Polar Plunge to be showcased at carnival

To showcase the University’s sixth annual Kalamazoo Polar Plunge, WMU is staging a MyWMU Winter Carnival from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16, on campus at Goldsworth Valley.

Members of the WMU and Kalamazoo communities are invited to open a fun-filled snow day on campus, enjoying a variety of competitions along with sledding, ice skating and live entertainment. Hot food and beverages will be available for purchase.

The day’s big event, the Kalamazoo Polar Plunge, will begin at the pond in the early afternoon and is a fundraiser for Special Olympics Michigan, which provides year-round sports training and athletic competition for more than 19,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

Admission to the carnival is free, as is parking in lots 60 and 89. Pre-registration is requested at mywmu.com for the plunge and other activities.

Kalamazoo Polar Plunge

The 2013 Kalamazoo Polar Plunge will feature hardy souls jumping into Goldsworth Valley Pond as motivation for their family members, friends, co-workers and neighbors to donate to Special Olympics Michigan.

The event is open to anyone willing to bear the elements for a good cause. It is known for its courageous participants, who dress up in crazy costumes before they plunge, and for its Golden Plunger Award, which honors the participant with the most creative costume or best jump.

• Check-in and registration-12:30 p.m.
• Parade of costumes-1:45 p.m.
• Plunging starts-2 p.m.
• Awards and post-plunge party-2:45 p.m.; open to everyone

Participants need to raise at least $75 in pledges to plunge. Visit the Special Olympics Michigan website at somi.org to make a donation or pre-register for the Kalamazoo plunge. Click Fundraisers, then select Polar Plunge from the drop-down menu and click 2013 Kalamazoo Polar Plunge.

MyWMU Winter Carnival

Along with hosting the Polar Plunge, WMU will open Goldsworth Valley and nearby intramural fields for a community-wide carnival.

The University is building a temporary carnival on sustainability this afternoon, then deliver a public keynote address titled “The Nine Elements of a Sustainable Campus,” will be published in 2013.

Sustainability expert Mitchell Thomashow will share his framework for creating a culture of sustainability during a trio of events being held on campus Thursday and Friday, Feb. 7-8.

Thomashow will meet and greet WMU students in the Office for Sustainability this afternoon, then deliver a public keynote address titled “The Nine Elements of a Sustainable Culture and Campus” at 7:30 p.m. today in 1910 Sangren Hall.

During the free talk, he will describe how he led Unity College in Maine through a transformation to become nationally recognized for its focus on sustainability. Guests should park in lots 40 or 4.

Friday, Feb. 8, Thomashow will present a workshop for up to 40 WMU faculty members and administrators. The topic-focused workshop is designed for those interested in integrating sustainability across disciplines. It will help launch a new Sustainability Across Research and Teaching Faculty Learning Community. Registration is required, and seats will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Thomashow is the director of the Presidential Fellows Program at Second Nature, an organization that seeks to create a sustainable society by transforming higher education. He is the author of two influential books, “Ecological Identity: Becoming a Reflective Environmentalist” and “Bringing the Biosphere Home.” His forthcoming book, “The Nine Elements of a Sustainable Campus,” will be published in 2013.

While president of Unity College from 2006 to 2011, Thomashow helped integrate elements of ecology, sustainability, natural history, wellness, participatory governance and community service into college and community life.

Visit wmich.edu/sustainability to register for Thomashow’s workshop.
Three easy ways to find out if weather closes WMU

WMU rarely closes due to severe weather. Assume the University is open and will continue normal operations unless notified in one of three ways:

• Call (269) 387-1001, the emergency information line.
• Visit wmich.edu/emerti for more about Bailey’s talk or the council.

Fullbright information sessions set

Faculty members and administrators are invited to learn about overseas study, seminars and funding opportunities to conduct research through the Fullbright Program in two February workshops.

Both workshops will cover the same material and will be held in the Bernhard Center. The first is planned for 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13, in Room 211. The second workshop will begin at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14, in Room 204. No registration is required.

Visiting artist to give performance

Laurenceo Carlos Ruiz will give two public performances beginning at 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 23, in the Gilmore Theatre Complex’s York Arena Theatre as part of a College of Fine Arts spring visiting artists series celebrating international diversity. Ruiz will present “Shifting Strengths,” which employs puppets, as well as the sketch, “Give Me a Hand,” an interactive presentation that will involve audience members. He is an instructor of theatre arts and resident scenic designer at Penn State University Altoona as well as a freelance artist and designer, puppeteer, photographer, and visual and performance artist.

Robotics expert to be guest speaker

The head of research for an international firm pioneering the latest robotics technology worldwide will be the featured speaker during WMU’s 2013 Engineers Week. Rodolpho Gelin, director of research for Aldebaran Robotics, will speak on “Developing Useful Robot Human Interactions.”

The talk will take place at a dinner set for Tuesday, Feb. 19, in the Fetzer Center. Dinner reservations are due by Friday, Feb. 15. Visit wmich.edu/engineer/week or contact Jorge Rodriguez at (269) 276-3374 to make a reservation.

Common read event is next week

Participants in the University’s common read of Rebecca Skloot’s book “The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks” will have a chance to meet Henrietta’s son, David Lacks, and his wife, Shirley, starting at 4:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 11, in the Fetzer Center’s Kirsch Auditorium.

After a question-and-answer session, audience members will be able to talk with the Lacks. A book signing will follow until 8 p.m. Reservations are requested by visiting wmich.edu/diversityandinclusion and clicking Events.

Emeritus to discuss Teddy Roosevelt

The Emeriti Council’s next Wednesday meeting will feature Tom Bailey sharing observations on President Theodore Roosevelt at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13, in Walwood Hall’s Emeriti Lounge.

Bailey will touch on the Roosevelt myth, the Roosevelt character and the Roosevelt we think we know. Emeriti Council meetings are open to all emeriti and surviving spouses. Visit wmich.edu/emerti for more about Bailey’s talk or the council.

Top mechanic wins regional award

Scott E. Austin, College of Aviation, has been named a 2013 Regional Aviation Maintenance Technician of the Year, putting him in the running with six others for judging in the national General Aviation Award program. The award recognizes individual aviation professionals on the local, regional and national levels for their contributions to aviation, education and flight safety. It is sponsored by both general aviation, the National Business Aviation Association and the Federal Aviation Administration.

Austin, maintenance director for the aviation college since 2009, represents the Grand Rapids (Mich.) Flight Standards District Office and the Great Lakes Region. He is a 1994 WMU graduate who served as a part-time aircraft mechanic at WMU for several years before becoming a full-time technician at the University in 1997. Before being promoted to his current post, he also served as lead mechanic and chief inspector and manager of logistics and compliance.

Emerita’s book earns national prize

Marlene R. Breu, emerita in family and consumer sciences, received the 2012 Shep Ethnic Textiles Book Award from the Textile Society of America for her book “Splendor and Pageantry: Textile Treasures from the Armenian Orthodox Churches of Iran.”

Breu, who retired in 2008 after more than 12 years on the faculty, won the award along with colleague and co-author Ron Marchese from the University of Minnesota at Duluth. The award recognizes exceptional scholarship and is funded by the R.L. Shep Endowment to encourage the study and understanding of textile traditions.

“Splendor and Pageantry,” published in 2010, is the result of a ground-breaking study of textile and non-textile artifacts in Istanbul churches that the authors conducted over the span of eight years.

Instructor’s third book published

Hedy Habra, Spanish, has had her third book published in a year. The hat trick began in January 2012 with “Flying Carpets,” a short story collection. It was followed in November 2012 by a work of literary criticism, “Miami, Mexico, or alternos y artistos en Vargas Llosa,” and just this month by a poetry book, “Tein a Heliopolis.”

Habra specializes in Spanish American Literature, with an emphasis on Peruvian writer Mario Vargas Llosa. She writes in French, English and Spanish, although Arabic and French are her first languages, and her creative writing and critical studies have appeared in numerous literary magazines.

Habra was born in Egypt and lived in several countries before moving to Kalama zoo in 1981. She earned a bachelor’s degree from the Faculté Française de Médecine et de Pharmacie de Beirut, and three master’s degrees and one doctoral degree from WMU.

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DEADLINE: Items to be considered for publication should be submitted to the Office of University Relations by 5 p.m. Friday the week preceding publication. Full publication dates are Jan. 10 and 24, Feb. 7 and 21, March 14 and 28, and April 11. Items may be submitted to Jeanne Baron at jeananne.baron@wmich.edu. (269) 784-7422 or Campus Mail Stop S893.

WMU is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer consistent with applicable state and federal laws.
Office expects record job fair turnout; earns LGBT certification

WMU has been getting good news on the student employment front lately. On one front, another record year may be in the offing for the annual Career Fair, which is set for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14, in the Bernhard Center Ballroom.

Surangi Pradhun, Career Fair co-chair, reports that a record 175 organizations took part in the event last year but that 170 already were registered for this year’s fair with another week to go before registration closes. That compares to 120 registrants in 2010. "This is the second consecutive year that 170 or more organizations have signed up to participate. That’s a significant increase from a few years ago," Pradhun says. "It signals growth in the state’s economy because most of these participating employers are based in Michigan or have branches here."

The Career Fair is open to the public but tailored for WMU students and alumni. Now in its 35th year, it routinely draws some 3,000 job seekers in addition to employers from such diverse areas as engineering, technology, health care, the environmental sciences, insurance, retail and consumer products, transportation, government, the nonprofit sector, and construction.

The event is organized by Career and Student Employment Services, which recently received good news on another front. The office learned it had earned gold-level certification for 2013 from OUT for Work, a national non-profit organization that helps lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender college students as they transition from academia to the workplace.

Lynn Kelly-Albertson, Career and Student Employment Services, says after completing the certification program, her office received the second highest rating possible. "With this certification, WMU will have access to additional resources to help students search for jobs, network and navigate coming out in the workplace," Kelly-Albertson says. "In addition to our staff participating in professional development activities, they will be able to consult with OUT for Work staff who can help identify inclusive companies that offer same-sex domestic partner benefits and have nondiscrimination policies that include sexual identity."

Weeklong celebration honors student employees

Western Michigan University will recognize its student employees during the 27th annual Student Employee Appreciation Week, Monday through Friday, Feb. 18-22. Career and Student Employment Services, which sponsors the week, is accepting award nominations through Friday, Feb. 8, for the awards it bestows in conjunction with the observance.

The week is a time to honor all student employees, who help to make WMU a great place to work and learn. It also provides an opportunity to showcase the University’s outstanding student employees and the outstanding staff members who supervise them.

Service

The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service during February.

Five Years—Catherine Burhans, Miller Auditorium; Amanda E. Lozier, admissions; and Lillian D. Manning, diversity and inclusion.

15 Years—Mark B. Heineman, maintenance services; Edison G. Macadangdang, building custodial and support services; Margaret T. Magallon, building custodial and support services; Robert E. Monick, maintenance services; Jan Pekarovic, chemical and paper engineering; and Alexandra Pekarovicova, chemical and paper engineering.

25 Years—Thomas Cook, maintenance services; Judith A. Priest, information technology; and William E. St. Clair, information technology.

30 Years—Vivian L. Locke, biological sciences.

20 Years—Ishmael A. Acker, building custodial and support services.

15 Years—Mark B. Heineman, maintenance services; Edison G. Macadangdang, building custodial and support services; Margaret T. Magallon, building custodial and support services; Robert E. Monick, maintenance services; Jan Pekarovic, chemical and paper engineering; and Alexandra Pekarovicova, chemical and paper engineering.

10 Years—Laural. Darrah, residence life; Bryon J. Glock, online education; James B. Hollebeek, building custodial and support services; Martin E. Klemm, WMUK Radio; Donald J. Layne, Paper and Printing Pilot Plant; and Shawn D. Mortimore, Paper and Printing Pilot Plant.

Five Years—Catherine Burhans, Miller Auditorium; Amanda E. Lozier, admissions; and Lillian D. Manning, diversity and inclusion.

Students may make nominations for the Supervisor of the Year award while faculty and staff members may make nominations for the Belleville Student Employee of the Year award.

The 2013 award winners and nominees will be announced as well as celebrated during a reception from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 21, in the Bernhard Center.

WMU faculty and staff members are encouraged to submit award nominations and to thank their student workers in some way during appreciation week. While supplies last, the career services office will provide small gifts that may be used as thank-you’s for student workers. Gift requests must be received by Feb. 8.

The office also has developed a list of suggestions for other ways to thank student employees and makes available a template that can be used to create certificates of appreciation.

Visit wmich.edu/career/students/nominate.html for more information and to obtain or request appreciation week materials. Direct questions to Brenda Case-Parris at brenda.case-parris@wmich.edu or (269) 387-2745.

Obituaries

Editor’s Note: Visit wmich.edu/news/obituaries for full obituaries.

Karen S. Lawrence, an office associate in the Department of Chemical and Paper Engineering, died Jan. 29. She was 48. Lawrence joined the staff full time in 2008. Memorial gifts may be made to the Mattawan Athletic Booster Club or Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals of Southwest Michigan.

Rosemary Lyon, a former executive secretary in the College of Arts and Sciences, died Jan. 24. She was 89. Lyon joined the staff in 1972 and retired in 1986 after nearly 14 years of service. Memorial gifts may be made to St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Sam Robinson, a former manager of the custodial services division, died Jan. 17. He was 83. Robinson joined the staff in 1961 and retired in 1991 after more than 29 years of service.

R. Luane Stroup, a former buyer in the purchasing department, died Jan. 19. She was 86. Stroup joined the staff in 1968 and retired in 1986 after 18 years of service.

Gladys Stuifbergen, a former senior clerk in the Office of Admissions, died Jan. 24. She was 98. Stuifbergen joined the staff in 1960 and retired in 1980 after nearly 20 years of service. Memorial gifts may be made to the ALS Association of Michigan in memory of her son, James.

Special faculty, staff mixer set

A Mardi Gras-themed get-together for faculty and staff members will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 12, in Miller Auditorium.

The free U Make Western mixer is a celebration of the contributions employees make to the University. It also kicks off a fundraising campaign for WMU faculty and staff members that is being launched in coordination with the Annual Fund.

P.J. Fleck, WMU’s new head football coach, will be the guest speaker during a brief program that starts at 5:30 p.m.

The event also will include free chair massages, creole-inspired hors d’oeuvres and plenty of opportunities to win prizes. Attendees will each receive two drink tickets that may be redeemed for pop, beer or wine (ticketed drinks only).

Visit mywmu.com/signup for the mixer, which is being sponsored by development and alumni relations, or to donate to the University.

Questions may be directed to Jason Long at jason.long@wmich.edu or (269) 387-8799.

Obituaries

Lawrence

Robinson

WESTERN NEWS FEBRUARY 7, 2013
Health Center events highlight eating disorders

February is Eating Disorders Awareness Month, and the Sindecuse Health Center invites WMU students, employees and guests to learn more about these disorders by attending an upcoming workshop as well as picking up helpful informational materials.

The 50-minute workshop, “Body Image: Changes Over Time in Interpretation of the Ideal Body,” will be held in Sindecuse at 3 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 21; 3 p.m. Tuesday, April 2; and 11 a.m. Thursday, April 4. Seating is limited.

Classes, trips all part of spring lifelong learning activities

There’s still time to register for many of the Lifelong Learning Academy’s spring offerings, including classes on such diverse subjects as seafaring, early Jesus movements, sustainability, outdoor sculpture and the medieval legend of Tristan and Isolde.

In addition, free “Love Your Shape” buttons and informational materials will be available at tables set up from 7 to 10 p.m. Monday, Feb. 18, in the Student Recreation Center Fitness Studio; 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19, in the Student Recreation Center lobby; and 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 20, in the Bernhard Center lobby.

Visit wmich.edu/healthcenter/loveyour-shape to reserve a workshop seat or obtain more information about eating disorders.

Polar Plunge to be showcased

continued from page 1

outdoor ice rink for open skating and will have a limited number of skates available to rent. There will be a heated hospitality tent where carnival-goers can warm up between activities and a stage for live music and comedy performances.

The event begins at 10 a.m. with an open skate, music, and the first rounds of the snow softball and flag football tournaments. Chili, hot chocolate and other menu items will be available. In the afternoon, those participating in the duct-tape derby will transform cardboard boxes into sleds, then race their creations. Throughout the day, young and old alike are invited to bring their sleds to the intramural field next to the Sorenson Tennis Courts for some old-fashioned family fun.

Weather permitting, the full schedule of activities is as follows:

• Open skating—10 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., 3 to 6:45 p.m. and 7:05 to 10 p.m.
• Sledding—throughout the day
• Flag football and snow softball tournaments—10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; semifinal and final rounds in the afternoon following the Polar Plunge
• Snowman-making contest—11 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.; awards presented at 5 p.m.
• Polar Plunge events—starting at 1:45 p.m.
• Battle of the bands—3 to 5:45 p.m.; awards presented at 5:45 p.m.
• Duct-tape derby—3 to 6 p.m. installations; racing follows