NMU releases Kalamazoo Promise findings

Preliminary findings from a study of the Kalamazoo Promise’s impact on the local school system have been released by the Evaluation Center.

The first round of findings are detailed in three working papers that have been posted at www.wmich.edu/evalctr/promise on the center’s Web site. The papers, titled “The Kalamazoo Promise as a Catalyst for Change in an Urban School District,” “Response from Community Groups” and “Key Findings from the 2007 Survey of High School Students,” give a preliminary assessment of the celebrated scholarship program’s impact on schools and the community at large.

The purpose of the evaluation, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Education, “is to determine whether the Kalamazoo Promise, through its transformative effect on the education culture within the school district, improves the progress of students through their K-12 experience and better prepares them for entering a postsecondary education program.”

Many of the key findings are still pending and will be released later in the summer. But initial results show the scholarship program, which was announced in November 2005 and provides four years of tuition and fees at any public college or university in Michigan for students who have attended Kalamazoo Public Schools, is having an impact on students, schools and the community.

The 2007 survey of high school students shows the vast majority plan to use the scholarship. Perhaps most telling, more than three-quarters of the students said they wish to use the Promise to enroll in a community college or university. Nearly a third reported the existence of the Promise has motivated them to attend school more often. A third also said they are now working harder in school due to the Promise.

Almost half of the students said they think the Promise has led to teachers having higher expectations, while only 34 percent reported the promise had not changed their education goals and plans.

“These are promising results, but it is important to note that these are self-reported data on short-term outcomes,” says Gary Miron, Evaluation Center research associate and director of the Promise evaluation. “Hard data on intermediate and long-term outcomes will be critical to determine the actual impact of the Promise on the public school system.”

Interviews with a diverse array of key informants from the community show the Promise is also having an impact on community groups that support students and families. Changes among community organizations prompted by the Promise include increased support for students through new programming, such as tutoring or through expanding existing programs serving children, and an influx of tutors and mentors across different community organizations.

Western News to go on hiatus

Today’s Western News is the last issue for the summer. Western News will resume its regular publication schedule after the start of the fall semester. During the hiatus, faculty and staff can keep up with campus happenings by visiting WMU News at www.wmich.edu/wmu/news.

The Kalamazoo Promise

The Advocacy Office for Transfer Students and Military Affairs will host a comprehensive national online seminar from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 15, in 1010 College of Health and Human Services Building.

“Returning Veterans: Implications for Higher Education,” is a response to talk in Washington of reinventing the GI Bill and debates about whether the United States should bring its troops home from Iraq and Afghanistan, which point to a new wave of veterans enrolling in college.

But is America’s post-secondary education system prepared to serve them effectively, especially given that today’s returning veterans are different from their predecessors? A large turnout is expected for this event, so seats should be reserved early. RSVP to the advocacy office’s Eric McConnell at eric.mcconnell@wmich.edu or by calling 387-0740.

Nursing school wins local award

The Bronson School of Nursing will receive a 2008 Kalamazoo Communities In Schools Champ Award during an awards luncheon Friday, June 20, in the Kalamazoo Public Library. The award recognizes the school as a KCIS partner that provides quality service to students and possesses true collaborative spirit.

This community collaboration, active since 2004, is carried out by nursing students in their junior year as part of their pediatric rotation. The students present activities related to health promotion, disease prevention and minor illness management over a five-week period in local elementary schools. In some cases, they request and receive grants to fund materials and other aspects of the activities they provide.

New event debuts to recognize faculty tenure, promotions

WMU’s newly tenured and promoted faculty members were recognized during a special lunch June 13 in the Bernhard Center.

This was the first time the University has held such an event.

The luncheon was hosted by the WMU Board of Trustees following its June 13 meeting, during which 40 faculty members were approved for tenure and 66 faculty members were promoted.

Both the tenured appointments and promotions are effective with the beginning of the 2008-09 academic year. A total of 29 faculty members were promoted to the rank of full professor, 31 to associate professor, four to master faculty specialist and two to faculty specialist II.

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**Around Campus**

**Free jazz concerts scheduled**
The fifth annual Steve Zegree Vocal Jazz Camp will bring participants from around the world to campus Sunday through Friday, June 22-27. It will conclude with a free concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday at the Dalton Center Recital Hall.

Camp participants also will perform nightly in downtown Kalamazoo from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday at the Union Cabaret and Grill, 125 S. Kalamazoo Mall. There is no cover charge and no reservations are necessary.

**TB focus of Uzbekistan visitors**
Public health professionals from Uzbekistan will visit the College of Health and Human Services Monday, June 23, to tour the WMU Bronson School of Nursing and meet with Amy B. Curtis, interdisciplinary health sciences.

Curtis has served as an epidemiologic intelligence officer at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, where she focused on investigating tuberculosis outbreaks and evaluation and surveillance of health-care related diseases.

**Doctoral researchers to present**
The public is invited to see the research contributions being made by doctoral students when the Ph.D. Program in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences hosts the 2008 Interdisciplinary Doctoral Research Conference from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Friday, July 18, in the College of Health and Human Services Building.

**University Theatre gets rare performance opportunity in Canterbury**
A groundbreaking drama about gay Christians, performed last season by the University Theatre, has been sold-out production, “Seven Passages: The Stories of Gay Christians,” will be performed at the Lambeth Conference, which convenes once every 10 years in Canterbury, England.

Led by the archbishop of Canterbury, the three-week summit brings together archbishops and diocesan, assistant and suffragan bishops from around the globe to consider issues facing the church and pass resolutions on the church’s governance, its ministry and liturgy, and its engagement in the world.

WMU students will move the timely issues of gender and sexuality to center stage when they perform in conjunction with related conference discussions. The theatre production is one of just 30 events chosen for inclusion in the conference schedule.

**WMU awards prestigious Gründler Prize to Vanderbilt scholar**
A Vanderbilt University scholar has been awarded WMU’s prestigious Gründler Prize for his book “John Hawkwood: An English Mercenary in 14th Century Italy.”

The prize was awarded to William Caferro, an associate professor of history at Vanderbilt, during the 4th International Congress on Medieval Studies held May 8-11 on campus.

Caferro’s work chronicles the remarkable life and career of the most notorious mercenary soldier of the 14th century. Hawkwood gained his greatest fame and fortune as a commander-for-hire in the internecine wars all along the Italian peninsula.

A man known for being clever and daring, he was the most feared mercenary in Renaissance Italy.

**Clinician named national fellow**
Sandra Oliata, speech pathology and audiology, has been elected a fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. The designation is one of the field’s highest honors and a testament to Glista’s accomplishments at WMU on behalf of her department, its clients and professionals throughout Michigan.

Glista, a master clinical faculty specialist, has been at WMU since 1991. She has expertise in the areas of neuropsychological disorders, language, communication disorders of the aged, and augmentative and alternative communication.

ASHA is the professional, scientific and credentialing association for more than 130,000 members and affiliates who are audiologists, speech-language pathologists, and speech, language and hearing scientists.

**Counselor wins national honor**
Alan J. Hovestadt, counselor education and counseling psychology, has received a 2008 Presidential Award from the American Counseling Association. It was bestowed in recognition of his more than three decades of service as a counselor educator, mentor and advocate for inter-professional collaboration.

The honor, presented during ACA’s 2008 conference in March, is part of the association’s national awards program for recognizing achievements of counselors who have distinguished themselves professionally as well as through service to others.

Hovestadt came to WMU in 1985 as chair of his department. He is a fellow and former president of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy and chairs the Michigan Board of Marriage and Family Therapy State Licensing Board.

**Emerita named top volunteer**
Linda Law, emeritus in health, physical education and recreation, was recognized by Special Olympics Michigan as the Outstanding Volunteer of the Year for Kalamazoo County during a May 28 event in Mount Pleasant, Mich.

Each year, directors from SCMI’s 36 local area programs recognize one volunteer who goes above and beyond to help athletes develop physically, emotionally and socially.

Law, who’s been involved with Special Olympics for 10 years, was cited for recruiting additional volunteers and successfully coordinating Area 16’s 2008 Unified Bowling Program as well as volunteering in the same capacity next year.

She retired this past year as an associate professor after 31-1/2 years of service at WMU and was named the Alumni “W” Club Woman of the Year in 2005.
Trustees approve retirements of eight faculty, staff members

The retirements of four faculty members and four staff members were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees at its June 13 meeting. Trustees also accepted the resignations of two faculty members.

All of the faculty members who are retiring are doing so with faculty emeritus status. Their names, units, years of continuous service and effective dates of retirement are:

- William "Arnis" Johnston, English, who is also being granted the title of chair emeritus in English, 40 years, effective June 30; and Judith J. Sadler, nursing, 10-1/2 years, effective April 28, 2009.
- The staff members retiring are: Willard E. Breur, physical plant-logistical services, 32 years, effective June 30; William D. Cochran, physical plant-maintenance services, 30-1/2 years, effective June 30; Margo A. Kellogg, development, 23 years, effective Aug. 31; and Daniel Tinkler, physical plant-power plant, 22-1/2 years, effective Sept. 30.
- The faculty members resigning are: Anthony Calucci, dance, effective Aug. 10, and Laura B. Citrin, sociology, effective Aug. 29.

Golfers, non-golfers to gather for second WMU team-building event

Two campus organizations are organizing their second campuswide golf outing and dinner program, continuing an event they began this past summer to foster camaraderie at the University.

The Administrative Professional Association and Academic Technology and Instructional Services has planned the nine-hole golf outing starting at 2:45 p.m. Friday, Aug. 15. The registration deadline is noon Friday, Aug. 1, and participation is limited to the first 72 golfers who register.

Anyone affiliated with WMU, and their guests, may play in or volunteer to help out at the event, which is being held at the Prairies, 5303 W. Main St., Kalamazoo (next to the National City Bank).

The golf outing is designed to introduce WMU colleagues to one another and to with participant check-in and judging the longest drive contests for men and women.

Go to www.atis.wmich.edu/golf for registration and other event details.

Exchange

For rent—Relaxing lakeside getaway 12 miles west of Kalamazoo. Sit on your own pier while catching fish, contemplating wildlife and watching sunsets over a beautiful lake. Faculty couple going on leave, immediately available. $1,200 per month plus utilities. E-mail middlebrooks@wmich.edu for more information.

For sale—Well maintained 2005 Honda CRF70. Must sell. Bought new in 2006, low strokes, just add gas. Easy to start. Comes with adult lock-out key, so you can control when they ride. Only reason for selling: my kid outgrew it. $1,050 or best offer. E-mail middlebrooks@wmich.edu for photos.

It’s SRC membership sign-up time

Benefits-eligible faculty and nonbargaining-staff members may activate their Student Recreation Center membership now and pay nothing more than the taxes on this $225 benefit.

Summer II session begins on June 25, and the new annual membership will run through June 24, 2009.

Members may use the SRC from Sunday through Saturday, anytime the building is open. They are encouraged to bring their families during specific hours and together maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Activating membership is easy. Just go to the Web site at www.src.wmich.edu and click Membership. Print the form, fax it to 387-3766, and the membership will be processed immediately.

For more information or to arrange to have an in-office presentation about the SRC and the benefits of becoming a member, call Cindy VanderWoude at 387-3115.

Top-four staffers announced

Four exceptional employees have received WMU’s annual Make a Difference award, which comes with a $1,000 prize. They will be honored at a luncheon scheduled for Thursday, July 17. The 2007-08 award recipients are: Laurie Foster, coordinating the Registrar’s Office, Patrick Lem, carpenter in physical plant-utilities/remodeling services; Melinda Lockett, academic advisor for the College of Health and Human Services; and Surangi Pradhan, employer relations coordinator in Career and Student Employment Services.

This prestigious award is reserved for WMU’s most outstanding staff employees—those who reach 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. The program features a semiannual award that is bestowed during two separate award periods each academic year and an annual award that is bestowed to each year’s top four semiannual recipients.

Go to www.wmich.edu/makeadifference for more information.

Obituaries

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Newly tenured faculty

The faculty members approved for tenure are listed as follows by their current academic rank.

- The associate professor receiving tenure is: Tiambu Liu, mechanical and aeronautical engineering.
- Assistant professors receiving tenure are: Jon R. Adams, English; Heather Addison, communications; Omar Anguslan, finance and commercial law; Bradford Dennis, University Libraries; Charles R. Henderson, physics; Sarah Hill, anthropology; Phillip Johnson, counselor education and counseling psychology; James J. Kiddie, chemistry; Ok-Kyong Kim, mathematics; Mahendra S. Lwoti, political science; Robert J. Lenewey, educational leadership, research and technology; Kathryn Lewis-Ginebaugh, University Counseling and Testing Center; Mark Liermann, theatre; Nancy B. Munschberger, teaching, learning and educational studies; Michael Millar, Spanish; Mustafa Mughazy, foreign languages; Debdas Mukherjee, economics; Lori A. Mue, management; Jon-Seok Oh, civil and construction engineering; Sue Poppink, educational leadership, research and technology; Pablo M. Pastrana, Spanish; Shaila Rao, special education and literacy studies; Sybil Rhodes, political science; Wuwei Shen, computer science; Mary J. Bukausk, nursing; Cheryl L. Baum-Brown, theater; Michael C. Beas, Spanish; and Joni Jones, nursing.
- Faculty specialist IIs receiving tenure are: Martin Grant, aviation; Loren Heun, statistics; Kathleen Onderlinde, biological sciences; and Jodie G. Palmer, teaching, learning and educational studies.
- Promoted to assistant professor are: Richard Adams, music; Amos J. Bevan, history; Sandra L. Borden, communication; Joseph A. Brandao, history; Cat L. Crockett, art; Leigh A. Ford, communications; Thomas W. Gworys, physics; Emily L. Haugmann, political sciences; Norman W. Hawker, finance and commercial law; Margaret Joyce, paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging; David N. Karowe, biological sciences; Jean Kimmel, economics; Kirk T. Korista, physics; Cindy L. Linn, biological sciences; Yulong Liu, health, physical education and recreation; Matthew S. Mitura, public affairs and administration; Timothy B. Palmer, management; John S. Penovic, mathematics; Deway Qs, paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging; Silvia Rossbach, biological sciences; Nancy M. Schullery, business information systems; Jana K. Schulman, English; Michael Tarn, business information systems; Robert E. Vann, Spanish; Delores D. Wallcott, University Counseling and Testing Center; Wilson J. Warren, history; Susan Weinger, social work; and Steve M. Wolsibburger, music.
- Promoted to associate professor are: Jon R. Adams, English; Heather Addison, communications; Omar Anguslan, finance and commercial law; Bradford W. Dennis, University Libraries; Charles R. Henderson, physics; Sarah Hill, anthropology; Phillip Johnson, counselor education and counseling psychology; James J. Kiddie, chemistry; Ok-Kyong Kim, mathematics; Mahendra S. Lwoti, political science; Robert J. Lenewey, educational leadership, research and technology; Kathryn Lewis-Ginebaugh, University Counseling and Testing Center; Mark Liermann, theatre; Nancy B. Munschberger, teaching, learning and educational studies; Michael Millar, Spanish; Mustafa Mughazy, foreign languages; Debdas Mukherjee, economics; Lori A. Mue, management; Jon-Seok Oh, civil and construction engineering; Pablo M. Pastrana-Perez, Spanish; Sue Poppink, educational leadership, research and technology; Shaila Rao, special education and literacy studies; Sybil Rhodes, political science; Wuwei Shen, computer science; and Paul Vellom, teaching, learning and educational studies.

Newly promoted faculty

The faculty members approved for promotions are as follows.

- Promoted to professor are: Richard Adams, music; Amos J. Bevan, history; Sandra L. Borden, communication; Joseph A. Brandao, history; Cat L. Crockett, art; Leigh A. Ford, communications; Thomas W. Gworys, physics; Emily L. Haugmann, political sciences; Norman W. Hawker, finance and commercial law; Margaret Joyce, paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging; David N. Karowe, biological sciences; Jean Kimmel, economics; Kirk T. Korista, physics; Cindy L. Linn, biological sciences; Yulong Liu, health, physical education and recreation; Matthew S. Mitura, public affairs and administration; Timothy B. Palmer, management; John S. Penovic, mathematics; Deway Qs, paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging; Silvia Rossbach, biological sciences; Nancy M. Schullery, business information systems; Jana K. Schulman, English; Michael Tarn, business information systems; Robert E. Vann, Spanish; Delores D. Wallcott, University Counseling and Testing Center; Wilson J. Warren, history; Susan Weinger, social work; and Steve M. Wolsibburger, music.
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- Promoted to master faculty specialists are: Mary J. Bukausk, nursing; Cheryl L. Baum-Brown, theater; Michael C. Beas, Spanish; and Joni Jones, nursing.
- Promoted to faculty specialist II are: Loren L. Heun, statistics; and Kathleen Onderlinde, biological sciences.