Trustees endorse medical school proposal

Adopting a formal statement on the topic at its Nov. 2 public meeting, the WMU Board of Trustees voiced support for the administration to actively pursue the next steps in the process of developing a school of medicine. WMU President John M. Dunn also announced an anonymous gift made for this purpose.

Board Chair Kenneth V. Miller said the authorizations affirm the board’s support for the medical school feasibility study that has been under way for nearly two years.

Dunn has been working with the medical communities in Kalamazoo and Battle Creek, Mich., to determine the feasibility and type of medical education model most likely to benefit the region. He has pledged that such a school could only become a reality as a privately funded entity that would not require public money or existing University resources.

A restricted $1.8 million gift has been pledged now to hire a dean pro tem and support the next levels of intense planning needed.

“Very much work to do to make a school of medicine a reality, but we’ve already made great progress as a community,” Dunn told the board. “Our next steps will include extending the planning process in a way that will take advantage of even more of the expertise available locally. There is work to do, but this is simply the right time and place to do that work.”

Several trustees spoke in favor of moving forward with the medical school project.

Trustee Dennis W. Archer of Detroit said the Kalamazoo and Battle Creek communities’ ability to create and sustain “a great medical school and provide the kind of patient care that each of us would want for our self, seems to have great promise. It also creates…"

---continued on page 4---

Billboard campaign gets update

Several of WMU’s newest freshmen are being featured on more than 40 billboards in four regions of Michigan as part of the University’s updated billboard advertising campaign.

The students were selected primarily from members of the Lee Honors College and the 2009-10 class of the Bernhard Center. All WMU community members are invited to join the festivities from 4 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11, in 157 Bernhard Center.

A restricted $1.8 million gift has been pledged now to hire a dean pro tem and support the next levels of intense planning needed.
Around Campus

Gold Company to present concert
Gold Company will hold its 32nd annual "Smokin' Preview" concert at 8:15 p.m. tonight in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. It will feature new music from the ensemble's upcoming "Love: Gold Company Style" show, which is scheduled to open Saturday, Feb. 13, in Miller Auditorium. Tickets are $10 and $5 for students.

Heart disease topic of presentation
Soudko M. Kouallou, an interventionalist cardiologist with the Heart Center for Excellence, will present "Matters of the Heart" from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 9, in the Fetzer Center's Pumper Auditorium. Sponsored by the Graduate Center for Research and Retention, the program will provide information about risk factors, recommended screening, the role of stress and drugs, and heart disease and athletes. For additional information, call Marianne Di Pietro at 387-9249.

'Shock Doctrine' next ethics talk
Naomi Klein's assault on free-market fundamentalism from her book, 'The Shock Doctrine,' will be explored during a panel discussion at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 9, in 159 Bernhard Center. Panelists will include William Santiago-Valles, Africana studies; Ronald Kramer, sociology; and Vincent Lyon-Callo, anthropology.

Emeriti program to focus on art
An informational presentation and tour by Don Desmet, director of exhibitions for the Frostic School of Art, will be the next Wednesdays II program sponsored by the Emeriti Council. The event will take place at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11, in the Richmond Center. Emeriti who park in Parking Structure 2 near Miller Auditorium will not be ticketed.

New career network helps alumni
The Alumni Association has launched a Web-based service called the Alumni Career Network to help WMU graduates meet their personal career-development needs. Two workshoirps have been set for 6 to 7:30 p.m. on separate Tuesdays to introduce the service and provide resume writing and other hands-on assistance.

The campus workshops will be held Nov. 10 at the Center and the Southfield, Mich., workshop will be held Nov. 17 in the Embassy Suites, 28100 Franklin Road. To register, go to www.wmich.edu/alumni and click Events.

Weekly to showcase global education
The University will showcase numerous countries and cultures during its annual International Education Week, which will run from Monday through Saturday, Nov. 16-21. Most events being planned are free and open to the public. Keep checking the Events calendar at www.wmich.edu/events to stay updated on activities as they are scheduled.

Annual PSSO Poinsettia sale now in full swing
The Professional Student Staffer Organization is accepting Poinsettia orders through Tuesday, Nov. 24. Poinsettias are $9 each and are available in seven colors: red, white, pink, burgundy, marble, jingle bells and Monet.

An order form is available online at wmich.edu/psso or call 387-4262. At the one-mile route Saturday, Nov. 14, and the Kalamazoo Holiday Parade by walking or running. Items may be submitted by mail, fax (387-8422) or for details.

Annual Turkey Trot set for Nov. 21
The 46th Annual Turkey Trot 5K race will take place at 9 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 21. The event is open to all members of the WMU and local communities. Participants are encouraged to bring canned goods to benefit Loaves and Fishes of Kalamazoo. For details, go to www.sccw.mich.edu/im/turkeytrot.html or call the intramural office at 387-3743.

New career network helps alumni
The Alumni Association has launched a Web-based service called the Alumni Career Network to help WMU graduates meet their personal career-development needs. Two workshoirps have been set for 6 to 7:30 p.m. on separate Tuesdays to introduce the service and provide resume writing and other hands-on assistance.

The campus workshops will be held Nov. 10 at the Center and the Southfield, Mich., workshop will be held Nov. 17 in the Embassy Suites, 28100 Franklin Road. To register, go to www.wmich.edu/alumni and click Events.

Weekly to showcase global education
The University will showcase numerous countries and cultures during its annual International Education Week, which will run from Monday through Saturday, Nov. 16-21. Most events being planned are free and open to the public. Keep checking the Events calendar at www.wmich.edu/events to stay updated on activities as they are scheduled.

Annual Turkey Trot set for Nov. 21
The 46th Annual Turkey Trot 5K race will take place at 9 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 21. The event is open to all members of the WMU and local communities. Participants are encouraged to bring canned goods to benefit Loaves and Fishes of Kalamazoo. For details, go to www.sccw.mich.edu/im/turkeytrot.html or call the intramural office at 387-3743.
Two administrative appointments and the retirements of one faculty and one staff member were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees during its Nov. 2 meeting. Trustees also accepted the resignations of one faculty and one staff member.

Trustees OK’d the previously announced appointment of David Kuzara as head women’s gymnastics coach, effective Oct. 5, and named Diana Vreeland director of the Career English Language Center for International Students, effective Sept. 8.

The faculty retirement, with emeritus status, was acted on posthumously for Susan V. Ponchilla, and is effective Nov. 2. Ponchilla, professor of blindness and low vision studies, died Oct. 12 after 28 years of service to the University. The staff member retiring is Richard C. McNorton, millwright maintenance mechanic in Facilities Management, 10 years of service, effective Dec. 31.

The faculty member resigning is Teri A. Davis, faculty specialist II-clinical specialist in the Bronson School of Nursing, effective Dec. 22. The staff member resigning is Terry L. Karowski, head women’s gymnastics coach, effective Oct. 1.

Sustainability expert to discuss local goals

The President’s Universitywide Sustainability Committee is bringing an international expert to campus this month to speak about measuring the progress of sustainability projects in the local community. Maureen Hart, owner of Sustainable Measures in West Hartford, Conn., will discuss the Kalamazoo area’s vision for the future and the role of projects to track progress to reach these goals during a public lecture Thursday, Nov. 12. Titled “Community Sustainability Projects: History and Progress,” the talk will be at 7:30 p.m. in Schneider Hall’s Brown Auditorium. A reception will follow.

On Friday, Nov. 13, Hart also will conduct a free and open workshop on “Developing a Citywide Community Sustainability Indicators Project.” This event will be held from 8 a.m. to noon in 1040 Fetzer Center and will include a complimentary breakfast. Visit www.sustainablemeasures.com for more information.

Health, wellness expo open to WMU community

Students, faculty and staff members, and retirees are invited to attend the 2009 Health and Wellness Expo from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10, in the Student Recreation Center’s indoor tennis courts area.

This free event increases awareness and utilization of local programs, organizations and resources available to the WMU community.

Those attending the expo will be able to learn about ways of improving and maintaining their financial as well as their physical health. More than 40 exhibitors from the University and greater Kalamazoo area will be on hand to answer questions and provide information about available health and wellness services along with employee and retiree benefits.

Attendees also will be able to sample healthy foods and purchase items from several local produce growers. Services to be offered include hearing screening, chiropractic, acupuncture, chair and hand massage, and at variable costs depending on individual insurance coverage; meningitis vaccinations. Plans had called for seasonal flu vaccinations to also be administered, but WMU has used up its allotment of this vaccine for 2009 and most likely will not receive additional doses.

In addition, Holtyn & Associates will be conducting health assessments and providing information about its One-to-One wellness program. WMU recently decided to offer the program for free to all full-time, benefits-eligible employees. Free parking will be available in Lot 13 and Parking Structure I. Visit www.wmich.edu/hwexpo for more information.

Board signs off on leasing office in Royal Oak as base for Detroit-area operations

The WMU Board of Trustees approved a three-year lease Nov. 2 for a Woodward Avenue location in Royal Oak, Mich., that will become the University’s base for recruiting and future program offerings.

The lease is for more than 1,800 square feet in a building at 32820 Woodward Ave. and will be effective Jan. 1, 2010. It gives the University a physical presence at the heart of the region that is home to 37.4 percent of WMU’s student body.

Work also is underway to bring new academic programming to the Detroit area through Extended University Programs.

Keith Hearit, vice provost for enrollment management, told trustees the initiative and the selection of the Royal Oak site was guided by three basic considerations:

• Southeast Michigan’s traditional importance as a recruiting base for WMU.
• The desire for a location that is easily accessible to students from both the city of Detroit and its suburbs.
• Hearit also notes that WMU is talking with Oakland Community College about partnering to offer academic programming in the future that would allow metro-area students to start work toward a WMU bachelor’s degree near their homes.

Profs take part in poetry event

Six foreign languages faculty members will be part of an unusual local poetry reading at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 15, in the Portage District Library.

For the free event, called “Poetry in 15 Languages,” readings will be done in various languages. Audience members will have a list of languages and readers, but no translations will be provided.

Participating from WMU will be department Chair Cynthia Running-Johnson, presenter, and readers Peter Blickle, German; Hend Ezzat Hegab, Arabic; Viviane Ruelott, French; Rika Saito, Japanese; and Lilya Vansovich, Russian.

ICES pilot program set to start

The pilot project for the Web-based Instructor and Course Evaluation System, also known as ICES Online, will begin in spring 2010. The Web-based ICES system will replace the current paper-based system by next fall.

Participating in the pilot program will be the Haworth College of Business and the colleges of Aviation, Education and Human Development, and Health and Human Services. During the Summer I Session, they will be joined by the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Engineering and Applied Sciences, and Fine Arts.

Full implementation of the new system is scheduled for fall 2010.

For more information, visit www.wmich.edu/poapa/ICES or contact the Office of Institutional Effectiveness.
Everyone Counts learning-community initiative open to all employees

The offices of Diversity and Inclusion and of Faculty Development are bringing together faculty and staff members for a year-long exploration of multicultural ideas and tools through a new initiative called Everyone Counts.

The initiative is a professional-development opportunity that will help participants better respond to the University’s increasingly diverse campus. Based on the “learning community” model, it promotes both personal and institutional transformation.

Applications are being accepted until Friday, Nov. 20, for employees to participate in one of the initiative’s learning-community groups during 2010. The materials being requested of applicants will help ensure that each learning community is diverse and composed of members who are in a position to meet on a regular basis.

Andrea Beach, faculty development, and Zarinah El-Amin Naeem, diversity and inclusion, are co-directing the project. The 2010 theme for Everyone Counts centers on race and, as an anchor, will use the upcoming Kalamazoo Race Exhibit, and inclusion, are co-directing the project. The 2010 theme for Everyone Counts centers on race and, as an anchor, will use the upcoming Kalamazoo Race Exhibit, which is described online at www.wmich.edu/cas/race.

Details about the new initiative are provided in a brochure that was distributed starting last week via campus mail to each WMU employee. Visit www.wmich.edu/diversityandinclusion for more information, or contact Beach or Naeem.

Trustees endorse medical school proposal

Whether it’s business cards for more than 3,500 WMU employees or a half of a million sheets of letterhead paper ordered each year, chances are printing lab technician Mark Cummins had a hand in printing them. He has his job the past nine years to churn out these products for the University as well as maps for parking services and student projects. From letterpress to digital printing, Cummins, paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging, has worked the presses and seen the trends toward more environmentally clean chemicals and higher-quality copies.

He used to be there were really, really nasty chemicals. They’d take the paint right off the equipment. Now, it’s much greener, milder,” he says. “And now that digital is coming, computer skills are a must for students to learn this business.”

Cummins started his printing career almost 40 years ago for a Kalamazoo-area printer.

“At that time we used carbon copies, and my boss said this was the only way printing would be done. The effects of technology closed it down,” Cummins remembers.

He worked for smaller printing companies before coming to WMU. His work started with the letterpress and then moved into offset printing used today. Digital printing is the future with many smaller projects already using this ink jet technique, he says.

Despite predictions of a “paperless office” with the increased use of electronic communication such as e-mail, Cummins says he doesn’t see business slowing down. He also values the importance of face-to-face contact and makes all of his own deliveries.

“I have heard so many people say they spend so much time reading e-mails that it’s nice to have a hard copy,” he says.

Cummins works a two-color offset printer and a one-color offset printer from his lab in the west wing of the College of Engineering on WMU’s Parkview Campus. Besides the printing jobs, he is responsible for maintaining and cleaning the equipment and making sure the lab is a safe work environment. Two students who work in the lab help him put the metal plates in the machine.

The Kalamazoo native and his wife, Dawn, have two grown daughters who are WMU graduates—Halley Bachmann and Annette Cummins, who is also an office associate for the department.

Cummins enjoys driving older fiberglass speedboats on Barton Lake and riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle.

Participating in Everyone Counts facilitator training Nov. 3 were, from left: Felicia Crawford, Human Resources; Dennis Alexander, intercollegiate athletics; Naeem; Lynn Nations-Johnson, teaching and research; Mary Ann Pace, Library; Jim Conteau, counselor education, and counseling psychology; Jackie Palmer, College of Education; and Human Development; Lauren Friedman, special education and literacy studies; Mill-Cox, facilitator trainer from Miami University; Tierra Marshall, faculty development; Diana Hernandez, multicultural affairs; Yvette Hyer, speech pathology and audiology; and Beach. (Photo by Jeanie Baron)