Construction projects to cause few disruptions

Various improvement projects will continue across campus this summer, but unlike last year, they will cause few disruptions.

The only one that is expected to interfere with normal campus life is the redesign of Fountain Plaza to add more green space, seating and shade and to make the area’s geometric shape less rigid.

Peter Strazdas, associate vice president for facilities management, says a landscape architect as well as a construction manager have been hired for the project, and construction fencing will be installed around the plaza after the June commencement.

“That part of campus will be disrupted until mid-August, but we’ll do as much as possible to minimize it,” Strazdas says. “By early June, we should have a meeting set up with building coordinators in the area and a detailed fencing map ready. And we’ll keep moving the fence in as more areas of the plaza are finished.”

The only other noteworthy disruptions this summer will come from paving work.

The approximate dates for this work are early July through early August for repaving Lot 46 between Sangren Hall and the Siebert Administration Building and mid-July to Aug. 1 for repaving and curb work on West Michigan Avenue from in front of the Bernhard Center to the turnaround.

Among the most noticeable ongoing projects that the campus community will be able to keep tabs on this summer is Phase II of the Western View Apartments.

The work will add two apartment buildings and a clubhouse to the popular new housing complex when they go online this fall.

The complex is designed for single students and public presentations.

Emergency communication system is changing

WMU will switch to a new emergency alert system this month to increase both the speed and the number of communication options available to alert students and employees when a critical situation is unfolding on campus.

The new product, which is scheduled for activation Tuesday, June 11, is by Rave Mobile Safety. It employs preprogrammed text or voice messages that will deliver information either to a cell phone or a landline. The new system will deliver emergency information to any currently enrolled WMU student or active WMU employee.

The Rave system will operate under the University’s established WMU Alert name, notes Cam Vossen, emergency management.

Anyone who has already registered a preferred emergency number with WMU Alert will have that number automatically transferred to the new system, and this number will be the one used for emergency notifications.

Vossen says the University is urging all enrolled students and active employees to activate, update or verify the phone preference listed in their WMU Alert account by following instructions found in the alert system.

Candidates for education dean to make presentations

Five finalists for the position of dean of the College of Education and Human Development will visit campus Friday through Thursday, June 7-13, to meet with faculty, staff and students and make public presentations.

The candidates will make public presentations from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in 2020 Fetzer Center. Their names and current positions along with the days of their presentations are:

- Sandra Cooley Nichols, head of the University of Alabama Department of Special Education and Multiple Abilities, Friday, June 7; and
- Ming Li, interim executive director of the Ohio University Center for International Studies, Thursday, June 13.
Tickets on sale now for upcoming seasons

Miller Auditorium and the University Theatre have announced their 2013-14 lineups. The season will end with "The King Stag," Carlos Gozzi's fairytale for all ages, April 3 through 13. In between, patrons can choose to see everything from "Pride & Prejudice" and an innovative documentary-style play to perennial favorites such as "Ragtime" and "9 to 5."

Buying a season subscription is the best way to receive discounted tickets for Miller as well as University Theatre shows. Both are on sale now, along with Miller's Flex Pass subscription. Single-show tickets at Miller will go on sale several weeks before each performance.

To learn more about the upcoming seasons, employee benefits or tickets, visit Miller Auditorium or call (269) 387-2300 or (800) 228-9858 and visit University Theatre at wmich.edu/theatre or call (269) 387-6222.

Web developer tapped for electronic communication role

Daniel E. Lobelle has been named director of electronic communication, with responsibility for content on the University’s website, mass email, social media and other forms of electronic communication.

Lobelle, who has worked under contract with WMU since 2011, is the developer of a Drupal-based enterprisewide content management system for the University’s Web presence. Since mid-2012, websites across the University have been migrated into their sites within the CMS, Lobelle will continue his CMS development role and oversee his unit’s other areas of responsibility. A 2004 graduate of WMU's computer science program, Lobelle is a professional with more than a decade of experience in information technology. His background includes positions as an IT specialist with the Kalamazoo Center for Medical Studies (now the WMU School of Medicine), IT operations manager for engineering firm Carl Walker Inc., and senior network administrator for West Michigan Heart. He also has been a contractor, freelance Web developer and small business owner.

Electronic communication is part of the Office of University Relations, which also includes news services, media relations, creative services, design, marketing, publications and related areas.

Lobelle replaces Tenya Darlach, who had served in the director’s role for a year before stepping down earlier this year. She had served in the director’s role for a year before stepping down earlier this year. She was the primary manager of a field education office with more than a decade of experience in social work and related areas.

Lobelle replaces Tenya Darlach, who had served in the director’s role for a year before stepping down earlier this year. She continues to work part-time with WMU, focusing on special projects. Other members of the electronic communication team are Cara Barnes, assistant director of electronic communication; and Bradley Horstman, Web manager.

National story spotlights WMU's contributions to the arts

WMU garnered the most attention in a national story published last month that takes an in-depth look at the contributions Michigan colleges and universities make to the arts. The seven-page feature, "Arts Patrons for the 21st Century," ran in the Chronicle of Higher Education's May 10 issue. It can be found online at chronicle.com/article/Arts-Patrons-for-the-21st/139037. In that first-person piece, writer Lawrence Biemiller argues that higher education institutions keep the arts alive—and thriving—in an era of uncertain support.

Biemiller came to that conclusion after attending some of the 3,000 arts events WMU annually stages and by also attending various events at Michigan State University, the University of Michigan, Lawrence Technological University and several Kalamazoo area arts organizations.

Since 2012, Jones has worked in the social work field education office with Field Education Coordinator Jennifer Harrison, to manage, place and monitor more than 300 undergraduate and graduate students in field internships. Jones has used her skills to help advance the School of Social Work in several ways. With her abilities in database and website management, she led an effort to compile years of paper files into a searchable electronic database. Also, she is the primary manager of a field education E-learning course, which connects students, faculty and field instructor.

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.

Obituary

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

Betty J. Wellenkamp, a former second cook in the Bernhard Center Dining Services, died May 25. She was 92. Visit williamsgeraffuneral.com to leave an online condolence.
Broncoland video game released during student orientation

An online video game that uses 3D gaming technology to introduce current and prospective students to success skills they’ll need in college was unveiled June 3 during the first day of WMU’s 2013 new student orientation. The Broncoland Game is built on the same technology and 3D depiction of the WMU campus used in a groundbreaking online campus tour launched two years ago. That site—the Broncoland Tour—now attracts some 1,000 visitors monthly.

The video game allows players to connect with the campus while teaching them essential skills that will help them be successful during their first year in college. Using the game, student-players attend classes, eat and work out, make friends, do homework, attend events, and race toward the end of a 10-week semester. Project Director Kevin Abbott, information technology, says the game is designed to allow students to use a format they enjoy to experience some common problems they might face as first-year students. As they play the game, they learn which campus services and offices are available to help them through such problems.

“We wanted to give students a tool that would help them avoid the common first-semester pitfalls and be ready to excel when they arrive on campus for classes,” Abbott says.

Abbott and a team of more than a dozen students did the programming; art, visual and game design; interface design; and writing and audio production necessary to bring the game to life. Through the work on both the tour and the game, the team has developed a 3D campus that includes more than 50 buildings, roads, sidewalks and landscaping.

Information about the game can be viewed and the game can be played on a Web browser or downloaded for Mac or Windows computers at wmich.edu/broncoland.

The Broncoland Tour and Gameuly, are products of the WMU Millennium Project, which recognizes that learning styles and educational goals are different for different generations of students. The project aims to develop more effective strategies for meeting the needs of millennium-generation students—those attending college in the 21st century.

For more information about the Broncoland tour or game, contact Project Director Kevin Abbott, who also is a member of the WMU 21st Century Student Committee, at kevin.abbott@wmich.edu or (269) 387-5125.

Nonbargaining groups hold elections, select new leadership for 2013-14

The University’s two nonbargaining groups have selected their leadership for 2013-14. Both the Professional Support Staff Organization and the Administration Professional Association represent a specific set of Staff Compensation System employees.

Professional Support Staff Organization

Officers for the new year’s Executive Board are: president, Kris Kent, maintenance services; vice president, Carol Morris-Mier, College of Education and Human Development; secretary, Pat Wilcox, payroll and disbursements; and treasurer, Nancy Johnson, Office of the Associate Vice President for Finance.

Serving on the board as members at large are: Kandsie-Tois Ross, human resources; Tracie Sherburn, accounting; Bekki Spanjer, grants and contracts; Paige Warner, first-year experience; and Jan Watson, institutional research.

Administrative Professional Association

Officers for the new year’s Executive Board are: president, Faith Wicklund, Miller Auditorium; vice president, Chris Voss, University Recreation; treasurer, Lynda Hunt, development and alumni relations; corresponding secretary, Suzanne Beal Dushey, development and alumni relations; and recording secretary, Laura Vine, business services.

Serving on the board as representatives of WMU’s academic, administrative, business and finance, or student affairs areas are: Liz Teviotdale, Medieval Institute; Mario Gallbreath, information technology; Randy Ott, Center for Academic Success Programs; Kitty Scheifers, College of Health and Human Services; Julie Nemire, music; Roxann “Roxie” Swank, College of Education and Human Development; Mary Ramlow, Evaluation Center; Michelle Loedeman, accounts receivable; Julie Lenczycki, Facilities Management; Nick Griffith, investments and endowment management; Ashley Les, student affairs; and Wayne Pushie, student affairs. Serving as a past president is Amy Seth, University Recreation.

People are needed to serve on the membership, events and professional development committees. If interested, contact Chris Voss at chris.voss@wmich.edu or (269) 387-3772.

MOR E MONEY FOR MSA RESEARCH—Members of an Ohio family returned May 30 for the second consecutive year to bring to campus money their community has raised to fund promising research on multiple system atrophy—MSA. Frank Cervone of Fairborn, Ohio, is dying from MSA, but he’s working to raise awareness of the rare neurological degenerative disease and make sure it will be defeated. He and his colleagues brought a check for $10,000—nearly triple last year’s amount—to fund research being done by Charles Ide, biological sciences, and his students. About $4,000 of the funds were raised through an annual benefit race organized by the Dayton Barefoot Runners. Club members Doug Brandt and Trissa King, accompanied Cervone and his wife to Kalamazoo to present the check to Ide.

More from the May 30 story...

The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 40, 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service during June.

40 Years—Marjory L. Belcher, College of Education and Human Development; Jerry G. Kreuze, accountancy, and Tim F. Scheu, finance and commercial law.

35 Years—Lynda Hunt, development and alumni relations; Steven A. Miller, School of Art; and Dorilee J. Schieble, history; Martin J. Orsolini, Facilities Management; and Rachel M. Strassner, intercollegiate athletics.

30 Years—Monica J. Orsolini, Facilities Management; Gregory A. Peet, University Libraries; and Wayne M. Moore, University Libraries; Gregory A. Peet, University Libraries; and Cynthia L. Trout, intercollegiate athletics.

25 Years—James M. Hillenbrand, speech pathology and audiology; Neil Lewinski, information technology; and Brian E. Shade, information technology.

20 Years—Paul Steven Sier, Frostic School of Art.

15 Years—Jeffrey D. Alexander, transportation services; Heidi Douglas-Vogley, speech pathology and audiology; Timothy E. LaLonde, information technology; Cecelia M. Moore, University Libraries; Gregory A. Peet, University Libraries; and Sylvia L. Trout, intercollegiate athletics.

10 Years—Tania L. Evarachia, multicultural affairs.

Five Years—Sherri J. Alvey, Sine Die Health Center; Adam E. Bodnar, intercollegiate athletics; Danielle N. Field, Haworth College of Business; Carson Leftwich, Graduate College; Monica J. Orsolini, Facilities Management; Caroline M. Ray, Haworth College of Business; Dorilee J. Schieble, history; Martin William Schultz, information technology; and Rachel M. Strassner, intercollegiate athletics.
Sarmad Strazdas says information about how much electricity Sangren Hall generates can be collected starting Monday, June 10, with the first set of readings revealed Monday, June 17. “By fall, monitors set up in the building’s lobby will display that information in real time,” he adds. “We’re expecting up to a quarter megawatt of renewable energy to be produced from these solar panels.”

The Reverse 911 system will remain in place through the transition to the new Rave system. Additional details about the new system will be provided after June 11.

**Construction projects to cause few disruptions**

Construction projects to cause few disruptions continued from page 1

Emergency communication system is changing continued from page 1

**On Campus** with Tracey Lawie

“I’ve been a theatre buff ever since I was very young,” confesses Tracey Lawie, “so the best part of my job is being able to work in an industry I love.”

Lawie, director of marketing and development for Miller Auditorium, caught the theatre bug when she was in a sixth-grade musical. That led her to perform throughout high school as well as to volunteer at shows while a communication major at Olivet College and go on to earn a master’s degree in arts management from Wayne State University.

After grad school, Lawie worked at a Detroit theatre for a year before joining WMU’s theatre department in 1996 as director of arts management. She became Miller’s sales coordinator in 1999 and was promoted to her current post just three years later.

The job put her in charge of public relations, media relations and all event marketing. She also assists with programming, writes grants, and oversees subscription and single-ticket sales, promotions, corporate sponsorships, and the Friends of Miller donor program.

A routine part of her job is getting cast members of popular shows to TV interviews—as early as 5:30 a.m.—and attending the promotional and meet-and-greet events she organizes, be they in the auditorium after shows or around town on weekends or holidays.

“We work really hard and long hours, but it’s always fun. You get to meet wonderful people, and there’s never a dull moment. People love working at Miller—they don’t leave,” Lawie says. “And the casts and crews love coming here. They talk about how welcoming people are here and what a beautiful theatre and campus and city we have.”

Among her biggest challenges are doing things well with a small staff and budget and finding ways to publicize Miller offerings on campus. As a reminder, she notes that employees get a 15 percent discount on shows Miller itself presents and the best way for employees to get news of special promotions and schedule additions is to join the E-club.

Lawie has taught a First-Year Seminar class for four years and has helped out with Everyone Counts. Off campus, she has been involved with the Borgess Run campaign and New York’s Broadway League, the Broadway theatre industry’s national trade association. She has a college-age daughter and lives in Kalamazoo with her husband, Wes, whom she married last year. The couple love to ride motorcycles and visit Grand Cayman Island. Lawie is working on getting certified in scuba diving and ran her first half marathon in May. Now, she is training to do her first triathlon in August.

**STRENGTHENING TIES—President John M. Dunn**

Dunn spent two weeks overseas in May connecting with University partners and friends. His trip took him first to Beijing to meet with WMU’s Confucius Institute partners at the Beijing Language and Cultural University. His next stop was Japan, where he met with WMU students studying in the country, visited several universities, and attended and spoke at the reunion of Kalamazoo Kai, a group of Japanese who have ties to the University or Kalamazoo.

During the reunion, Dunn, right, met with the group’s key founder, Shunichi Fujishima, left. (Photo courtesy of Kalamazoo Kai)