Dunn issues statement on saving East Hall

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In the opinion piece, Dunn noted the University's intent to bring East Hall, built atop Prospect Hill and opened in 1905, to life again as an alumni center.

"The building and hilltop were gifts from this community when the University was established in 1903. They will remain as testament to the lasting partnership between this University and its home community," Dunn wrote.

"Our commitment means we will preserve the white-columned presence and lighted cupola that the Kalamazoo community created and has treasured for more than 100 years. We want future Kalamazoo residents to look to the top of Prospect Hill and enjoy the same view and sense of pride Kalamazoo citizens first enjoyed in 1905."

Dunn reported that the response from the Kalamazoo community as well as alumni around the world has generally been positive, and in April, the plan to refurbish East Hall received a unanimous endorsement, as well as gift pledges from the WMU Alumni Association Board of Directors.

East Hall to be hilltop's focal point

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The renovated East Hall will serve as the venue for receptions, reunions and other celebratory events; a place to showcase artifacts, pictures and remembrances of the University's history; and a home for the Office of Development and Alumni.

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"Some have urged us to continue mothballing the remaining buildings. I have given thoughtful consideration to those arguments, but that strategy has already been costly, with an annual expenditure of $250,000 for heat and energy to preserve empty space. Limited resources mean we cannot renovate East Hall and continue to spend money on unused buildings," he wrote.

Koretsky named new dean of Lee Honors College

Carla M. Koretsky, geosciences, has been named dean of the Lee Honors College, effective July 1.

Koretsky has served as honors college associate dean since 2012 and will replace Nicholas Andreadis, who will retire from WMU June 30.

She was one of three finalists for the position who were identified in early April and made formal on-campus presentations at the end of spring semester.

"During her time as associate dean, Dr. Koretsky has shown leadership and developed a real rapport with the students who are part of our honors college," says Timothy J. Greene, provost.

"She has really shown herself ideally suited to the role of dean, and her interactions with the search committee and during the public presentations reinforced the reputation she has established."

Koretsky came to WMU in 2000 and has been a faculty member in the environmental studies program as well as the geosciences department. She focuses on aqueous geochemistry and biogeochemistry.

An active researcher, Koretsky received the University's Emerging Scholar Award in 2007, was associate chair of the geosciences department in 2006, helped to establish a new interdisciplinary geochemistry major and was the geosciences graduate advisor from 2004 to 2012.

She has received more than $1.1 million in external grants from organizations such as the U.S. Department of Energy, American Chemical Society and National Science Foundation. These grants have included a prestigious NSF CAREER Award.

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Around campus and beyond

Editor’s note: Visit wmich.edu/news/events for details and more events news.

Sculpture exhibit at Richmond
Works from sculptors Sarah Lindley and Norwood Viviano are on display through Friday, June 28, in the Richmond Center for Visual Arts’ Monroe-Brown Gallery. Lindley is an American ceramic sculptor who teaches art as well as manages the 3-D program at Kalamazoo College. Viviano balances traditional modes of sculpture production and contemporary digital technology and teaches sculpture as well as heads the sculpture emphasis program at Grand Valley State University.

Nature centers next Keystone topic
Willard “Bill” Rose, president and CEO of the Kalamazoo Nature Center, will share his insights on the business paradigm shift for nature centers at 8 a.m. Friday, May 31, in the Dean’s Conference Room of Schneider Hall. His talk is part of the 2012-13 Keystone Community Bank Breakout Speaker Series.

The event is free and open to the public and begins with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Reservations are required and may be made by calling (269) 387-6059 or sending an email to kayla.j.hunt@wmich.edu.

In addition to his duties at the nature center, Rose is a member of the board for Discover Kalamazoo, serves as secretary and treasurer for the Southwest Michigan Sustainable Business Forum, and provides management and programmatic consulting services to nature centers throughout the United States.

New Student Orientation sessions start soon
Some 8,000 people, including beginning students and their families as well as transfer students, are expected to attend orientation sessions this summer.

Most will be on campus for one of the 12 New Student Orientation sessions that begin Monday, June 3, and run through Tuesday, July 2. The sessions are filling up quickly, so students are urged to register now.

In addition, 700 transfer students will take part in Transfer Transition Program sessions being held on four Fridays. The three that have yet to take place are set for June 14, July 19 and Aug. 16. Students are encouraged to register the week before the session they plan to attend.

For more details, visit wmich.edu/fye/orientation or wmich.edu/transferservices.

Campus to bid goodbye to two residence halls
Current and former students, faculty and staff and other members of the University community will come together Friday, June 7, to mark the end of the line for two longtime campus residence halls.

A public gathering will take place from 3 to 6 p.m. in the main areas of Hoekje Hall, which opened in 1959, and Bigelow Hall, which opened in 1961. The event will include building tours, photo opportunities, brief remarks and a reception.

Invited to the occasion are members of the families of the two faculty members for whom the halls were named. Howard F. Bigelow was an economics professor at WMU from 1924 to 1961. John C. Hoekje was a professor of education and psychology who also served as registrar, dean of admission and director of extension during his 1916-to-1955 tenure at the University.

In the coming months, both halls will be demolished to make way, in coming years, for new campus residence halls. Replacing the two halls in the short run will be Eldridge and Fox Halls in Goldsworth Valley, which have been offline for several years.

More than 500 invitations to the event were sent to people with particular ties with the halls, either as former residents or employees.

Those wishing to attend are asked to make a reservation at mywmu.com/bigelowhoekje or by calling Erin Kaplan, the event’s coordinator, at (269) 387-2176. The website includes a mechanism for people to share their memories about life in the two residence halls as well as a history of both facilities.

Exchange
For rent—Furnished home from June 2013 to July 2014 while owner is on sabatical. Within 15-minute walk to WMU. Three bedrooms, 1.5 bathrooms, central air, washer and dryer, dish washer, and gas stove. $1,500 per month plus gas and electricity. Contact: nationsjohn@wmich.edu or (269) 760-3669.

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.

Student wins coveted NEA fellowship
Traci D. Brimhall, a doctoral student in the creative writing poetry program, was one of 40 people nationwide to be awarded a 2013 National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellowship, which came with a $25,000 cash prize.

The NEA has awarded creative writing fellowships since 1967, providing writers with the time and freedom to pursue their craft. More than 1,100 people have applied for these fellowships, which were among 832 grants totaling $23.3 million awarded through the NEA’s Arts Works funding program.

Brimhall, who hopes to graduate in spring 2014, was the only writer in Michigan to receive an individual artist grant; however, many arts organizations in the state also received grants.

Educator’s radio show wins award
Allison Downey, teaching, learning and educational studies, recently won the Excellence in Broadcasting award from the Michigan Association of Broadcasters in the Special Interest and Cultural Programming category. Downey won the award for “The Living Room,” a pilot radio show that aired this past fall on Michigan Radio, a National Public Radio affiliate. She co-produced and hosted the one-hour show as well as served as storyteller and songwriter.

Based on the pilot show’s success, Downey and producer Zak Rosen are bringing monthly installments of eight-to-10-minute segments of “The Living Room” to listeners during Michigan Radio’s “Statewide with Cynthia Canty” through October.

Prof earns first TAPPI education award
Margaret Joyce, paper and chemical engineering, won a newly established honor from the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry. Joyce received the Coating and Graphic Arts Division’s Education and Mentoring Award and MeadWestvaco Prize at the PaperCon conference April 27 through May 1 in Atlanta, Ga.

In addition, Zheng “Rachel” Wei, a master’s student from China, won the Paper Con’s PaperCon 2013 best student paper award. TAPPI is the world’s foremost pulp and paper industry association.

“Dr. Joyce epitomizes professionalism in education,” says Larry N. Montague, TAPPI president and CEO. “She is an extremely caring and hardworking individual, who demonstrates her passion on a daily basis with her university and her students.”

A faculty member since 1996, Joyce has made a significant contribution not only to students, but also to the paper and printing industries. A research scientist, her work in the areas of nanotechnology, high-speed curtain coaters and radio frequency identification—RFID—are considered at the leading edge of development.
University gearing up for Midwest Games International 2013

WMU will look like an Olympic sports complex Memorial Day Weekend, when it hosts the Malaysian Midwest Games International 2013.

The games, an annual sporting event sponsored by members of Malaysian student organizations at American universities located throughout the Midwest, will be held Friday through Sunday, May 24-26.

Malaysia’s ambassador to the United States, Ambassador Orhaim Hashim, will officiate at the games as well as award medals in the closing ceremony planned for the evening of Sunday, May 26, in Miller Auditorium.

Satveer Thind, president of WMU’s Malaysian Student Association and director of the game’s organizing committees, says the event fosters sportsmanship and camaraderie among the participating Malaysian student teams, in addition to promoting school pride and friendly institutional rivalries.

“The games date back to the 1970s and started out as a modest athletic congregation and friendly institutional rivalries. The games date back to the 1970s and started out as a modest athletic congregation and friendly institutional rivalries. The games date back to the 1970s and started out as a modest athletic congregation and friendly institutional rivalries. The games date back to the 1970s and started out as a modest athletic congregation and friendly institutional rivalries. The games date back to the 1970s and started out as a modest athletic congregation and friendly institutional rivalries.

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Students and colleagues,” says Tom Knific, professor.

“Now, this is a much-anticipated event that draws students from states as far away as Texas and California, as well as Canada and the United Kingdom.”

Third, a senior majoring in industrial and entrepreneurial engineering from the Malaysian state of Perak, says this year’s event is expected to draw some 1,500 Malaysian students.

Participants will compete in team and individual sports, including men’s and women’s badminton, soccer, basketball, tennis and volleyball. New offerings for 2013’s games include racquetball, netball and Malaysia’s very own “Sepak Takraw.” Competitions will be held at the Student Recreation Center, the Goldworth Valley field, intramural fields and Sorensen tennis courts.

Anyone wishing to volunteer may contact Michelle Tan at volunteer@mwgi2013.com. Visit mwgi2013.com for more information.

The Malaysian Midwest Games International 2013 is being sponsored by the Ministry of Higher Education of Malaysia, WMU, the WMU Malaysian Student Association, private Malaysian institutions, and other businesses and companies.

WMU partnering to record local military stories

An oral history project honoring veterans, service members and military families is partnering with WMU to record and preserve the stories of local community members.

The StoryCorps Military Voices Initiative and WMU invite veterans to sign up by Wednesday, June 5, to have a one-on-one conversation recorded in July with a family member, friend or colleague.

Participants will have 40 minutes of uninterrupted time to talk to each other about anything that is meaningful to them. StoryCorps will record the conversations on CDs, and with the participants’ permission, archive them at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., so they will be preserved for future generations.

The recording sessions will take place Tuesday through Thursday, July 16-18, on campus at WMU. The station’s studios are located on the first floor of Friedmann Hall, and parking passes will be provided.

To share a story or obtain more information, contact Tracey Quada, WMU director of the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs, at tracey.quada@wmich.edu by June 5.

To learn more, visit StoryCorps at storycorps.org or WMU’s military and veterans affairs website at wmich.edu/military.

Music students snare six major DownBeat awards

For the second year in a row, WMU music students pocketed six coveted awards in DownBeat magazine’s annual student music competition, third most of any college or university worldwide.

No other Michigan university won an award. The University of North Texas and Ohio State each won three awards.

The 2012 games offered thrilling action. (Photo courtesy of Malaysian Midwest Games International)

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“My job is to support the vice president. It’s challenging in a new job. There’s always a learning curve. I’m fortunate, and I have been fortunate in the past, to have a supportive boss and co-workers,” she says.

Curry started in her current position in October, after being an office manager in academic advising for the College of Arts and Sciences for 10 years and previously working in the front desk area at Sincsudece Health Center.

“You go from helping people in the medical field, working with students in advising, and then people who are raising money for the University. It’s three very different environments,” she says.

A native of Kalamazoo, Curry was used to change growing up. Her family moved five times in 11 years before settling back in the Kalamazoo area in Portage, Mich., when she was in high school. She and her husband, Joe, still live in Portage. They have a daughter who is a student at Kalamazoo Valley Community College and plans to transfer to WMU this fall to study geology. Their son is a high school sophomore.

Curry enjoys outdoor activities such as fishing and gardening. The spring is also a key time for the entire extended family to go morel mushroom hunting. Low to the ground and sometimes difficult to find, morel mushrooms can be somewhat elusive in the local woods and brush. Curry says mushroom hunting has become somewhat of a family competition each year.

On Campus with Sarah Curry

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Board of Trustees authorizes new programs, name changes

Three new programs were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees during its April 18 meeting. Trustees also signed off on name changes for five existing academic programs.

New academic programs

• The Master of Arts in Biological Sciences is a course-only degree that complements the existing research-oriented Master of Science in Biological Sciences.
• The Master of Business Administration—Health Care Concentration is a response to the demand for health care leaders with a strong business background.
• The M.A. in Teaching allows students to complete state certification requirements for initial certification. There is a secondary sciences teacher education concentration and, for Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellows only, a secondary mathematics teacher education concentration.

Program name changes

• The Doctor of Philosophy in Paper and Imaging Science and Engineering is now the Ph.D. in Paper and Printing Science.
• The M.S. in Paper and Imaging Science and Engineering is now the M.S. in Paper and Printing Science.
• The Accelerated M.S. in Paper and Imaging Science and Engineering is now the Accelerated M.S. in Paper and Printing Science.

Seinfeld coming to Miller

Comedian Jerry Seinfeld is coming to campus for one performance at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 20, in Miller Auditorium. Purchase tickets online at millerauditorium.com.

Dunn issues statement on saving East Hall

“To those who plead ‘Save East Campus,’ I would say, that is exactly what we are doing. We are following the advice of those who warned us we must act now to save what’s most important, or risk losing it all. To do nothing might quell the angst of some, but nothing might quell the angst of all, the structures, including the jewel in the crown, East Hall.”

Renovation steps outlined

The East Campus hilltop revitalization project kicked off May 20 with the installation of a sign along Oakland Drive that shows an artist’s rendering of what East Hall could look like once the building is renovated. But the overall project will be a lengthy one. Before any significant work can be done, all the buildings involved need to be surveyed for contaminated material and evaluated by a historical architecture expert. Then, bid specifications must be prepared and contractors selected.

Curry issues statement on saving East Hall

The East Campus hilltop revitalization project kicked off May 20 with the installation of a sign along Oakland Drive that shows an artist’s rendering of what East Hall could look like once the building is renovated. But the overall project will be a lengthy one. Before any significant work can be done, all the buildings involved need to be surveyed for contaminated material and evaluated by a historical architecture expert. Then, bid specifications must be prepared and contractors selected.

Also, after legally required notice periods in which no work can be performed, it will take time to do all of the required abatement work. The last step in the process will be to remove the buildings slated for demolition.

The expected timetable is as follows: announcing the project architect by the end of May; scheduling sessions to gather campus and community input in the design process, most likely in June and July; retrieving architectural elements from the affected hilltop buildings so they may be incorporated into the new alumni center; beginning phase I of the demolition process, with West Hall and the Speech and Hearing Center being taken down by early in September; beginning phase II of the demolition process, with North Hall, along with any of East Hall that will be impacted, being taken down after University Archives and Regional History Collections moves into its new home in the Zhang Legacy Collections Center this fall; constructing the alumni center, starting in 2014; and opening the refurbished East Hall in mid-2015.