Two commencement ceremonies set
WMU has scheduled two commencement ceremonies for Saturday, June 27, in Miller Auditorium. The first ceremony will be at 9 a.m. for the colleges of Education and Fine Arts, Extended University Programs, and the Haworth College of Business. The second ceremony will be at noon for the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Aviation, Engineering and Applied Sciences, and Health and Human Services.

Survey seeks input on Sangren update
WMU is seeking input on the Sangren Hall renovation. The brief survey will be available online until June 19 for public comment. Go to www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2009/06/21.html for details.

WMU intensifies efforts to publicize No Worker Left Behind programs
The University has intensified its efforts to publicize availability of its programs under Michigan’s No Worker Left Behind program, launched by Gov. Jennifer Granholm in 2007 to support education and retraining for certain high-demand occupations.

WMU has purchased print and online advertisements in public media and launched a Web site at www.wmich.edu/noworker specifically to address questions from those who qualify for the program. The Web site identifies more than 35 bachelor’s, master’s and certificate programs that qualify, with more University programs being added each week.

Two new road closures announced
Two campus roads near Read Fieldhouse have been closed for reconstruction until Wednesday, July 1. Closed are South Dormitory Road and South Hays Road from South Dormitory to Western Avenue. Affected buildings include Davis, French and Zimmerman halls and the fieldhouse. Also closed because of the work on South Dormitory Road and South Hays Road from South Dormitory to Western Avenue.

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Sindecuse, WMU part of model preparedness community
The Sindecuse Health Center and WMU are part of one of seven coalitions around the country that have been designated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as a “2008 Model Community Linking EMS and Public Health.”

The CDC’s Terrorism Injuries: Information, Dissemination and Exchange announced the designation last year as part of its model community program, which identifies towns, counties and similar “communities” that model how emergency medical services can work with other safety and public health agencies in times of disaster.

Carol Eddy, Sindecuse, says that during crises, local hospitals, emergency departments and first responders play a vital role on the front lines of emergency care. The role of public health is also critical, and the model community program is one way to identify communities where there are strong public health and medical partnerships working together to respond to large-scale crises.

Some of the kudos for this honor should go to the Sindecuse emergency preparedness team and countless others across campus for their diligence in disaster preparedness planning,” Eddy says.

Sindecuse and WMU are members of Michigan’s 5th District Medical Response Coalition. The Region 5 coalition serves Michigan’s northwestern counties and is housed in the University Medical and Health Sciences Center building on WMU’s Oakland Drive Campus. It includes hospitals, public health departments, emergency services and plans to set up a new office at WMU.

Math reform work earns national notice
The Core-Plus Mathematics Project, a long-term WMU effort to develop and help implement a high school mathematics curriculum that will meet the nation’s current and future needs, has won the praise of a nationwide organization made up of high-profile corporate CEOs, agency chiefs and university presidents.

The U.S. Department of Education previously named CPMP an exemplary program, and this month the Business Higher Ed Forum recognized it online at www.strategicedsolutions.org as June’s featured program and as one that can make a difference in the nation’s schools.

The forum is made up of Fortune 500 CEOs, prominent college and university leaders and foundation leaders, who are “working to advance innovative solutions to our nation’s education challenges in order to enhance U.S. competitiveness.”

CPMP is a high school mathematics curriculum that has been in development and evaluation at WMU since 1992 with funding from the National Science Foundation. Directed since its inception by Christian R. Hirsch, mathematicians, CPMP was originally developed as a three-year mathematics program to prepare all students for college and the workplace.

The project has been integrating fundamental concepts and skills in algebra and functions, geometry and trigonometry, statistics and probability, and calculus. The latest version of CPMP, published in 2009, met the standards for college readiness.

WMU’s outreach to students who have aged out of foster care and its dual-enrollment education initiative with Kellogg Community College are among the statewide finalists for the 2009 Innovation Michigan program sponsored by Michigan Business Review.

The two WMU efforts are among 39 innovative initiatives that will be featured in a special edition of Innovation Michigan, expanded to include entries outside of the state.

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Financial consultations available
Employees may go online to schedule appointments for personal consultations with TIAA-CREF and Fidelity investment and retirement advisors. Consultations are usually held on campus in the Bernhard Center on prearranged days. Go to www.tiaa-cref.org and click Meetings and Counseling or to www.fidelity.com/atwork/reservations to schedule an appointment.

Western News now going on hiatus
Today’s issue of Western News is the last issue for the summer. Western News will resume its regular publication schedule in the fall semester. During the hiatus, go to www.wmich.edu/news to keep up with WMU news and announcements.

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Two initiatives named state innovation finalists
WMU’s outreach to students who have aged out of foster care and its dual-enrollment engineering initiative with Kellogg Community College are among the statewide finalists for the 2009 Innovation Michigan program sponsored by Michigan Business Review.

The two WMU efforts are among 39 innovative initiatives that will be featured in a special supplement to the publication July 16. That evening, the 2009 Innovation Michigan Exposition will be held at Grand Valley State University’s Pew Campus in Grand Rapids, and eight of the 39 finalists will be named winners of the 2009 Innovation Michigan Award.

The annual exposition recognizes the development or use of innovative products and services in Michigan. The event, now in its fourth year, was opened up to entries from across the state for the first time this year.

WMU’s Foster Youth in Higher Education/Seita Scholars initiative is a Universitywide effort designed to combat historically low rates of college attendance and graduation rates among young people who have aged out of the foster care system. Now moving into its second year, the program offers free tuition to qualified students and makes academic support services and year-round housing available as well.

The joint program between KCC and WMU will provide students with the best of both worlds by offering them joint admissions, efficient and flexible class scheduling, and the freedom to move seamlessly from the community college to WMU on their way to earning an associate degree at KCC and then a bachelor's degree at WMU.
The retirements of four faculty members were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees at its June 9 meeting. Board members also acknowledged a change in one faculty member’s retirement date, signed off on another faculty member’s return to the faculty and accepted the resignations of two additional faculty members.

The faculty members retiring are: Lynn (John) Johnson, Doi of the Physical Plant (now Facilities Management), 39-12 years, effective Dec. 31, William J. Goas, associate professor of education, 31 years, effective Jan. 12, and Kevin J. O’Donnell, lead skills training specialist in the Center for Disability Services, 15 years, effective June 30.

In addition, the previously announced some change in one faculty member’s retirement date for Gary W. Wegenke, dean of the College of Education and professor of educational leadership, research and technology, was extended. Wegenke will now retire with emeritus status April 30, 2010, after 32 years of service.

The faculty member returning to teaching is Kathryn Lewis-Ginebrou, who is stepping down as assistant director of the University Counseling and Testing Center, effective April 1.

The faculty members resigning are: Carmen Cornelio-Domancio, facilitator specialist (I), University Libraries, 14 years, effective April 22, and Joyce Walker, assistant professor of English, effective April 25.

Make a Difference program announces top four staffers

Four exceptional employees have received WMU’s annual Make a Difference award, each valued at a $1,000 prize, and they will be honored at a luncheon scheduled for Thursday, July 16.

The 2008-09 award recipients are: Cheri Edige, office coordinator in business information systems; Deborah Goostree, building services coordinator in the College of Health and Human Services; Stephen Kepo, grounds supervisor in Physical Plant-landscaping services; and Mary Ramlow, office coordinator in the Evaluation Center.

This prestigious annual award is reserved for WMU’s most outstanding staff employees, who go far beyond their assigned responsibilities to give generously and creatively of their time and talents, making the University an even finer place to work and study.

Make a Difference is a campuswide recognition program for staff members. Each year, it recognizes outstanding semiannual awards in fall and spring. Out of the semiannual winners, only four may receive the annual award.

The University governing board approves promotions of 50 faculty members

The WCU Board of Trustees approved the promotions of 50 faculty members at its June 9 meeting.

Twenty-two faculty members were promoted to the rank of full professor, 20 associate professor, one to master faculty specialist and seven to faculty specialist II.

All of the new promotions are effective with the beginning of the 2009-10 academic year.

Professor

Ekander Alvi, economics; Bruce E. Bejek, biological sciences; Steven E. Beville, industrial and manufacturing engineering; Christine A. Byrd-Jacobs, biological sciences; Paul Clements, political science; Charles E. Crawford, sociology; Kristal E. Ehrlhardt, special education and literacy studies; Igor Fedotov, music; Randi J. Gedeon, University Libraries; James A. Henry, social work; Antonio M. Isea, sociology; Allison J. Kelleher, Young, teaching and research; R. Park Lall, psychology; M. Kline, mechanical and automotive engineering; Deborah L. Lintons-The-Hold, occupational therapy; Elena B. Liovskaya, sociology; Tsimbu Liu, mechanical and aeronautical engineering; Timothy J. Michael, health, physical education and recreation; John M. Miller, chemistry; Alan I. Rea Jr., business information systems; John M. Sprigge, biological sciences; and Yonnie Uzun, social work.

Associate professor

Akil A. Asfaghe, computer science; Jeffrey M. Angles, foreign languages; JoAnn L. Arkin, marketing; Andrea L. Beach, educational leadership, research and technology; Daniel J. Bevers, music; Brian L. Downey, teaching, learning and educational studies; Chad E. Edwards, communication; Charles St. Forrester, English; Gregory A. Flaman, speech pathology and audiology; Pavel G. Ilkonov, industrial and manufacturing engineering; Edwin A. Marmo, health, physical education and recreation; C. Minnick, English; Ilena Naub, English; Sherine O. Obure, chemistry; Carolyn J. Petkus, psychology; Michael A. Peterson, psychology; Krapepa Ro, mechanical and aeronautical engineering; Renee Schwartz, biological sciences; and Hellen M. Sharp, speech pathology and audiology; and Zijiang James Yang, computer science.

Master faculty specialist

Deborah P. Coleman, business information systems.

Faculty specialist II

E. Bryce Dickey, family and consumer sciences; Robert W. Edgington, finance and commercial law; Marilyn S. Kritman, communication; Sandro R. Murphy, social work; Edie G. Palmer, teaching, learning and educational studies; Mary Peterson, speech pathology and audiology; and Neil T. Turner, finance and commercial law.

Flu information updated online

The Web site at www.wmich.edu/flu continues to be updated in cases as needed. Always check the site over the summer months to stay current on WMU’s ongoing pandemic preparedness planning and monitoring of the spread of the H1N1 virus.

The site includes numerous links, such as those for WMU flu statistics, WMU news stories, the Sinusoid Health Center, and state and national health agencies.
Math reform work

continued from page 1

A second edition of the Core-Plus Mathematics series was recently published.

The Business Higher Education Forum set out a year ago to identify clearly effective educational programs that would help them and others improve their education philanthropy. It also maintains a Strategic Solutions resource site on which the Core Plus Mathematics program evaluations show it boosts achievement on standardized tests and improves quantitative thinking skills among students using it, as compared to those in more traditional math programs. A flexible fourth-year option also is available to help prepare calculus- and non-calculus-bound students to excel in college-level mathematics classes.

A native of Bay City, Mich., Dowd moved to Florida, when he was 18, then attended college in Columbus, Ohio. He earned a bachelor's degree in finance and came back to Michigan in 2005 to take a job in WMU's Department of Business Information Systems. He worked in that office for a year and a half and also had a brief stint in student financial aid and scholarships before landing his current position in March 2007.

Working in the grants and contracts office, which reports to the associate vice president for finance, makes for an interesting and varied job. Dowd primarily coordinates the financial administration of research-oriented grants and contracts and helps faculty and staff meet the guidelines that come along with such sponsored research. "We're looking at financial, contractual and regulatory requirements to ensure compliance with federal, state, agency and University regulations, policies and procedures," Dowd says, noting that he's juggling from 70 to 100 projects at any given time. "Basically, we do all the behind-the-scenes stuff for a grant that doesn't have to do with the research."

Summer is among the busiest times, as faculty members have more time to conduct research, the fiscal year starts July 1 and WMU does a compliance audit of its major federal programs. "It gets busy, but there's great teamwork in our office," Dowd says.

When not in the office, he spends time with his two-year-old daughter, Maia, works on a master's degree in business at WMU, and enjoys running, being outdoors, attending summer festivals and riding his custom Harley Davidson road bike.

WMU Board of Trustees grants tenure to 23 faculty members

The WMU Board of Trustees approved the tenure of 23 faculty members at its June 4 meeting.

The tenured appointments for all 23 are effective with the beginning of the 2009-10 academic year.

New tenured faculty and their disciplines are:

- Ala I. Al-Fuqaha, computer science; Jefrey M. Angles, foreign languages; JoAnn L. Atkin, marketing; Andrea L. Beach, educational leadership, research and technology; Daniel Jay Berkow, theatre; E. Bryce Dickey, family and consumer sciences; Allison Downey, teaching, learning and educational studies; Chad Edwards, communication; Steve Feffer, English; Gregory A. Flanne, speech pathology and audiology; Pavel G. Ilkonovom, industrial and manufacturing engineering; Edwin A. Martini, history; Lisa C. Minnick, English; Sherine O. Obare, chemistry; Carolyn R. Pavlik, dance; Cynthia J. Pietras, psychology; Troy Place, industrial and manufacturing engineering; Kapeung Ro, mechanical and aeronautical engineering; Renee Schwartz, biological sciences; Helen M. Sharp, speech pathology and audiology; Bade Shrestha, mechanical and aeronautical engineering; and Zijiang James Yang, computer science.