Gov. appoints two to Board of Trustees

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder has appointed Michelle Crumm of Ann Arbor and Ronald “Ron” Hall of Detroit to the WMU Board of Trustees.

The new trustees will serve eight-year terms that began in 2013, and each replaces a board member whose terms expired at the end of 2012.

Crumm, CEO and owner of Ann Arbor-based Present Value, replaces Larry Tolbert. Previously, she was a co-founder and chief business officer of Adaptive Materials Inc. Her background also includes positions at the Kellogg Co. and at Plante & Moran.

Hall was named one of 2007’s Most Influential Women by Crain’s Detroit Business and one of Entrepreneurs Women’s Women of the Year in 2008.

Hall, president and CEO of Bridgewater Interiors and chairman and CEO of New Center Stamping, is a 1965 WMU alumnus who replaces Dennis Archer. He also is president and CEO of Renaissance Capital Alliance and CEO of Destination Travel Management.

Is well known for turning the Michigan Minority Supplier Development Council into one of the premier minority business organizations in the country. In addition, he was assistant vice president of minority business development for New Detroit Inc., the nation’s first urban coalition.

East Hall to be renovated, converted to alumni center

With the proposed private development of historic East Campus at an official stand-still, WMU officials have decided to focus all preservation efforts on renovating the institution’s birthplace, East Hall, for use as an alumni event center.

East Hall

“More than a dozen years ago, we had all of our East Campus buildings assessed,” says WMU president John M. Dunn. “We were told then, we needed to save something, or lose it all.” We’ve decided we can wait no longer, and it is of paramount importance to our campus and community to save the core of East Hall.”

The decision means the three other early structures built nearby at the top of Prospect Hill—West Hall, North Hall, and the Speech and Hearing Center—will be permanently displayed nearby, and the entire area would be convenient for alumni tailgaters.

Numerous activities scheduled for annual MLK celebration

Activities for this year’s local Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration begin Thursday, Jan. 17, and continue throughout 2013 to honor the 50th anniversary of King’s visit to WMU in 1963. All activities are free and open to the public, with a jam-packed day scheduled for Monday, Jan. 21, the federal holiday commemorating King’s life.

The day will kick off with the City of Kalamazoo Communitywide Day of Service and feature a convocation in Kalamazoo College’s Stetson Chapel with a keynote talk by Harvey Hollins III, director of the Michigan Office of Urban and Metropolitan Initiatives. There also will be a presidential inauguration viewing in WMU’s Miller Auditorium and a march to MLK Park that starts at WMU.

Other major events include a WMU visitation day Saturday, Jan. 19, for area public school students and their families; a Black History 101 Mobile Museum exhibit Friday, Jan. 18, in the Hicks Student Center; and a march to MLK Park that starts at WMU.
Sabbatical leaves granted for 33 faculty members

During its Dec. 5 meeting, the WMU Board of Trustees granted sabbatical leaves for 33 faculty members.

Paul V. Engelman, industrial and manufacturing engineering, was granted a sabbatical leave for the 2013 spring semester. The remaining 32 sabbaticals will take place during the 2013-14 academic year and are for Christine Browning, mathematicians; David L. Code, music; James A. Eckert, engineering; Lin Freulich, music; Thomas W. Gorczyca, physics; Chien-Ju Guo, sociology; Tarun Gupta, industrial and manufacturing engineering; Gunther M. Hega, political science; Susan Hoffman, political science; Wei-Chiao Paul V. Engelmann, industrial and aeronautical engineering; Nicholas A. Maury, art; Casey D. McKiritch, English; Matthew S. Mingus, public affairs and administration; Ilna Nash, gender and women’s studies; Michael Nannassay, anthropology; Lynn Nations Johnson, teaching, learning and educational studies.

Sheree O. Obare, chemistry; Cynthia J. Pietras, psychology; Elke Schoffers, chemistry; Helen M. Sharp, speech pathology and audiology; Andrea B. Smith, teaching, learning and educational studies; Paul R. Solomon, art; Benjamin Torres, Spanish; Ganesh G. Veek, geography; Kristina Wertz, anthropology; Nicolas S. Witschi, English; and Richard W. Zinser, family and consumer sciences.

New learning community forms

Building on efforts started earlier in 2012, the University is creating a new Sustainability Across Research and Teaching faculty learning community that will begin this month and run through April 2014. Space is limited, so register at wmich.edu/facdev/Programs/Communities.html by Saturday, Jan. 12. Participants will meet once every three weeks for two hours. For more information, send an email to wmu-sustainability@wmich.edu or call the Office of Sustainability at (269) 387-0742.

Jobs

Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources website at wmich.edu/hr/careers-at-wmu.html. Please note that applications must be submitted online by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included with each posting.
Finalists for enrollment manager position to speak on campus

Two finalists for the position of associate provost for enrollment management who have strong track records in growing enrollment will be on campus this week.

The two were identified following a national search and will make public presentations as well as meet with numerous University groups.

• Bryan J. Terry, associate vice president for enrollment management and student academic success at Montclair State University, will give his presentation at 2 p.m. today in 2020 Fetzer Center.

• Christopher W. Tremblay, assistant vice chancellor for enrollment management at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, will give his presentation at 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 11, also in 2020 Fetzer Center.

Terry has been the enrollment management chief at Montclair State since 2009. He previously served as associate vice president for enrollment management for three years at Seton Hall University.

In addition, Terry also has held enrollment management or financial aid positions at the University of Miami, Florida A&M University, Wayne State University, Illinois State University, Fornbome College and Lewis and Clark Community College.

Tremblay, a 1994 and 1999 WMU alumnus, launched his admissions career at WMU. He served at the University as an admissions counselor, assistant director of admissions and orientation coordinator from 1994 to 2003, then became director of admissions at Indiana University.

He has been at U of M-Dearborn since 2006, serving first as director of admissions and orientation, then as executive director of enrollment management and interim director of financial aid before being promoted to his current position in 2011.

Visit wmich.edu/provost for detailed information about both candidates.

Graduate College selects inaugural faculty fellows

Jon Adams, English and gender and women’s studies, and Louann Bierlein Palmer, educational leadership, research and technology, were selected as Graduate College Faculty Fellows beginning spring 2013.

The fellows program is a new WMU initiative that provides an opportunity for faculty members to develop as leaders on campus while making significant contributions to graduate education.

Both of the inaugural fellows have helped coordinate graduate education in their departments or units and serve as Graduate Studies Council members. During this fellowship year, Adams will focus on student and faculty engagement and success while Bierlein Palmer will focus on graduate admissions and enrollment.

Climate change is series focus

The Lee Honors College’s 2013 Lyceum Lecture Series focuses on climate change and will continue through April 17.

The talks, which are being presented by WMU faculty members, are being held from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesdays in the Lee Honors College building lounge. Those attending are welcome to bring a brown bag lunch.

For more information, visit wmich.edu/news/events.

Trustees approve 17 faculty, staff retirements

The retirements of three faculty and 14 staff members were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees at its meeting Wednesday, Dec. 5. Trustees also signed off on three faculty resignations as well as one faculty promotion.

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

- Robert J. Balk, finance and commercial law, 29 years, effective Aug. 29, 2012; John W. Gesink, electrical and computer engineering, 28 years, effective Dec. 31, 2012; and Christopher M. Korth, finance and commercial law, 23 years, effective Dec. 31, 2012.

The staff members retiring are: Sandra F. Blanchard, College of Engineering and Applied Studies, 43 years, effective Scive Jan. 31; Darrell R. Drummond, information technology, 40 years, effective April 30; Jeorge Fierro, diversity and inclusion, 17 years, effective Oct. 31, 2012; David A. Glenn, institutional equity, 23 years, effective Dec. 31, 2012; Gwenoldyn Holmes, building custodial and support services, 19 years, effective March 31; Janet G. Liebendorfer, electrical and computer engineering, 15 years, effective Jan. 31; Marsha A. Mahan, nursing, 24 years, effective Dec. 31, 2012; Thomas A. Myers, university relations, 25 years, effective Dec. 23, 2012; Thomas W. Norton, chemistry, 19 years, effective Jan. 31; Susan E. Oleo, Lee Honors College, 28 years, effective Dec. 31, 2012; Maria T. Ruelas, WMU Bookstore, 15 years, effective Jan. 8; Linda S. Stout, WMU Bookstore, 13 years, effective Jan. 8; Dianne Town, Valley 1 Dining Service, 16 years, effective Jan. 4; and Nancy S. Wilson, public safety, 12 years, effective Nov. 30, 2012.


The faculty member promoted is Maria E. Gigante, to assistant professor of English, effective Aug. 20, 2012.

Music emeritus to perform

Robert Whaley, emeritus in music, will return to campus for a free tuba recital at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 15, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall.

The concert will also feature the recently retired director of academic advising for the College of Fine Arts, Margaret Hamilton, on horn; current music faculty member Jacob Cameron on tuba, and former music faculty member Yu-Lien The on piano.

Whaley joined the School of Music faculty in 1966 and is a founding member of the Western Brass Quintet. He retired from WMU in 2001, but continues to be active as a chamber, solo and orchestral performer.

Last year, Whaley celebrated his 47th year as principal tubist with the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra.

Obituaries

Editor’s note: Visit wmich.edu/news/obituaries and search by last name for full obituaries of these members of the University community.

Geraldine J. Bowen, a retired cashier for the WMU Bookstore, died Dec. 5. She was 94.

Janice L. Carlson, a retired first cook in Bernhard Center Dining Service, died May 3. She was 78.

Joe R. Chapel, a retired associate professor of teaching, learning and leadership and director of the McGinnis Reading Center and Clinic, died Dec. 1. He was 73.

Jennie G. Martin, a retired student orientation leader supervisor, died June 26. She was 86.

Don W. Nantz, an emeritus in mechanical engineering and an assistant dean emeritus in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, died Dec. 18. He was 92.

Keith Roberts, a retired custodian, died Nov. 29. He was 77.

Robert C. Scherer, a retired laboratory manager in physics, died Nov. 21. He was 64.
Partner community colleges sign new agreements

Four Michigan community college presidents and WMU Provost Timothy Greene met on campus Dec. 4 to formally sign a series of agreements that will make it easier for their students to earn a critical credential that will help them throughout their careers.

The agreements will allow students to begin their studies at the community college level, transfer to WMU and still earn an associate degree using WMU credits to complete their degree requirements.

The presidents participating in the signing along with Greene were Gary Wheeler, Glen Oaks Community College; Dennis Bona, Kellogg Community College; Robert Harrison, Lake Michigan College; and Brent Knight, Lansing Community College.

The agreements are tailored to each institution, but they generally allow students who earn at least 30 credits at their community colleges to apply as many as 30 WMU credits toward completing an associate degree, which typically requires around 60 credits.

Combined, the four partner community colleges have about 30 transfer students to WMU each fall. Many transfer students have already completed their associate degree requirements, but a lot have not.

The University has been working with its community college partners to find ways to make those transfer transitions more seamless and allow students to derive the maximum benefit of each part of their collegiate experience.

With the Dec. 4 signing, a total of seven community colleges have inked reverse transfer agreements with WMU.

Events slated for first Universitywide common read

Three public events have been set for the common read of “The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks” by Rebecca Skloot, the book chosen for WMU’s first Universitywide common read.

• Skloot will speak at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 14, in the Gilmore Theatre Complex’s Shaw Theatre. Seating will be open, and a book signing will follow the author’s talk.

• The Center for the Study of Ethics in Society will sponsor a panel of WMU faculty members discussing the book on Henrietta Lacks, as it relates to research writing and ethical choice, at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 30, in the University Center for the Humanities in Knauss Hall.

• David Lacks, Henrietta’s son, and another member of the Lacks family will participate in a question-and-answer session starting at 4:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 11, in the Fetzer Center’s Kirsch Auditorium. Seating will be open, and a book signing will follow until 8 p.m.