Trustees set 2013 meeting dates

Acting Dec. 5 during its final meeting of 2012, the WMU Board of Trustees set its 2013 meeting dates. Trustees will meet Wednesday, Feb. 27; Thursday, April 18; Wednesday, June 12; Thursday, July 18; Wednesday, Sept. 18; and Thursday, Dec. 5. The board usually meets at 11 a.m. in 157 Bernhard Center.

Center will focus on foster youth

The WMU Board of Trustees signed off Dec. 5 on the creation of the Center for Fostering Success, a unit that will focus on improving the college access, academic success, graduation rates and career advancement of foster youth and former foster youth.

Planning for the center has been under way for about a year. The facility will provide leadership in training, applied research and service to students. It will work on collaborative initiatives and analyze results that have a collective impact.

The center will be led by Yvonne Unruh, social work. Unruh directed WMU’s acclaimed Seita Scholars initiative from its inception in 2008 through 2011. That initiative provides tuition scholarships, campus coaching, and a supportive living and learning network for former foster care youth.

New requirement affects W-2 forms

Due to a new statutory requirement, 2012 W-2 forms will include information in Box 12 (Code DD) reporting the total cost of health insurance provided by the University to WMU employees. This is not taxable income, and the University has provided a code in Box 12 to reflect this.

Numerous program changes approved

During their Dec. 5 meeting, WMU trustees approved adopting the name Department of Chemical and Paper Engineering for what had been the paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging department, making it more consistent with comparable programs across the nation.

In addition, they changed the General University Studies program within Extended University Programs to University Studies to better reflect the interdisciplinary nature of the work.

Trustees also OK’d a new 16-credit Performance Certificate in Music to provide specialized graduate-level training for exceptional musicians to develop their performance and ensemble skills to an advanced level.

Plus, they deleted the Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, completing a transition begun in fall 2011, when the Department of Psychology established two new Bachelor of Arts programs in the discipline—one in general psychology and one in behavioral sciences.

New LEED certifications boost total to seven

WMU is starting the new year with a total of seven campus buildings recognized for meeting the stringent requirements of LEED—Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design—the national benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings.

Late in December, WMU facilities officials learned that Brown Hall and the Chemistry Building had successfully met LEED standards for existing building—EB—certification, widely considered among the most difficult certifications to earn. Earlier in the fall, all four buildings of the Phase I Western View student housing complex earned LEED new-construction—NC—certification.

“These certifications represent thousands of hours of work aimed at ensuring and documenting lower operating costs and reduced impact on the environment over the life of these buildings,” says President John M. Dunn. “The U.S. Green Building Council’s designations acknowledge our commitment to energy efficiency and our determination to use the resources entrusted to us in the most effective ways possible.”

The six newly certified buildings include the Chemistry Building, Health Services, the Chemistry Building Annex, the Chemistry Building Research Wing, the Chemistry Building Energy and Environmental Design Center, and the Chemistry Building Complex.

The Chemistry Building and Annex are LEED Gold-certified buildings, while the Research Wing and Energy and Environmental Design Center are LEED Silver-certified buildings. The Chemistry Building Complex is LEED Certified.

Strategic plan summit open to entire campus community

With the WMU Strategic Plan now beginning its second year, a campuswide summit will be held to outline progress and get more members of the WMU family involved.

The Strategic Plan Implementation Summit will be held for the entire campus community from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 30, in 208-09 Bernhard Center.

Jody Brylinsky, associate provost for institutional effectiveness, says the summit is intended to inform faculty, staff and students about the plan’s progress and engage even more people in the ongoing work.

“Our desire is to engage the WMU family more broadly so that all voices can be heard,” Brylinsky says.

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The event will be set up to resemble a college fair and will include information about steps already taken to implement the three-year plan as well as provide information about how individuals and campus units can join in the implementation effort.

The strategic plan was formally adopted when the WMU Board of Trustees approved it in December 2011. Its three basic pillars—describe a campus that is learner centered, discovery driven and globally engaged. In recent weeks, a set of institutional effectiveness measures was adopted and is being used to assess progress toward the plan’s goals.

Visit wmich.edu/strategic for more information.

Trustees amend Dunn’s contract, increase his 2012-13 salary

The WMU Board of Trustees put its stamp of approval on the leadership of President John M. Dunn, amending his contract during its Dec. 5 meeting and increasing his pay at a rate matching increases for other campus employees.

Dunn’s contract now runs through June 30, 2016, and his 2012-13 salary will be $373,440. The new salary figure includes a 1 percent raise retroactive to July 1 and an additional 1 percent raise that becomes effective this month.

Following the board meeting, Dunn confirmed he will continue a giving tradition he has followed since taking WMU’s helm in July 2007. Whenever he receives a salary increase, he donates it back for student scholarships—to the tune of the cumulative total of his pay increases since his $345,000 starting salary. That means that this year, he is donating $28,440 for student scholarships.

In 2011, the board extended Dunn’s contract for two years. That necessitated amending and updating his earlier contract—steps the board approved at the Dec. 5 meeting. The new contract includes an extension and increase in Dunn’s deferred compensation as well as provisions for a one-year term as president emeritus and a two-year non-compete clause.

The 2011 evaluation did not include a salary increase because budgetary constraints that year kept WMU from providing salary increases to any employees except those with previous contractual commitments.

Above left: Chemistry Building (Photo by Mike Lanka) Above right: The Chemistry Building’s silver-level LEED certification plaque.
Still time to apply for faculty scholarships funding

The deadline to apply for the Support for Faculty Scholars Awards is Thursday, Jan. 31. This internal funding opportunity aims to advance the University’s research mission. Among its key goals is to support creative activities and research that may not lead to external funding but that enhance and sustain the scholarly reputation of WMU and the faculty principal investigator.

Philosophy prof pens new book

Fritz Allhoff, philosophy, questions the basic premise that torture is wrong under any circumstances in his newly published book, “Terrorism, Ticking Time Bombs and Torture: A Philosophical Analysis.” While allowing that torture constitutes a moral wrong, Allhoff argues that, in exceptional cases, it represents the lesser of two evils.

He does not take that position lightly. After carefully considering numerous issues, he addresses criticisms of torture, analyzing the impact its adoption could have on democracy, institutional structures and foreign policy.

In addition to his duties as an associate professor, Allhoff is a senior research fellow at the Center for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics at the Australian National University. He is co-author of “What Is Nanotechnology and Why Does It Matter?”

Staff member earns area LBGT award

Jen Hsu, Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay and Transgender Student Services, received the Kuseske Education Award from the Kalamazoo Gay Lesbian Resource Center Dec. 15 during the resource center’s Winter Gala. Hsu was among seven individuals and one organization presented with one of the center’s six annual awards. She was praised on and off campus for invigorating WMU’s LBGT Student Services office since being named its coordinator this past April and for helping to create a wide range of new programs.

They included a First-Year Pride Alliance to aid new LBGT and ally students and a Student Advisory Council to review University policies and programs affecting LBGT inclusion. Her office also held the first LBGT and ally Diversity Career Fair, co-sponsored a communitywide Fall Fest, and is collaborating to make local faith communities more welcoming of LGBT people.

Athletic trainer named national fellow

Michael G. Miller, human performance and health education, was honored last year as a National Athletic Trainers’ Association Fellow. The NATA’s Fellows program recognizes certified athletic trainers who have demonstrated professional achievement in research or education that is combined with service to the profession of athletic training. Only the most accomplished scholars in the profession are awarded this distinction and are allowed to use the prestigious designation, FNATA.

Miller is the director of the University’s graduate athletic training program. He is a Certified Athletic Trainer and Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist. He earned a bachelor’s degree from California University of Pennsylvania, master’s degrees from West Virginia and Western Michigan universities, and doctoral degrees from WVU and WMU.

Rules apply to social media accounts

All University Facebook pages and Twitter accounts are subject to WMU’s social media guidelines and should be approved by the Office of University Relations. Contact cara.barnes@wmich.edu if you are unsure whether your office’s social media presence has been approved. Visit wmich.edu/web/policies/socialmedia for details about the University’s social media policy.

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.

LBGT office debuts weekly film series

The Office of Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay and Transgender Student Services will kick off a semesterly film series at 5 p.m. Jan. 30 in the Trimpe Building’s LBGT Resource Room. Called Western: Real Pride Wednesdays, the series will feature a variety of films, with each one followed by a 30-minute discussion. The first film planned is “The Celluloid Closet.”

Talk set on U.S. strategies in East Asia

The potential impact of U.S. strategies in East Asia will be outlined in a talk at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 31, in 2028 Brown Hall. Ling Wei, director of the East Asia Studies Center at China Foreign Affairs University in Beijing, will present the talk, titled “Rebalancing or Debalancing: The U.S. Strategies and New Asian Order.”

According to Wei, East Asia’s order is in evolution, and the nature of the new Asian order will be determined partly by U.S. actions. She also suggests that without coordination and support from key players in East Asia, the “strategic rebalance of the Obama administration can dismantle the region.”

Jazz students reunite for free concert

Four alumni will reunite as The Groov’tet for a 7:30 p.m. concert Thursday, Jan. 31, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. The event is part of the School of Music’s Distinguished Alumni Series. The quartet will perform original compositions from their acclaimed 1996 self-titled album.

The former jazz studies students—John Wojciechowski, Xavier Davis, Matt Hughes and Keith Hall—formed The Groov’tet 20 years ago. The ensemble received numerous high-profile awards, and the members have gone on to successful individual performing careers that have taken them around the world with a long list of jazz luminaries.

Internship expert to give presentation

A leading career and internship expert will make a public presentation from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 5, in the Fetzer Center’s Kirsch Auditorium. During the presentation, Lauren Berger will provide a national perspective on the value of internships as well as offer ideas about how to find them. Although geared toward college students, area high school students and their families are welcome to attend.

Spring series celebrates diversity

A spring visiting artists series that celebrates international diversity will start Thursday, Jan. 31. Sponsored by the College of Fine Arts, it will feature four artists giving a free public talk or performance during their visit to campus.

First up is Gabriela León, who will be working extensively with students in the Frotic School of Art from Monday through Thursday, Jan. 28-31. A multidisciplinary visual artist who lives and works in Mexico, she will lecture on “Contemporary Artistic Practices Within Political and Social Realities of Oaxaca.”

Around campus and beyond
Joffrey ballet master directing students; appears in documentary

WMU students will be performing in January and February under the direction of a Joffrey ballet master who is featured in a recent documentary by an alumnus of the University.

Guest artist Willy Shives will direct dance students in performances of the Joffrey Ballet piece “Viva Vivaldi” at 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, Jan. 31-Feb. 2, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 3, in Shaw Theatre. Shives is one of the many dancers featured in Bob Hercules’ film, “Joffrey: Mavericks of American Dance,” which had its national PBS premiere Dec. 28 on the network’s “American Masters” program.

The documentary tells the origin story of the revolutionary dance company the Joffrey Ballet, and covers the ballet’s 56-year history to present day. Hercules’ film chronicles the company’s modest start with a handful of touring dancers to its rise as one of the world’s preeminent ballet companies. Led by visionaries Robert Joffrey and Gerald Arpino, the company helped transform the world of American dance. “Viva Vivaldi” is a work of Arpino, Joffrey’s legendary artistic director, and Shives learned the ballet from Arpino himself. Shives, who has served as a guest artist at WMU twice before, began auditioning and teaching WMU students during the fall semester.

“He is a wonderful artist who is very generous with his knowledge...” says Sharon Garber, dance. “We are just thrilled.”

The Joffrey company became known for ballet that was classical at its core but also influenced by modern movement and unorthodox artistic choices. “They were very liberated because they weren’t beholden to those older European and Russian traditions in dance,” Hercules, a 1979 WMU graduate, veteran filmmaker and co-owner of Chicago-based Media Process Group, told the WMU Magazine for a recent article about his documentary.

Narrated by actor Mandy Patinkin, the film was first shown to a sold-out audience in the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City last year. Patinkin described the documentary as “deeply archived,” while Film Journal International heralded it as “a bountiful feast for dance lovers, as well as a thrilling story of artistic endeavor for everyone to savor.”

The film includes interviews with Joffrey dancers talking about the art form, the ballet company’s late founders, Joffrey and Arpino, and just what made the company so special. The film also discusses and features excerpts from some of the Joffrey’s most famous works.

“It was a tremendous experience to make this film,” Hercules says. “It’s one of those things where you pinch yourself and say, ‘Did that really happen?’”

To read the entire WMU Magazine story online, visit wmich.edu/magazine and click the Winter 2012 issue. Visit the film’s website, joffreyfilm.com, for more information.

NPR counterterrorism correspondent to speak as part of great decisions program

WMU is again partnering with the World Affairs Council of Western Michigan in Grand Rapids to present a free timely talk on international issues as part of the council’s 2013 Great Decisions Discussion Series.

Locally, WMU will be offering a live lecture by NPR correspondent Dina Temple-Raston at 11 a.m. Monday, Feb. 4, in the Fetter Center’s Putney Auditorium.

Her talk, “The New Threat Assessment: Defending America on a Budget,” will address the nation’s new and emerging challenges in dealing with terrorism and counterterrorism.

Spring 2013 staff award nominations due Feb. 28

Nominations for the spring round of WMU’s semiannual Make a Difference awards are due by Thursday, Feb. 28.

Make a Difference is a campuswide peer-to-peer program that recognizes staff members for their accomplishments and daily investments of energy and creativity. It features semiannual and annual awards presented to employees who provide exceptional service to the University.

Every fall and spring, semiannual awards are presented to a maximum of 15 people. Those selected for the accolade receive a $300 pre-tax prize and certificate, are recognized at a special reception in the Spring and may be nominated for one of four annual Make a Difference awards that carry a $1,200 pre-tax prize.

Employees may receive the semiannual award more than once, but are limited to one such award per academic year. The annual award, which may only be received once, is given to each year’s four most outstanding semiannual award winners.

Nominations for Make a Difference awards are accepted for individuals from the following employee groups: American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; Michigan State Employees Association; Police Officers Association; and Staff Compensation System.

Nominations for Make a Difference awards are available year round at wmich.edu/makeadifference/nominations.

Obituaries

Dorothy J. McGinnis, emerita in education and professional development, died Jan. 11. She was 92. McGinnis, nationally known for her innovations in the diagnosis and treatment of reading problems, joined the faculty in 1944 and retired early in 1986 after 41 years of service.

John P. Mulligan, a former residence hall custodian, died Nov. 8. He was 89. Mulligan joined the staff in 1976 and retired in 1986 after 10 years of service.

Willie G. Page, a custodian in Facilities Management, died Dec. 21. He was 80. Page joined the staff in 1981 and retired in 1998 after 17 years of service.
New LEED certifications boost total to seven

Continued from page 1

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