Orchard Property. The parcel has been identified as a site for future development of the BTR Park, which is now nearly full.

Second, the bill removes use restrictions on the Northwest Hospital unit at 1501 corner of Howard Street and Oakland Drive Campus. The Noble Lodge property consists of a 24,000-square-foot building and legislative affairs.

Third, the legislation authorizes the state to sell to WMU for $1 property at the corner of Howard Street and Oakland Drive known as Noble Lodge. Built in 1919 as a dormitory for Kalamazoo Asylum staff, it was transferred to the Michigan Department of Corrections in 1991 and has been vacant for the past five years.

Acquisition of the property completes the 109-acre parcel known as the Oakland Drive Campus. The Noble Lodge property consists of a 24,000-square-foot building on a 2.5-acre lot contiguous to the state hospital property transferred to WMU by the state in 1998.

“While much of the attention has been on lifting the Orchard Property restrictions for BTR expansion, the other two parts of the bill are also enormously important to the University,” says Greg Rosine, senior vice president for university advancement and legislative affairs.

“The Noble Lodge, in particular, has been on our radar for years. Acquiring it really completes that portion of the campus and opens up all kinds of possibilities for the future. Our local legislative delegation really stepped up and supported our ability to both create jobs and consolidate campus growth.”

H1N1 vaccinations available
Vaccinations against H1N1 influenza are available to members of the WMU community through free clinics being held this month.

Vaccinations will be administered on a walk-in basis in the Student Health Center from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. today as well as Jan. 20-22, 25 and 27-29. H1N1 vaccinations are available at no cost to WMU students, employees and retirees, and members of the local independent age 12 and older. A valid WMU photo ID card may be required to receive a vaccination. Seasonal flu vaccine is no longer available.

WMU is continuing the same practices used successfully during fall semester to reduce the spread of influenza-like illness on its campuses. Visit the Flu Information Center at www.wmich.edu/flu for details.

Blood challenge slated
The spring 2010 WMU-CMU Blood Challenge will run from Tuesday through Thursday, Jan. 19-28.

Those wishing to donate blood on behalf of the University may attend one of the nine drives posted at www.wmich.edu/news/events. They should bring their Red Cross blood donor card or another form of positive ID.

Toschd, an appointment is a must, call (800) 448-3543 or visit www.redcrossblood.org. Make a Blood Donation Appointment, click Sponsor Code and enter WEMU, then complete the online form.

Event set for faculty researchers
A Friday, Jan. 22, open house for faculty researchers is being sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Research from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Fetzer Center. During the event, faculty members can learn about funding opportunities and strategies, connect with WMU colleagues and share ideas.

Daniel Litynski, vice president for research, and Paula Kohler, associate vice president for research and the event’s organizer, will be on hand to meet participants and discuss initiatives and resources.

The open house also will include resource stations and roundtable discussions. To register or obtain details, visit www.wmich.edu/research or contact Charlotte Kelley at charlotte.kelley@wmich.edu or 387-8205.

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Thirty-eight feted at gala event to induct new members into 25 Year Club

A total of 38 people who began their service to WMU in 1984 were inducted into the University’s 25 Year Club during a Nov. 9 ceremony in the Bernhard Center.

The annual gala in the University’s Bernhard Center honors employees who have built their careers at WMU. With the new class of inductees in place, the club now has 419 active and 591 retired members.

This year’s ceremony included posthumous note of two inductees: former President Denther H. Haenicke, who died in February 2009, and Susan V. Poncehilla, who reached her 25th service anniversary in August, several weeks before her October death.

The 38 new inductees in the 25 Year Club are: Lorraine Baron, university relations; Billie A. Blake, Haenicke Institute for Global Education; Knita J. Cekola, Human Resources; Christopher S. Cho, mechanical and aeronautical engineering; Carol R. Dedow, public safety; Alyce M. Dickinson, psychology; Philip J. Egan, English; Marcia E. Gambino, marketing; John W. Geisinger, computer engineering; Carol R. Grover, teaching, learning and educational studies; Rose A. Hathaway, landscape services; Ed Manion, Facilities Management-maintenance services; Mary L. Light, Career English Language Center; Ed Manion, Facilities Management-maintenance services; Annie Marton, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Phyllis A. McDowell, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Joseph R. Morris, counselor education and counseling psychology; Kelley Watson, Haenicke Institute for Career English Language Center; Amy M. Birch, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Suzanne M. Moorian, foreign languages; and Bradley F. Morgan, information technology.

“Among those President John M. Dunn, fourth from left, helped induct into the club were, from left: Ed Manion, Facilities Management-maintenance services; Charlotte Kelley, Office of Vice President for Research; Rose Hathaway, Facilities Management-planning; and Christopher Chabon, mechanical and aeronautical engineering.” (Photo by Mike Lanka)

Gary Somerville, public safety; Donna St. John, admissions; Peter Thannhauser, mechanical and aeronautical engineering; Mark E. Tomlison, WMUK-FM radio; Sharon M. Van Dyken, College of Education; Billie A. Blake, Haenicke Institute for Global Education; and Traci R. Young, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; and Renee Smith, University Libraries.

20 Years—Ila M. Baker, Career English Language Center; Amy M. Birch, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Marc P. Easley, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Jodie A. Lewis, Facilities Management-maintenance services; Suzanne M. Moorian, foreign languages; and Bradley F. Morgan, information technology.

15 Years—Ronnie K. Bell, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Patricia I. Hule, Office of the Associate Dean of Students; Thomas F. Penar, Extended University Programs; and Nancy C. Watson, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; and Cindy K. Walter, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services.

Five Years—Rachel E. Collinsworth, student financial aid and scholarships; Sarah Gaines, Sindecuse Health Center; Ryan Manning, intercollegiate athletics; Steven C. Morrison, intercollegiate athletics; Christopher Purti, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Amy L. Routhier, Extended University Programs; Tara M. Severino, Haenicke Institute for Global Education; Tiffany B. White, University budgets; and Traci R. Young, Facilities Management-associate vice president’s office.

WESTERN NEWS JANUARY 14, 2010
On Campus with Jackie Angel

From the University’s earliest efforts to protect students, faculty and staff from exposure to the H1N1 flu virus, Jackie Angel has been on the job.

Angel, business office manager at Sindecuse Health Center, was vacationing in Cancun, Mexico, in April 2009 when she received a call from Sindecuse Executive Director Carol Eddy informing her of potential travel restrictions, quarantine and other H1N1 concerns. When Angel returned to the United States, she was quarantined for a week and worked from home.

“It was a learning experience, and we all thought it went well,” she says. “When the fall started, we knew we had to be flexible. Certainly you plan a lot of things, but we needed to react as things happened.”

Part of those changes meant instituting separate registration and waiting areas for patients with flu-like symptoms, having masks available, and communicating with the University community about precautions and symptoms.

Although H1N1 planning and immunization clinics consumed much of Angel’s time this past year, it is just one of the 16-year WMU veteran’s many responsibilities.

“FLEXIBILITY IS KEY
( Photo by Deanne Puca)

Civilized business office manager Jackie Angel provides on-campus wellness services.

ACEP awarded $546,000 grant
The Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology has received a three-year $546,000 grant from a state agency to create a model program for recruiting rehabilitation counselors.

Michigan Rehabilitation Services awarded the grant to establish a Rehabilitation Internship/Employment Recruitment Model Program for DELEG-MRS. Those who complete the internship will be recruited by MRS to fill entry-level rehabilitation counselor positions.

Three ACEP faculty members are co-directing the grant project: Patrick Munley, department chair; Jennifer Wiebold, Rehabilitation Counseling Program coordinator; and Stephen Craig, Counselor Education Unit director. Also serving on the WMU project team are Robert Leneway, educational leadership, research and technology, and Stephen Magura, director of the Evaluation Center.

The five school districts in which new teaching fellows trained at the six universities will be placed are the public school districts for Battle Creek, Benton Harbor, Detroit, Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo.

Michigan Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm held a news conference at the state Capitol Jan. 7 to discuss the initiative. She was joined by presidents and superintendents of the participating schools.

The fellowship program will provide promising future teachers with an exemplary, intensive master’s degree program in education and place those fellows in hard-to-staff middle and high schools for a minimum of three years. The fellowship will prepare 240 teachers for two years beginning in 2011.

Over the course of the program, about 90,000 students will receive high-quality instruction in STEM subject areas from teaching fellows during their first three years in the classroom.

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Nigerian sculptor with longtime ties to WMU dies
University officials have learned world-renowned Nigerian sculptor Lamidi Fakeye died Christmas Day in his home country.

Fakeye, whose ties to WMU date back nearly half a century, was named a “Living Treasure” by UNESCO and had his work, including items he completed for WMU, showcased by the Smithsonian Institution.

A faculty member at Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria, Fakeye was celebrated for his ability to blend traditional Yoruba carving traits with modern forms of art. He first visited WMU in 1963 and was most recently on the campus of what he called, “my American university,” in October 2009.

Obama IDs WMU role
to the top of the pack in science and math achievement over the next decade.”

Kellogg’s Woodrow Wilson Michigan Teaching Fellowship is one of the new “Educate to Innovate” campaign partners.

Along with WMU, the higher education institutions that will be part of the fellowship program are Eastern Michigan University, Grand Valley State University, Michigan State University, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor and Wayne State University.

SRC wellness benefit extended
Now it is a good time for eligible WMU employees to activate their Student Recreation Center membership.

Those who do will pay nothing more than the taxes on $225. This benefit is now being offered to members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, in addition to benefits-eligible faculty and non-bargaining staff.

SRC memberships began in the spring semester, which started Jan. 11, will run through Jan. 9, 2011. Members may use the SRC any time the building is open. They may bring their families with them during the facility/family hours, at which time children under age 18 will be admitted for free.

A membership form is available at www.wmich.edu/rec by clicking the Memberships link on the University Recreation Home tab. Print and complete the form, fax it to 387-3766, and your membership will be immediately activated.

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