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For and about WMU faculty and staff

Search is Dunn—WMU selects eighth president

John M. Dunn has been named WMU’s eighth president and will take office July 1. Dunn, interim chancellor of Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, was selected by unanimous vote of the WMU Board of Trustees at the board’s April 27 meeting. His appointment fulfills a nationwide search that began last fall and involved many key University constituencies and the public. Dunn will replace Diether H. Haenicke, WMU president emeritus, who has served as interim president since August.

“Dr. Dunn is the right choice at the right time to lead Western Michigan University,” said Dan Pero, chair of the WMU Board of Trustees. “He is energetic and experienced. He has earned a reputation as a consensus builder, and he is committed to making the student experience at WMU the best in Michigan and the country.”

Dunn, who was named Southern Illinois’ interim chancellor in November 2006, had previously served as provost and vice chancellor there since 2002. He says his interest in the WMU position was piqued by the similarities between WMU and SIU, a research university with more than 21,000 students, an extensive portfolio of grants and contracts, a number of major research centers, and a historical background as a state teachers college.

“I am particularly impressed with WMU’s continuing commitment to quality in its undergraduate and graduate programs. From my years at research universities, I know that the benefit of educating students in a research environment adds immeasurably to their university experience,” Dunn said. “During the interview process, I was struck by the sentiments shared with me by those who participated—faculty, staff and students. Their presence, questions and obvious pride in WMU helped me know that this was a place where I would be welcomed and respected.”

A famous artist and alumna who became WMU’s most generous benefactor has had a University unit named after her.

The WMU School of Art is now named the Gwen Frostic School of Art. The WMU Board of Trustees approved the naming at its meeting on April 27.

Frostic was a celebrated Michigan artist, whose lifelong love affair with her alma mater culminated in her bequest of a gift of $13 million to WMU, the largest single gift in the school’s history.

One of WMU’s most accomplished alumnaei, she died on April 25, 2001, the day before her 95th birthday. Widely known since the 1950s for her block print art, Frostic lived in Benzonia, Mich., where she operated Presscraft Papers’ Gwen Frostic Prints of Michigan. Her donation of much of her gift to foster artistic pursuits, including the English Department’s Gwen Frostic Reading Series, School of Art facilities and student scholarships in art and creative writing. Funds also go to business scholarships and three Gwen Frostic Medallion Scholarships, which are awarded to incoming freshman and each valued at $40,000 over four years.

Vast majority of WMU graduates remain in Michigan

WMU graduates have staying power.

“In addition to persevering and earning their degrees, the vast majority of our students remain in Michigan after graduation,” says Lynn Kelly-Albertson, executive director of Career and Student Employment Services.

“We graduated 2,900 students April 28. If past history repeats itself, more than 2,300 of them will remain in Michigan after graduation,” says Lynn Kelly-Albertson, executive director of Career and Student Employment Services.

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The prestigious annual award is reserved for the most outstanding 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. The 2006-07 candidates are:

• Fall semiannual awardees—Deanna Bowling, Dining Services; Beth DenHartigh, Disabled Student Resources and Services; Kristin Knech, College of Fine Arts; Linda Lumley, Student Health Center; William Merrow, Millinon Institute for Science Education; Susan Owe, Lee Honors College; Denise Richards, Public Relations; Wendy Schutz, Logistical Services; Margaret Coughlin, College of Health and Human Services; and Debra Stojanoff, Millinon Institute for Science Education.

• Spring semiannual awardees—Rebecca Beech, English; Luann Bigelow, accountancy; Frances Buell, physical plant—landscape services; Laura Ciccantell, Academic Support Services; Margaret Coughlin, economics; Annie Dobbs, chemistry; and Bethlynn Sanders, English.

The “final four” will be announced in June. The selection committee will review any new information submitted for the 17 candidates, as well as their previously submitted semiannual nomination materials. Those wishing to provide additional supporting information may do so through May 31. Details are available online at www.wmich.edu/makeadifference.

Tennis coach true champion

Frederick MacDonald, social work, will be teaching and conducting workshops this summer at the University of Applied Sciences in Coburg, Germany. He has been a guest professor there since 2000, focusing on family systems theory, family therapy, practice evaluation and social welfare.

MacDonald has been instrumental in developing the Alice Salomon School of Social Work in Berlin as well as the master’s program in clinical social work at Coburg. A WMU faculty member since 1986, his interests include team-building, interpersonal practice, rural health and Native American issues. MacDonald is the managing editor of the Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare.
Obituaries

Carrie Ann (Jordan) Hensley, who for more than 17 years worked for University Libraries, died April 5. She was 58.

Hensley began working as a temporary employee for University Libraries in September 1989. She assumed her full-time staff appointment as supervisor of circulation and reserves in January 1991, soon becoming coordinator of access services in June of that year and continuing in that position until her death.

The Chicago native completed her GED education while working at WMU. She was an adjunct professor at Bowling Green State University for five years and lectured as well as taught classes for students and teachers throughout northwest Ohio.

Shefer came to WMU in 1974 and was appointed chairperson of what was then the Department of Educational Leadership in 1979. She retired from WMU in 1986 to care for her mother and other elderly relatives. While in retirement, she was an adjunct professor at Bowling Green State University for five years and lectured as well as taught classes for students and teachers throughout northwest Ohio.

A celebration of her life will be held May 12 at her family’s farm near Woodville, Ohio. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Northwest Ohio or Otterbein Portage Retirement Community.

FROM THE HEART—WMU has sent a book of condolences with some 700 entries to the Virginia Tech campus community. Quickly mobilizing in support of its sister institution, the signed pages were organized and bound by University Libraries; Cynthia L. DeRyke, College of Libraries; Barbaj A. Peacock, psychology; and Bonnie L. Sleeman, information technology.

A. Wicklund, Miller Auditorium.

Current job opportunities at WMU are announced every Monday on the human resources Web site www.wmich.edu/hr/jobs.htm and the Applicant Information Service phone line at 387-3669. Applications are accepted for posted jobs only and must be submitted by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included on each posting.

Two campuswide events slated

• The fourth Poker Walk is set for 11:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Tuesday, May 22. Registration information is available at www.ssrc.wmich.edu. Visit www.ssrc.wmich.edu for more information.

• Evie Askem, campus planning, will be at the Student Recreation Center for a campus planning meeting.

The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service during April.

30 Years—Judith A. Garrison, University Libraries.
25 Years—Judith A. Camaan, University Libraries; Cynthia L. DeRyke, College of Education; Linda K. Judy, Medieval Institute; and Gayle S. McMillon, Lee Honors College.
20 Years—Christina Bradshaw, Center for Disability Services; Dale S. Jansen, information technology; Ronald A. Joyner, physical plant-maintenance services; Barbara J. Peacock, psychology; and Bonnie L. Sleeman, information technology.
15 Years—Khanh Hoang, Archives and Regional History Collections; Thomas A. Mills, Center for Disability Services; and Kathleen M. Schottler, human resources.
10 Years—Miranda Howard, University Libraries, and Timothy W. Strunk, student affairs central administration.

Five Years—Carney M. Hanson, Student Financial Aid and Scholarships; Amy June-Bolt Mack, United Clinics; Debra M. Robinson, Student Financial Aid and Scholarships; Marsha Kay Schieber, Office of the Vice President for Research; and Faith A. Wicklund, Miller Auditorium.

The signed pages were made available in the Bernhard Center between April 17 and 20. Pages for the book were made available in the Bernhard Center between April 17 and 19. WMU students, faculty, staff and alumni, as well as area residents, were invited to express condolences for the tragic loss of life and suffering stemming from the April 16 shootings on the Virginia school's campus.

The signed pages were organized and bound into a book by Sue Green, Bernhard Center.

(Photography by Cheryl P. Roland)

Bonnie L. Sleeman, information technology; Ronald A. Joyner, physical plant-maintenance services; Barbara J. Peacock, psychology; and Bonnie L. Sleeman, information technology.

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On Campus with Sharon Wagner

Sharon Wagner may be 61, but you would think she grew up using computers and speaking HTML as a second language.

Wagner became excited about computer technology in the early 1980s—and has never looked back. Now, as the webmaster for the Registrar’s Office, she’s in the forefront of WMU’s effort to redesign and standardize its Web presence.

“History is good, but the future is so much more exciting,” Wagner says. “I’m not the kind of person who lives in the past or isn’t adaptable.”

She showed that spirit in 1980 as a divorcee with six kids. Wagner had passed through Kalamazoo once and liked the town, so she packed up the family and came to WMU to finish a bachelor’s degree in social work.

Wagner was a student worker in the Evaluation Center and a grant hire there after graduating. She moved to the Office of the Dean in the College of Education when the grant ran out, then in 1997 jumped at the chance to vie for the webmaster post in the Registrar’s Office. Here, she honed her computer skills as well as demonstrated a willingness to understand the student information system and an eagerness to keep learning.

Most of Wagner’s time is spent maintaining the office’s Web site, particularly time-sensitive information related to registration, financial aid, course scheduling and bill payment. She also helps out during commencements, posts dean’s lists and other news, and works on the occasional print publication.

“We try to make things easier and more convenient for students, and they seem to like the fact they can take care of business at two in the morning,” says Wagner, who like many of the young adults she serves is looking forward to an increasingly paperless world. “I love my work environment. Everybody knows what they’re doing, we have a great manager and we truly care about one another. This office is very cohesive, and we get along like a well-tuned orchestra.”

Wagner and her husband Mike live on two acres in Martin, which is midway between both of their jobs. She enjoys visiting with her family, gardening, commuting with nature, and spending time with their three dogs and four cats.

Search is Dunn _______________ continued from page 1

Dunn’s five-year agreement calls for an annual salary of $345,000 and a deferred compensation plan equal to $50,000 annually. He and his wife, Linda, are the parents of three adult children who live around the nation.

In an April 30 statement to the University community as president-elect, Dunn praised Haenicke for his excellent leadership of the University during its administrative transition and said he looks forward to future interactions and counsel with Haenicke.

“Our past weekend, Linda and I began the process of getting to know you and learning about this wonderful University community,” the statement also said. “We were touched and delighted by the welcome so many of you expressed, and we are anxious to move here and begin our work with you as partners helping to move this great University forward.”

Visit www.wmich.edu/news for complete stories about Dunn and the presidential search process as well as the full text of Dunn’s statement to the WMU community.

WMU graduates remain in Michigan _______________ continued from page 1

planning to continue their educations said they would do so at Michigan schools.

“The percentage of respondents who reported finding work in Michigan in 2005-06 was 80 percent or higher for most of our academic colleges,” Kelly-Allerton says.

At 92 percent, arts and sciences graduates reported the highest rate of in-state employment. They were followed by graduates in education at 85 percent, business at 83 percent, health and human services at 81 percent, and fine arts at 77 percent.

Engineering alumni were in high demand at home and across the country. Even so, Kelly-Allerton points out, 63 percent of WMU-educated engineers reported accepting jobs in Michigan. As was expected, Kelly-Allerton says, students from the University’s College of Aviation primarily found jobs out of state.

“Many good employment opportunities remain in Michigan, and our students are not only seeking them, they’re getting hired,” says Interim President Diether H. Haenicke.

“We turn out talented, hard-working professionals who have long been known for being able to hit the ground running.”

Haenicke notes that many of the University’s undergraduate programs require or recommend an internship or co-op experience as part of their degrees.

“Our students have numerous opportunities to gain practical experience, and our campus culture promotes the skills, values and work ethic employers are looking for,” he adds. “This allows our students to be immediately productive and begin making their mark on the state’s economy.”

WMU launches ‘mini GI Bill’

U.S. military veterans leaving active duty will get a financial break to enroll in college, thanks to a WMU tuition assistance program that will support new or returning students who are veterans.

The Returning Veterans Tuition Assistance Program initiated by WMU trustees helps veterans from across the country by allowing them to enroll and begin college course work while they wait for their Veterans Administration benefits to begin. After an initial semester of tuition assistance, enrollees will pay in-state tuition rates.

Mark Delorey, financial aid and scholarships, says recently discharged students often are ready to begin their studies but can’t cover both tuition and living expenses because their VA benefits haven’t begun or haven’t been in place long enough.

“This creates a cash flow problem, and they have difficulties paying their first-semester bill,” Delorey says. “That’s a significant burden on returning veterans and one that is just not necessary.”

Spring luncheon reservations due

Reservations are due tomorrow for the Spring Awards Luncheon for professional support and administrative professional staff. The event is set for 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday, May 18, in the Bernhard Center’s North Ballroom. Interim President Diether H. Haenicke will be the featured guest. Details and a reservation form are available online at www.wmich.edu/psso.

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