Board of Trustees meeting slated

The next meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees will be held Wednesday, June 3. Starting times and information about the agenda will be released shortly before the meeting. Most board meetings are held on campus at the Bernhard Center.

Free employee photo session set

Faculty and staff members are encouraged to have their official University photos taken between 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Thursday, June 4, in Walwood Hall's Heiting Emeriti Lounge. Employees may have electronic copies for personal use at no charge. Contact Sue Beougher at sue.beougher@wmich.edu or (269) 387-8402 to confirm your session or receive your photo.

New library search tool announced

A new library search tool is available at wmich.edu/library. The new system will replace the previous Books+, PowerSearch and Classic Catalog search tools, and will take the place of the previous Journals button on the Library homepage. Direct questions to the Ask-a-Librarian service at http://wmich.libanswers.com or to the University Libraries Reference Desk at (269) 387-5178.

Jazz students roll a ‘lucky seven’

WMU’s jazz students came up big in DownBeat’s 38th annual Student Music Awards, rolling a seven and tying for second in the world. The strong finish puts WMU in second place with the University of Music and the Performing Arts in Graz, Austria, a highly regarded program in its own right.

The only program to win more awards was the University of Miami, with 18. Rounding out the top five were the University of North Texas with six awards, California State University, with four, and Indiana, Eastman School of Music and Texas with six awards. The University of Miami, with 18, is a highly regarded program in its own right.

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WMU has won six awards in the competition in each of the previous three years. WMU’s strong showing in the contest over the past several years places the University squarely among the top five award-winning programs in the world. Results of DownBeat’s 38th annual Student Music Awards are presented in the magazine’s June issue.

Sales program nationally recognized

The University’s sales and business marketing program has again been identified by the Sales Education Foundation as a top sales program among universities. This is the ninth year in a row that the program has been recognized by the foundation for preparing students for careers in professional settings and helping elevate the sales profession.

With 280 students and more than 1,500 alumni, the WMIU program is one of the largest in the nation, and more than 90 percent of its graduates find full-time careers in their field within six months of graduation.

Among the most recent companies to open an office in the BTR Park is FAiST Light Metals, a global firm headquartered in Italy and the first company to use the park to establish a North American presence. FAiST Light Metals opened its sales and engineering office for North America in the Weidener Hall Building May 1. The company specializes in high-quality aluminum die casting, precision machining, and surface plating of components and assemblies for the telecom, automotive, electronics and industrial markets.

Company officials have been preparing for the launch of the new location with a hiring initiative to identify both new engineering staff and WMU interns to work for the firm.

The 1,000 square feet of space FAiST is leasing in the Weidener Hall Building comes with an option on additional space for the company to fill as it grows. Miller says the leased space is big enough that has opened up in an existing facility.

“All of the space for building is committed.”

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Summer events mark WMU’s return to Fort St. Joe site

WMU archaeologists returned in May to Niles to continue excavation of the Fort St. Joseph archaeological site, and with the local community’s help, to launch a new monthlong archeology lecture series.

“The Seekers of Shelter from the Storm: Architecture in Archaeological Perspective” is the focus of four free public lectures that will offer the views of top scholars in a series of Wednesday evening presentations at the Niles District Library, 620 East Main St. in Niles.

All four Wednesday lecture begins at 7 p.m. The presentation dates, speakers and topics are:
• June 3, Ian Kuijt, Department of Anthropology, University of Notre Dame, “Hearing Voices, Finding Houses: The Archaeology of 18th-20th Century Irish Architecture;”
• June 10, Jan Braslher, Department of Anthropology, Grand Valley State University, “Structures for the Living and the Dead: The Archaeology of Pre-Columbian Architecture in Michigan;”
• June 17, Kevin Finney, executive director of the Jijak Foundation, Gun Lake Band of Potawatomi, “Neshnabe Architecture;” and
• June 24, Michael S. Nassaney, Department of Anthropology, WMU, “French Colonial Architecture.”

The series is sponsored by the city of Niles, the Niles District Library, the Joseph L. Peyser Endowment for the Study of New France, the Conference on Michigan Archaeology and WMU’s 2015 Archaeological Field School and Cultural Events Committee.

The Fort St. Joseph mission, garrison and trading post complex was occupied from...
Doctors Without Borders official to present talk

A board member of Doctors Without Borders will present the next talk in the Mercantile Bank of Michigan Breakfast Speaker Series. Martha Huckabee, vice president of the organization’s board, will discuss “From Average to Extraordinary” at 7:30 a.m. on Friday, May 29, in 2150 Schneider Hall.

The event is free and open to the public and begins with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Reservations are required and can be made at wmich.edu/business/mercantile-rsvp or by calling (269) 387-6529.

Doctors Without Borders began in early 1971 with 300 volunteers. Today, it has 6,000 employees in 70 countries and is working in 17 countries to help 15 million people a year.

A chief aim of O’Rourke’s research is to find ways to alleviate and delay brain injury symptoms. Her research will include a randomized, controlled study evaluating two neuro-feedback treatment protocols.

Hadley is a certified brain injury specialist and a social worker and educator. She has a personal experience with neurologic disabilities and is experienced in the brain injury and rehabilitation field.

Barbara Barton, social work, has received the 2015 Education/Public Awareness Award for $20,000 from the Michigan Parkinson’s Foundation. It supports research and fosters the brain injury awareness to the general public with her unique perspective, said association President Michael Dabb of presenting the award. “She is valued as a speaker and educator because of her personal experience with neurologic disease, her presentation expertise and her academic leadership.”

Raymond Buer, Research Award for $20,000 from the Michigan Parkinson’s Foundation. It supports research and fosters the study of Parkinson’s disease among individuals with career interests in neurological disorders.

A chief aim of O’Rourke’s research is to delineate treatment methods that address comorbid conditions that accompany Parkinson’s disease. The progressive nature of Parkinson’s disease makes early diagnosis and treatment important and creates a need to find ways to alleviate and delay symptoms. Her research will include a randomized, controlled study evaluating two neuro-feedback treatment protocols.
Utilities work associated with construction of the new Valley Dining Hall will result in closure of a key portion of the Ring Road for five to six weeks this summer. Full details about the closure were not available by Western News press time. But they were expected to be announced soon after a scheduled meeting May 27, between Facilities Management officials and representatives of campus units most affected by the closure.

Discussions to date have centered on closing all of the Goldsworth Drive portion of the Ring Road from Monday, June 1, to Tuesday, July 7. Fencing already is up around the main construction area, which consists of the parking lots in front of the Valley halls overlooking the Goldsworth Valley Pond.

A groundbreaking ceremony for the new dining hall is set for 1:30 p.m. Friday, June 12, at the construction site in the parking lot off of Rankin Avenue north of the pond. During the closure period, the Valley II and III halls will be affected only for short periods—one to two days. The Valley Hall, the location for orientation, as well as the intramural field and its adjacent parking lot, will be accessible throughout.

Traffic is expected to be allowed to enter campus from Howard Street at Valley Drive, but it would only be allowed to move south—counter clockwise—on Rankin. Travel to the Sindicus Health Center and Goldworth Valley Apartments would not be affected.

Conn Macomber, construction, says the closure is needed so crews can relocate all utilities for the Valley residence halls.

Grant endowed in library honor of Jeanne Baron

In honor of Jeanne Baron’s 50 years of service as a librarian, the Western Michigan University Library recently announced plans to create a separate library honor for her. Baron was named the 2015-16 University Common Read winner. She was one of two nominees for the award.

Baron is a member of the University Library staff and resides in Kalamazoo. She was a key figure in the establishment of the WMU Library. Baron’s contributions to the library include the development of the library’s online catalog, the establishment of the Special Collections, and the creation of the Library’s website.

Baron’s nomination was made by the WMU Library staff and approved by the University Library Council. The winner will be announced at a ceremony to be held in the spring of 2016.

Baron’s nomination was selected from a list of 15 nominees submitted by the Western Michigan University Library.”

Western News

WMU inventors win Lemelson-MIT ‘Cure it!’ prize

A WMU senior and a May graduate are the winners of a prestigious national prize for inventing NeoVent, a life-saving, low-cost respiratory support device designed to treat critically ill infants in developing nations.

A WMU senior and a May graduate are the winners of the Lemelson-MIT National Collegiate Student Prize Competition, a nationwide search for the most inventive team of undergraduate and individual graduate students. The two, who are both from Ann Arbor, won $10,000 in the “Cure it!” category for students with inventions that can improve health care.

The inventive duo and their life-saving device, which was refined in a campus lab and aided in development by several individuals in the Kalamazoo community, are featured in the Spring 2015 WMU Magazine posted at wmich.edu/magazine.

Western News

Dining hall project to close part of Ring Road; groundbreaking set

Workers are breaking up ground to make way for construction of the Valley Dining Hall. But the official groundbreaking has been slated for Friday, June 12. (Photo by Jeanne Baron)

“We’ve explored alternative methods of excavation and we’re utilizing the best techniques available to accomplish this task in the minimum required time,” Macomber says. “We recognize that this is a major disruption to the University. We’ve delayed this closure to the extent possible and still be able to build our new $30 million dining facility in 13 months—a challenge even in the best of conditions.”

Signage along the ring road will address visitor needs, directing them to travel counterclockwise. Maps have been developed and will be posted at wmich.edu/visit.

For more closure details, contact Macomber at conn.macomber@wmich.edu or (269) 387-8671. For information about the Valley Dining Hall, including a video showing renderings of what the facility’s exterior and interior will look like, visit wmich.edu/dining/locations/halls/valley.

Western News

Trustees act on personnel moves in March and April

The WMU Board of Trustees approved several retirements, resignations and other personnel moves during its March 25 and April 22 meetings.

March board meeting

The faculty members retiring, along with their names, positions, years of continuous service and effective dates of retirement are: Carol J. Crumbaugh, teaching, learning and educational studies, effective for spring 2015; and Alexander Enyedi, biological sciences, effective for fall 2015.

April board meeting

The faculty members retiring are: Frederick J. Dobney, history, 19 years, effective Dec. 31, 2019; Richard G. Long, blindness and low vision studies, 17 years, effective Aug. 16 (change in effective date only); and Michael S. Pritchard, philosophy, effective June 30, 2020.

The staff members retiring are: Dean K. Honsberger, university budgets, 45 years, effective May 31; Jan Pekanovic, chemical and paper engineering, 16 years, effective Jan. 6; and Donna St. John, admissions, 24 years, effective April 30.

The faculty members resigning are: Thomas W. Blackmon, Unified Clinics, effective May 2; Amy Rogers, nursing, effective May 5; Donald D. Straube, interdisciplinary health programs, effective March 11; Sherria D. Taylor, family and consumer sciences, effective Aug. 16; and Melissa Villarreal, interdisciplinary health programs, effective June 30.

University selects ‘Maus I’ for 2015-16 common read

The University is turning the spotlight on Art Spiegelman’s graphic novel “Maus I: A Survivor’s Tale,” which in 1992 became the first graphic novel to win a Pulitzer Prize.

WMU has selected the work, subtitled “My Father Bleeds History,” as the 2015-16 University Common Read. It is part one of the story of Vladek Spiegelman, a Polish Jew who survived Hitler’s Europe, and Art Spiegelman, Vladek’s cartoonist son and the novel’s author.

All first-year students are expected to read the book. Members of the Kalamazoo community as well as all WMU students and employees are encouraged to read it this summer and participate in public activities that are being planned for the fall.

Details about the book, reading kits and upcoming events will be posted at http://libguides.wmich.edu/wmucommonread2015-16 as they become available.

Questions about “Maus I” and sponsoring related events should be directed to Toni Woolfolk-Barnes at toni.woolfolk-barnes@wmich.edu or (269) 387-3203.
Growing up in a family of tennis players, Drew Martin picked up a racket at an early age and, predictably, became competitive with his three older brothers. His love of the game grew as he went to school and eventually played for Methodist University in North Carolina. Today, he’s director of junior tennis at WMU’s West Hills Athletic Club, instructing about 60 students of all levels from ages 4 to 18, as well as coaching four women’s adult teams. Martin was drawn to WMU and the Kalamazoo area because of the community’s tennis reputation, gained in part through the city’s summer hosting the U.S. Tennis Association’s boys national championship for the past 71 years.

“I really like the community and the people and, hopefully, I can shape my students’ perspective of the game,” he says. Martin credits his parents, who also played tennis, with signing him up for lessons at age 9 and his brothers with encouraging him to get better over the years. “If you can imagine, there was a lot of competition in our family,” he says, smiling. “They wouldn’t let me play against them until I got better, and that was my goal.”

For his students, though, he aims to not only help them improve, but also to help them enjoy the game and stay active. Martin came to West Hills in 2013 after teaching tennis in Virginia and Chicago following his graduation from Methodist University. He met his wife, Rachel, in Chicago; and the two live in Kalamazoo with their dog. They are new homeowners so, “There is always something to do with the house or a new project now,” he says. Martin also enjoys fishing, recently trying his hand at fly fishing, as well as playing sports and spending time with his family.

**Auditorium adds new shows**

Miller Auditorium has added three additional shows to its recently announced Lake Michigan Mailers Spotlight Series: The Piano Guys, Gold Company’s “Anything You Can Sing, We Can Swing Better!” and Daniel Tiger’s “Neighborhood Live!” Tickets are now available as part of season subscription packages from the Miller Auditorium Ticket Office at (269) 387-2300 and (800) 228-9858. Additional seasonal events will be announced as they are confirmed. To view Miller’s schedule of upcoming shows and keep up to date on additions, visit millerauditorium.com.

**Continued from page 1**

**Survey confirms BTR Park success**

Miller notes that FAiST is the type of firm the park was designed for—one that fits into the park’s profile and one that plans to be actively engaged with the University’s academic programs and students.

The other recent addition to the park is Applied IE, a three-year-old company founded and led by Eric M. Gatmaitan, who was once a WMU faculty member. The company has just moved into a suite in the Southwest Michigan Innovation Center, a business incubator for startups in the life sciences. Applied IE is a management and consulting firm focused on helping organizations use industrial engineering technology to optimize their operations. It has had clients ranging from Dell Computers and La-Z-Boy to Stryker and Pfizer, but Gatmaitan says about 60 percent of his company’s business is in the health care industry.