Week to honor part-time instructors

WMU will hold its first Part-Time Instructors Appreciation Week Feb. 23-27, kicking the week’s activities off with a luncheon to honor part-time faculty members who are past winners of the WMU Teaching Excellence Award.

The week will include a variety of activities, such as a daylong hospitality suite at the Bernhard Center for those being honored and a day focused on the impact of part-time instructors. Events will conclude with a Friday, Feb. 27, recognition event. Watch for details on WMU News and WMU Today.

Research office survey ends Feb. 14

The Office of the Vice President for Research is seeking input from faculty and staff regarding discovery activities, climate and research support at WMU.

If you received an email invitation to participate in a discovery survey but have not yet responded, log on to http://hanoverresearch.DiscoveryActivitiesSurvey.gizmo.com. The survey, which closes Saturday, Feb. 14, should take about 15 to 20 minutes to complete.

Kalamazoo Marathon seeking help

Volunteers will meet by the Bronco statue in front of the Student Recreation Center. The first runners arrive on campus around 8 a.m. and will be done by 9:30 a.m. Volunteers will receive a WMU T-shirt and will be joined by Buster Bronco and the Cheer and Dance Teams.

Runners from across the country participate in the marathon, which is a great opportunity to show off the spirit and excitement of WMU. If interested, contact Donna Marks at donna.marks@wmich.edu or (269) 387-2072 by March 23.

Diversity talk focuses on inclusiveness

During an on-campus event Thursday, Feb. 19, the campus community can learn about one of the fastest growing religions in the world from people who practice it.

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“Islam 101: Creating An Inclusive Campus Environment” is the topic of a speech from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the Tempe Building’s Multicultural Center.

Participants will discuss the positive and negative experiences of Muslims on campus and in the community. There will be live skits on how to navigate cultural differences and an opportunity for audience participation in interactive diversity training.

For more information, contact Parnell Fleming at parnell.l.fleming@wmich.edu or (269) 387-6324.

Supply chain program ranked second in nation

The celebrated integrated supply management program has been named second in the nation for its emphasis on teaching technology, software and quantitative tools in an undergraduate program by Software Advice, a company that serves as a resource for software buyers.

The company, which does detailed research on thousands of software applications as well as system analysis, conducted a study of supply chain programs.

The goal of the study was to help students gain insight into the curricula of what are commonly regarded as the top U.S. programs.

The unique, integrated nature of WMU’s supply chain program contributed to its topping the list, common in second only to Pennsylvania State University and placing ahead of Michigan State University, the University of Tennessee and Arizona State University.

“The Western Michigan University’s integrated supply management program is truly special,” says Forrest Burnouf, research associate with Software Advice. “It ranked highly on our list due to the emphasis the program places on teaching software and technology in the

Alumni Center on track; many chances to donate

Renovation of East Hall to create the WMU Alumni Center is nearing the halfway point, according to a recent report by the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs.

The office says the project was 42 percent complete as of Jan. 27, with some areas of the building beginning to look finished, and on schedule for a special grand opening/celebration during the 2015 homecoming weekend.

That and other news, including details about ongoing as well as newly completed renovations, are being presented in Proctor Hill Postings, a biweekly update on happenings at the Alumni Center.

The website is keeping members of the University community informed about the center’s progress, from items being salvaged and sustainability efforts to the building’s new spaces and features. The site may be accessed by visiting MyWMU.com/AlumniCenter.

It also presents information about how

Donor’s final gift to WMU establishes a fine arts professorship

After decades of joyfully supporting the fine arts and WMU students, the late Martha “Marti” Hearron of Kalamazoo made one final major gift to be revealed only after her death.

Hearron, a renowned biostatistician for the Upjohn Co., died Nov. 29. Her estate included a $2 million gift to WMU that will establish the Arthur E. and Martha S. Hearron College of Fine Arts Distinguished Professorship. It also will provide funding for some of her favorite arts programs as well as endow a new Medallion Scholarship for students in the fine arts.

The gift, and the fact that the endowed professorship is the first in College of Fine Arts history, were announced Feb. 5 by Dean Daniel Guyette.

“In typical Marti fashion, she required that this gift remain undisclosed and anonymous until after she was gone,” Guyette said. “But rest assured, we made sure she knew how much we loved and appreciated her generosity, sense of humor and wonderful spirit.”

For years, Hearron and her late husband Arthur were devoted supporters of the fine arts at WMU, attending at many events as possible and establishing several scholarship funds to enable the fine arts education of dozens of students who became known as “Hearron kids.” Including the newly announced gift, their donations over time exceeded $3 million.

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Talk to focus on female journalists in women's lib era

An internationally recognized expert in the communication field will visit WMU to talk about newspaperwomen in the era of women's liberation.

Katherine Miller, from Arizona State University, will speak from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18, in 1920 Sangren Hall. Her free presentation is open to the public and part of the WMU Visiting Scholars and Artists Program.

Miller's research stands at the crossroads of organizational communication, health communication and family communication, and her past research has investigated the processes of stress and support, compassion- ate communication and caregiving.

She is working on a book that examines women, work and family during the 1960s and 1970s by considering the work of her mother and other women journalists and columnists during that era. Her most recent published book, “War Makes Men of Boys: A Soldier's World War II,” draws on letters written by her father during World War II.

Retirement reception

George Kohnman, information technology, will be honored for his more than 46 years of service to the University during a retirement reception from 3 to 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20, in 2202 Kohrman Hall.

Jobs

Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources website at wmich.edu/hr/jobs. Please note that applications must be submitted online by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included with each posting.
Hearit named interim dean of arts, sciences college

Veteran academic administrator Keith M. Hearit has been named interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, effective immediately.

The appointment of Hearit, who has served as an associate dean of the college since July 1, was announced Feb. 3 by Timothy J. Greene, provost and vice president for academic affairs. Hearit will temporarily succeed Alexander Eneydi, whose contract expires in June and who has been assigned alternative responsibilities until his return to the faculty.

In an email message to the faculty and staff of the college, Greene praised Hearit's "extensive leadership experience" and thanked the new interim dean for agreeing to serve while a national search is conducted to identify a new arts and sciences dean. Greene also outlined the basic process that will be used for the search.

A faculty member in the School of Communication since 1996, Hearit has served in a number of administrative roles at the University, including a three-year stint as associate dean and then dean of the Lee Honors College. He also spent five years serving WMU as vice provost for enrollment management.

Mardi Gras is theme of Children's Place fun night

Children's Place Learning Center families and the WMU community are invited to Family Fun Night at the center from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 17.

The theme is Mardi Gras, and the event will feature crafts, games and food. It will be a great opportunity to get to know families, learn about the new preschool and pre-kindergarten program curricula, extended hours, and back-up care.

Children's Place, located in the middle of WMU's campus, is a child care option for children of University students, faculty and staff as well as the Kalamazoo community.

It is an NAETC-accredited center that partners with the WMU College of Education and Human Development to provide a high-quality educational experience. Operating hours are 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for University holidays, a recess period in December and two staff training days.

In addition to child care for children aged 15 months through 9 years of age, a preschool and pre-kindergarten program are offered as well as the Campus Kids Summer Program. Campus Kids is a fun and educational way for school-age children to spend the summer. Weekly, themed sessions feature field trips, special guests and activities. A child can be signed up for one week or the whole summer.

For details about Children's Place, including rates, visit wmich.edu/childcare or call (269) 387-2277.

WMU earns seventh consecutive Tree campus USA designation

University officials were notified earlier this month that WMU has earned its seventh consecutive Tree Campus USA designation.

Tree Campus USA is a national Arbor Day Foundation program launched in 2008 and sponsored in partnership with Toyota. It promotes student involvement as well as helps colleges and universities establish and sustain healthy community forests.

Service

The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 35, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service during February.

35 Years—Daniel D. Miller, maintenance services.

25 Years—Sheila Bain, University Librarians; Rebecca S. Cook, maintenance services; and Malcolm R. Malott, Human Resources.

20 Years—Kathy Dziepak, Center For Disability Services; Stephanie Jones, Registrar’s Office; and Susan A. Standish, sociology.

15 Years—Carrick D. Craig, legal affairs; Beverly J. Edwards-Thompson, building custodial and support services; Charles Heyting, information technology; Kristin E. Krez, student affairs; David H. Schrader, College of Aviation; and Contrina D. Thomas, building custodial and support services.

10 Years—Mark Delorey, student financial aid and scholarships; and Michael J. Walenga, transportation services.

Five Years—Joyce A. Dekau, Other Life-Long Learning Institute; Jeanette Marie Evans, building custodial and support services; Rhianna L. Hamilton, building custodial and support services; Kathy Purnell, vice president for research’s office; and Jeffrey L. Slocum, construction.

Funds available to hire interns

For the fourth consecutive year, small businesses in West Michigan can apply for funding to help them hire WMU student interns in the science, technology, engineering and math—STEM—disciplines.

“The Small Company Internship Award Program provides matching funds to help businesses with 500 or fewer employees hire WMU students to work on STEM or STEM-related projects that are both beneficial to the company and academically relevant to students,” says Lisa Garcia, director of the University’s Business Connection.

“The funds are provided through the Michigan Corporate Relations Network, a statewide network designed to connect industry to critical University talent in ways that will help the Michigan economy grow and prosper. Applications for this summer are due Monday, March 2.”

WMU has $35,000 to disperse, enough to support about 12 to 14 internships. To apply for funding, download the 2015 application at wmich.edu/businessconnection/hire.

For more information, contact Garcia at lisa.garcia@wmich.edu or (269) 387-6054.

Technology symposium to focus on ‘Teaching in the Cloud’

Faculty and staff are invited to ‘Teaching in the Cloud,” the second annual Teaching with Technology Symposium set for Wednesday, Feb. 25, in the Fetzer Center.

Registration starts at 12:30 p.m. and will be followed by a keynote talk at 1 p.m. Breakout sessions highlighting how cloud computing is being used for teaching will take place from 2 to 4 p.m.

This year’s keynote speaker is Julia Vander Molen, assistant professor of allied health sciences at Grand Valley State University. Vander Molen, who is well known for her work using technology solutions to increase engagement in her courses, will speak on “Collaborating, Learning and Engaging in the Cloud.”

The breakout sessions are Create ePortfolios Using Evernote, Easy to Use Cloud-based Program, Visual Feedback using Coach’s Eye, Google Apps for Education, Using the Back Channel for Student Engagement, and Preview of Reef, the iClicker Web-based Classroom Response System.

The symposium sponsors are Extended University Programs and the offices of Faculty Development and Information Technology. Advance registration at wmich.edu/facultydevelopment is requested.
Noted economist to talk on banking, Great Recession

A fellow from the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C., will discuss “Central Banking in the Great Recession” when he visits campus this month as part of the 2014-15 Werner Sichel Lecture Series.

Donald Kohn, a senior fellow at Brookings, will present the free, public talk at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18, in 2029 Brown Hall. This year’s Sichel Series carries the theme “Lessons from the Great Recession” and features leading economists from across the country.

Supply chain program

Kohn is a 40-year veteran of the Federal Reserve System who researches issues of monetary policy, financial regulation and macroeconomics. He served on the Federal Reserve’s Board of Governors from 2002 to 2010, the last four years as vice chairman, and testified before several congressional committees during the recent economic crisis. Kohn has been appointed by the government of the United Kingdom to serve on the Financial Policy Committee at the Bank of England, is a member of an advisory committee at the International Monetary Fund’s Monetary and Capital Markets Department, and is on a number of advisory committees to U.S. government agencies, including the FDIC, Congressional Budget Office and Office of Financial Research.

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Alumni Center on track

WMU alumni, showcase for the University’s history and family.” The center will serve as a home for all WMU alumni, showcase for the University’s history, starting point for visitors, and community gathering space, among other uses.

Donor’s final gift to WMU establishes professorship

The new professorship will allow the college to designate exceptional faculty members or appoint visiting professors who have made significant contributions to their disciplines. The designations will come with supplemental funding to support research and creative initiatives.

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On Campus with Jim Middleton

Jim Middleton has been director of the Sindecuse Health Center Pharmacy for two years, but he’s already known for more than his professional expertise. The bow-tie-wearing Middleton is gaining fans for his exuberant personality, quirky humor, compassion and—gasp—willingness to answer questions about medical issues.

“The Sindecuse pharmacy isn’t like a big-box store; we don’t just give out prescriptions. We’re WMU’s drug information source, and we’re here every weekday to answer your questions,” he says, adding that he loves the people who patronize the pharmacy. “They’re eager to learn, and they politely laugh at my jokes. I can actually sit down and have a five- to 10-minute conversation about their meds. It gives you a rewarding sense of accomplishment at the end of the day.”

Middleton, who was born and raised in Big Rapids and graduated from Ferris State University’s pharmacy program, oversees the pharmacy and its dozen pharmacists, technicians and student employees who fill about 2,000 prescriptions each week for students, employees and retirees. He’s also been a longtime adjunct instructor at Kellogg Community College and Kalamazoo Valley Community College and now teaches a class at WMU.

Prior to coming to the University in 2012, he worked for nearly 12 years as a pharmacy consultant, pharmacy- and animation-related teacher, dispenser of holistic and herbal patient care and producer of animated, historical and educational films. In fact, “Uncle Stan,” as he’s called on his The Animating Apothecary website, has been indulging a passion for animation that he’s had since age 14.

He’s done stop motion, cel animation, 3-D animation and more. His creative work includes some unusual personal triumphs. They include a parody of an FSU pharmacy school recruitment video that “played for a whole summer before it was banned” and two years with a Chicago TV show titled “Jim Shorts Cavalcade of Sports For You” that was canceled and nominated for an Emmy in the same week. More traditional highs include the film “Alpaha,” which went around the globe with the International Nuclear Awareness Festival in the mid-80’s and a short film that opened for the band Limp Bizkit in 2000.

Middleton lives in Battle Creek with his wife and has three stepsons. He collects stamps and has an audio library of about 3,500 old music recordings, most of which are in the public domain and on wax cylinders and 78 RPM records. Visit animatingapothecary.com and the jimmiddleton YouTube channel to learn more about Middleton and his animation.

ANIMATED ABOUT HEALTH AND ART

(Photos by Jeanne Baron)