Computer Repair Shop expands

The Office of Information Technology has expanded its computer repair services. In addition to Apple and Dell computers, OIT is now also repairing Compaq, Fujitsu and Hewlett Packard computers.

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The Computer Repair Shop has undergone significant restructuring in the past couple of years. This has resulted in the shop expanding the line of computers it services while significantly reducing the average turnaround time to five days, which beats the industry average of seven days.

Research collaborators sought

A series of meetings have been scheduled in June to explore ways WMU can increase its involvement in research related to homeland security and patented technologies that can be used to identify criminals and other terrorists.

Any faculty or staff members who are engaging in that type of research, or who are interested in doing so, are invited to contact Charles Dawes, Development Office. Dawes is coordinating meetings from Tuesday through Thursday, June 10-12, between Cross Check Technologies and WMU units and employees representing a variety of academic disciplines.

Cross Check, formerly named Secure Logix, owns the patents to a human body scanning, typing and profiling system as well as other security-related technologies. During their visit, the company’s founders will discuss the potential for WMU and Cross Check to collaborate on research and other projects.

Dawes also will assist with setting up campus meetings, as requested, among departments interested in exploring additional security-related research opportunities. To learn more or make arrangements to attend one of the scheduled meetings, contact Dawes at charles.dawes@wmich.edu or 964-5697.

Pay for students to rise in July

Effective July 1, the A1–A4 student pay rates will increase to $7.40 per hour to comply with the new state minimum wage requirements. Supervisors do not need to complete an online transaction form; adjustments will be made automatically.

All other student employee pay rates will remain the same. Those with questions or comments may contact George Eskro at george.eskro@wmich.edu or 387-2745.

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APA, OSSO award educational scholarships to five WMU students
Five staff members or their dependents have received 2008 scholarships this spring from the Administrative Professional Association and Professional Support Staff Organization.

The APA’s two annual $500 scholarships, which support APA members’ children who attend WMU, went to Chelsea Keck, the daughter of Patricia Keck, university budgets, and Ryan Crawley, the son of Rosanna Metoyer, auxiliary enterprises.

The spring scholarships sponsored by the PSSO, which go to PSSO members or their dependents who attend WMU, totaled $170 and were divided among Tracie Sherbeyn, accounting services; Steven Sitwak, son of Cheryl Sitwak, payroll office; and Gregory Flynn, son of Joyce Flynn, College of Education.

The scholarships were announced independently by the two groups after the annual APA/PSSO Awards and Spring Luncheon held May 16.

In addition to Sherbeyn, the committee that organized the luncheon was composed of co-chairs Terri Culver, accounting services, and Mary Ramlow, Evaluation Center; Jackie Angel, Sindecuse Health Center; Mary Escobedo, University Counseling and Testing Services; Carol Morris-Mier, College of Education; Peggy Miller, Human Resources; Connie Peruchetti, Petter Center; Kandress-Toi Ross, Human Resources; Wendy Schutt, purchasing; and Cindy Zimmerman, accounting services.

20 Years—James M. Hillenbrand, speech pathology and audiology; Neil Lewinski, information technology; and Brian E. Shade, information technology.

15 Years—Paul Steven Sizer, School of Art.

10 Years—Jeffery D. Alexander, physical plant-general services; Heidi Douglass-Vogletz, speech pathology and audiology; Timothy E. LaLonde, information technology; Dale B. Lutulippe, WMU Unified Clinics; Cecelia M. Moore, University Libraries; Gregory A. Peet, University Libraries; and Cynthia L. Trout, intercollegiate athletics.

Five Years—Tania L. Echavarria, King/Chavez/Rosa Parks Program; Catherine L. Fouxe, biological sciences; Melissa V. Green, Student Activities and Leadership Programs; and William E. Post Jr., Development Office.

Correction
In the photo cutlines for this year’s Poker Walk, the May 22 Western News incorrectly identified Cinna Swinsick and Emily Kilan as nurses. They are medical technologists.

Jobs
Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources Web site at www.wmich.edu/hr/careers-at-wmu.htm. Please note that applications must be submitted online by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included with each posting.

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Around Campus
Film examines issue of torture
The Little Theatre will feature "Taxis to the Dark Side" Friday through Sunday, June 6-8. This 2008 Oscar-winning Best Documentary examines the U.S. use of torture in the war on terror. Go to www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2008/06/001.html for more information.

Retirement receptions slated
The campus community is invited to attend two events being held this month for retiring staff members.

Carl Newton, energy manager in physical plant-maintenance services, will be recognized for 12-1/2 years of service to WMU during a reception from 2 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, June 11, in the President’s Dining Room of the Bernhard Center.

Bill Breur, logistical services, will be recognized for 12 years of service to WMU during a reception from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Friday, June 20, in the President’s Dining Room of the Bernhard Center.

Open house set for ombudsman
An open house has been scheduled for Thomas Bailey, English and environmental studies, who will be stepping down from his second stint at University ombuds.

The event is slated to run from 1 to 3 p.m. Friday, June 13, in 218 Bernhard Center.

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Nonbargaining employee groups select leadership for 2008-09

The University's two nonbargaining employee groups, the Administration Professional Association and the Professional and Support Services Organization, have elected new leaders for 2008-09. The APA officers are: president, Wil Emmert, Research and Sponsored Programs; vice president, Amy Seth, Student Recreation Center; treasurer, Joe Odellham, physical plant-utilities; corresponding secretary, Mary Ramlow, Evaluation Center; and recording secretary, Faith Wicklund, Miller Auditorium.

The APA Executive Board includes: Byron Glock, Academic Technology and Instructional Services; Sharon Van Dyken, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences; Laura Cicciattelli, College of Education; Susan Ketchum, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences; Julie Scriveren, Graduate College; Lynda Hunt, Development Officer; Mary Anne Syllik, Office of the Vice President for Research; Gail Kurtz, investment and endowment management; George Bromell, information technology; Joan O'Bryan, information technology; Jacqueline Angel, Sindecuse Health Center; Sue Kohlert, Sindecuse Health Center; and Michele McLaughlin, Student Academic and Institutional Research.

The PSSO officers are: president, Carrie Soule, Student financial aid and scholarships; vice president, Terri Culver, accounting services; secretary, Carol Morris-Mier, College of Education; and treasurer, Nancy Johnson, investment and endowment management.

The PSSO Executive Board includes: Jennifer Clements, School of Social Work; Jessica Hutchinson, payroll office; Sally Lunsford, accounts receivable; Barb Peacock, psychology; and Wendy Schutz, logistical services.

Orientation gets under way

More than 3,300 beginning students, along with many of their parents, are booking it to Kalamazoo this month to participate in two-day orientation sessions at WMU. The influx of visitors began June 2 and will continue through June 27 as the University puts on 14 two-day orientation sessions for incoming freshmen. Hundreds more transfer students will attend one-day transfer orientation sessions scheduled closer to the start of the fall semester. During new-student orientation, incoming freshmen are divided into small groups led by orientation student leaders—current students who have been specially trained to help the newcomers get acquainted with campus and what WMU has to offer.

Dissertation fellows selected

Five doctoral students have been selected to receive Dissertation Completion Fellowships for the 2008-09 academic year. The annual competition for the fellowships is sponsored by the Graduate College. Those receiving the honor, along with their programs of study and dissertation advisors' names, are:

• Brian Becker, history, Larry Simon
• Tony Frazier, history, Judith Stone (emeritus in history)
• Michaela Rastelli, political science, James Butterfield
• Jai Thomas, industrial and manufacturing engineering, Mitchell Keil
• Libun Wang, physics, Sung Chung

Unified Clinics offering hearing screenings

Behold the sounds of summer—crickets and birds chirping, the chatter of children at play, the distant drone of lawnmowers. But for many, those sounds get lost in the mix because of hearing problems. Knowing that many people suffer from undiagnosed hearing loss, the Van Riper Language, Speech and Hearing Clinic encourages people to schedule a hearing exam.

WMU hosting national event to improve 'STEM' education

Two WMU professors are helping to organize a national working conference focused on improving change models and theories related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, education.

The by-invitation event, "Facilitating Change in Undergraduate STEM: An Invitational Symposium Integrating Multiple Perspectives," will take place Monday through Thursday, June 16-19, at Brook Lodge in Augusta, Mich.

It is being organized by WMU's Charles Henderson, physics and science education, and Andrea Beach, educational leadership, research, and technology, along with Noah Finkelstein from the University of Colorado at Boulder and R. Sam Larson from Regis University and Kaisier Permanente.

The conference will bring together 40 of the leading up-and-coming scholars in diverse research areas and will build on the multi-disciplinary literature synthesis completed by the organizers.

Among the featured presenters will be Nobel laureate Carl Wieman, director of the Carl Wieman Science Education Initiative at the University of British Colombia and Distinguished Professor of Physics and director of the Science Education Initiative at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

The national conference is being funded by two National Science Foundation grants, with additional support from WMU's Malinison Institute for Science Education and Office of the Vice President for Research.

Obituaries

Betty L. Fouch, retired TV traffic coordinator for media services, died May 24. She was 86. Fouch came to WMU in 1951 and worked until 1953 as secretary to the chair of the Department of English.

She served as secretary to the director of the Audiovisual Center from 1964 to 1970 before joining Media Services in 1973. Fouch, a graduate of Michigan State University in 1985, earned a bachelor's degree from WMU in 1971. She was an active community volunteer, and received the Woman of the Year Award from WMU's Commission on the Status of Women in 1981.

Cremation has taken place, but friends will be assembling at a memorial gathering on Sunday, June 8, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Portage home of Robert and Barbara Havira. Memorial contributions may be directed to Rose Arbor Hospice Program.

Nathaniel McCaslin, emeritus in social work, died May 31 in Phoenix. He was 78.

McCaslin, a former vice president of the Kalamazoo Public Schools Board of Education, came to WMU in 1971 and retired in 1991. He began his University career supervising field instruction.

During his time in Kalamazoo, McCaslin was active in the community and held numerous leadership positions, including chair of the county social services board.

He received the Humanitarian of the Year award from the Metropolitan Kalamazoo Branch of the NAACP in 1987. The Nathaniel McCaslin Early Intensive Scholarship Program is named in his honor.

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On Campus with Betty Jo “B.J.” Caldwell

Work is going swimmingly for B.J. Caldwell, swim lesson coordinator at the Gabel Natatorium in Lawson Ice Arena. “The job is a lot of fun. Everybody supports everybody around here,” Caldwell says. “We all contribute in our own ways and help each other out.”

Gabel is used for WMU’s Zest for Life wellness program, community swimming classes and open swimming. In addition, it’s home to two high school swim teams and may be rented for private parties. WMU provides the lifeguards and offers scholarships to low-income households.

A part-time employee, Caldwell is on the job 15 to 20 hours a week. She coordinates Gabel’s program of classes for swimming, diving and water safety, as well as for gaining certification in CPR, lifeguarding and swim instruction. Swimming classes range from beginning to advanced and are available for infants through adults. Faculty and staff receive a 10 percent discount on class fees.

Caldwell supervises a staff of seven to nine students, schedules classes, assists with in-service training, fills in when instructors or lifeguards aren’t available, and does whatever else is needed, such as creating bulletin boards and helping to maintain the pool and locker areas.

“Learning to swim isn’t an option—it’s a life skill,” she says. “Everyone should be able to swim, save themselves or help someone else who’s struggling.”

Caldwell “fell into” her current job about 10 years ago, soon after she enrolled herself and two of her children in swimming classes at Gabel.

“It’s not something I ever thought I’d be doing. I was a stay-at-home mom looking for a flexible job and it turned out to be swimming lessons and lifeguarding,” she says. “The best part is working with WMU’s student instructors and lifeguards. I’m very proud and pleased to see the maturity of our instructors and watch them grow, but when they leave, you miss them so much.”

Caldwell, who previously worked in the banking industry for a decade, lives in Kalamazoo with her husband, a WMU alumnus. They have one grown son and two others ages 13 and 15. Caldwell is a professional yoga teacher, exercises daily, and enjoys cooking, gardening and other hands-on creative activities.

Provost

Earlier, Greene was at Oklahoma State University, where he was head of the School of Industrial Engineering and Management and later associate dean for research. In addition, he was a faculty member at Virginia Tech from 1980 to 1991.

His background includes extensive consulting work in private industry, for such diverse clients as Brunswick Corp., Ingersoll Rand, Union Carbide, Federal Mogul and IBM.

Greene is a senior member and fellow of the Institute of Industrial Engineers and served as national president of that organization in 1997-98.

In addition, he is a senior member of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers and a member of the honor societies Phi Kappa Phi, Tau Beta Pi, Alpha Pi Mu and Sigma Xi. He also has served as an onsite evaluator for ABET—the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology Inc.

Green has made technical presentations in eight other nations and is the author or co-author of more than 50 articles and book chapters. He is an expert in the areas of scheduling, operations management, leadership and change management. He has managed more than $10 million in research funding and has served as advisor to 30 master’s-level students and nine doctoral students.

Broncos stampede Michigan Capitol

Arts students, demonstrations of Bronco Biodiesel and other environmental initiatives, and blood pressure and hypertension screening along with interactive analysis of posture and shoe-wear.

WMU is the first university to have a front-lawn capitol presence for such a broad spectrum of programs and groups, including those from its main Kalamazoo campus and its eight branch campuses across the state.

The purpose of the event was to engage legislators and policymakers and demonstrate the importance of WMU and the contributions the University makes in providing an educated workforce and advancing the state’s economic development.

First lady Linda Dunn, left center photo, joined the hundreds of proud faculty, staff, students and others who made the most of the WMU Day activities. (Photos by Mike Lanka)