Employee mixer scheduled for Oct. 4

A Fridays with Friends mixer and reception will be held immediately following the Academic Convocation until 6 p.m. in the Richmond Center for Visual Arts lobby.

Road closures part of homecoming

Campus road closures related to the Homecoming Campus Classic will begin at 8 a.m. and continue until 10:15 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 12. Roads affected are Oliver Street from Stadium Drive to Western Avenue, 9 to 10:15 a.m.; West Michigan Avenue from Western Avenue to Sangren Hall, and Gillson Avenue from Western Avenue to North Dormitory Road, 9 to 9:45 a.m.; and Valley Drive, Rankin Avenue at Business Court and Western Avenue leading toward the Student Recreation Center, 9 to 10:15 a.m.

Gymnastics school accepting students

Registration continues for the final session of the 2013 Bronco Gymnastics School, which is open to recreational gymnasts of all ages and skill levels. The session meets from 6 to 7 p.m. Thursdays starting today and running through Nov. 21. The cost is $115, with children of WMU employees receiving a $10 discount. Visit http://bit.ly/1s5jlgt or call (269) 387-3129 for details.

LBGTA career mentors being sought

Local professionals supportive of lesbian, bisexual, gay and transgender students and their allies are encouraged to participate in WMU's new LBGTA Career Mentorship Program. The program officially kicks off at 6 to 8 p.m. at the WMU Alumni Association will recognize all past recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Awards program.

In honor of the latter milestone, a public reception will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 11, in the Bernhard Center's East Ballroom. During the ticketed event, the WMU Alumni Association will recognize all past recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Award. In addition to entertainment and refreshments, the event will feature a short program.

Search underway to find associate dean for honors college

A search to find a new associate dean for the Lee Honors College is underway.

The position has been posted under faculty and staff positions on the WMU Human Resources website at wmich.edu/hr/jobs. The posting includes a complete job description.

Edwin Martini, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, is leading the search committee.

WMU celebrates 90 years of homecoming

With two of the University's most festive occasions just around the corner, there's a flurry of activity on campus.

Homecoming week runs from Monday through Sunday, Oct. 7-13, while family weekend takes place Friday through Sunday, Oct. 11-13, to coincide with homecoming's biggest events.

And many of those events are free or offered at a low cost and open to the public.

Three anniversaries being celebrated

This year, WMU is celebrating its 90th homecoming and 75th year of hosting football games in Waldo Stadium. It's also marking the 50th year of the Distinguished Alumni Awards program.

In honor of the latter milestone, a public reception will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 11, in the Bernhard Center's East Ballroom. During the ticketed event, the WMU Alumni Association will recognize all past recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Awards program.

In addition to entertainment and refreshments, the event will feature a short program.

Academic convolution gets 2013-14 off to good start

WMU will formally kick off the new academic year Friday, Oct. 4, with an Academic Convocation that will honor standout faculty and staff members and provide a platform for President John M. Dunn to present his seventh State of the University address.

During the event, which begins at 2 p.m. in the Dalton Center Recital Hall, Dunn will review the University's accomplishments, outline upcoming opportunities and initiatives, and set the direction for the coming year.

The traditional gathering will also celebrate 13 faculty and staff members for outstanding service and achievement. The employees will receive some of WMU's most prestigious accolades: the Distinguished Faculty Scholar, Distinguished Service, Distinguished Teaching, Emerging Faculty Scholars and Make a Difference awards.

Held during the opening weeks of fall semester classes, the annual convocation is a signature event to welcome faculty, staff and students back to campus. A reception, which also doubles as a campuswide gathering for employees called Fridays With Friends, will be held immediately following the convocation in the adjacent Richmond Center for Visual Arts.
Around campus and beyond

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

Speakers addressing climate change
About 20 public presentations and other activities related to climate change are being held on and off campus this fall. Now underway, this series of free public events is part of an interdisciplinary effort to raise awareness about the consequences of climate change and ways of responding to these consequences. Visit wmich.edu/news/2013/09/9603 for details.

Entrepreneurs to make presentation
Andrew and Kathleen Widner, owners of The Spirit of Kalamaooz, will speak at 8 a.m. Friday, Oct. 4, in 2150 Schneider Hall. The Entrepreneurship Forum event is free and open to the public and begins with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Reservations are required and can be made at wmich.edu/business/esperv or (269) 387-5050.

Event supports writing award
Eleven poets and writers with ties to Michigan will come together Saturday, Oct. 5, to read their work and celebrate the life and contributions of author, editor and publisher Robert J. Bixby, a WMU alumnus who died last October. The event will be held at 2 p.m. in the Richmond Center for Visual Arts. Refreshments will be served, and a book signing will follow the reading. All of the participating writers will donate the proceeds from sales of their books to help fund the Robert J. Bixby Award in Creative Writing, established this spring with a gift from Bixby’s widow.

WMUK starts fall fundraising campaign Oct. 12
The University’s public radio station WMUK-FM will begin its annual fall fundraising campaign Saturday, Oct. 12, with a goal of raising $160,000.

The radio station, located at 102.1 on the FM dial, uses membership contributions and additional gifts to produce local programs and purchase programs such as Morning Edition, “All Things Considered,” “Wait...Don’t Tell Me” and “From the Top.”

WMUK offers supporters the opportunity to become members and to have their names acknowledged on-air. Contributions start as low as $25 per month and $300 per year. Additional benefits are available for donors at higher levels.

Visit wmich.edu/wmuk for more information.

Physicist leads NSF-funded project
Manuel Baustista is heading an innovative astrophysics project being funded by a $602,000 National Science Foundation grant. The project will contribute to understanding various galactic and extragalactic objects. It aims to develop reliable, quantitative modeling of opacities and spectra of singly ionized iron-like species, an effort of paramount importance for 21st-century astrophysics because numerical stellar and galactic research areas depend on such modeling.

Baustista developed the compelling grant proposal with Thomas Goreczyca, physics, and researchers from NASA, the University of Mons in Belgium, the Lund Observatory in Sweden, the Max Planck Institute in Germany and the Venezuelan Institute for Scientific Research.

His team will be expanded from its original 11 members to include a postdoctoral student, a graduate student and several undergraduates, all from WMU.

Translation is focus of new journal
David Kutzko and Molly Lynde-Rechcia, world languages and literatures, are playing an instrumental role in the launch of a new WMU journal. Titled Transference, the annual publication translates poetry that has been written in languages other than English.

Kutzko and Lynde-Rechcia have been selected by the executive editor and chief and department colleague Jenaba D. Wagg to provide editorial assistance. The translations were done by people from across the country, each of whom presents a commentary on the art and process of translating.

The first Transference issue came out this summer and is posted at scholarworks.wmich.edu/Transference. This initial offering will also be available as a print publication. Submissions for the second issue are being accepted through Jan. 5.

Professor co-edits new volume
Andrew Targowski, business information systems, has co-edited “Spirituality and Civilization Sustainability in the 21st Century” with Marek J. Celinski, a Toronto psychologist.

The book was published in August by NOVA Science Publishers. It investigates the state of civilization in the 21st century, which is characterized by Western civilization transforming into global civilization and the Great Recession triggered by the U.S. financial crisis in 2008.

Twenty authors, some WMU faculty members and all members of the International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations, investigate human spirituality and whether its actual role of development is able to steer the sustainable development of civilization.

Graduate fair scheduled for Oct. 7
Options for advanced studies can be explored at the Graduate and Professional School Fair from 3 to 6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 7, in the Bernhard Center Ballroom. Pre-registration is not required. More than 50 graduate, law and medical schools in Michigan and throughout the United States will participate in the fair.

Attendees seeking tips on how to apply to graduate, law or medical schools may participate in one of three workshops held from 3 to 4 p.m. on the second floor of the Bernhard Center near the fair’s main exhibit hall. No registration is required for the workshops. Visit wmich.edu/career/events for more information.

Slavery specialist to present talk
Brett Rushforth, a prize-winning expert on slavery in the Great Lakes region, will speak at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 10, in 1035 Fetzer Center. The talk is titled “Making Slavery Work: Ideologies, Economies, and Communities in the French Atlantic World.” A free reception starting at 5:15 p.m. will precede the talk.

Race relations expert to visit campus
Visiting artist David Pilgrim will make a presentation at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 17, in the Richmond Center for Visual Arts. Pilgrim is vice president for diversity and inclusion at Ferris State University and an expert on multiculturalism, diversity and race relations. He is the founder and curator of the Jim Crow Museum of Racism Memorabilia—a 7,000-piece collection of racist artifacts at Ferris that is used to teach tolerance.

Grad student open house set
WMU-Grand Rapids will hold an open house from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 9, at 2333 E. Belkline Ave. S.E. in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Attendees will be able to learn about available graduate degree programs in management, engineering and human resources.

Register at wmich.edu/gradgrandrapids/openhouse.

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.
Leading faculty members earn Universitywide scholar awards

Four outstanding faculty members will receive WMU’s 2012-13 Distinguished Emerging Scholar and Distinguished Faculty Scholar awards. They will be honored during the Academic Convocation at 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 4, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall.

Distinguished Emerging Scholar Award

This award acknowledges the accomplishments of WMU faculty members who are among the rising stars in U.S. higher education. It celebrates the contributions of those who are in the first decade of their WMU careers and have achieved national recognition and demonstrated outstanding promise to achieve renown in their continuing work.

• Michael A. Famiano is an associate professor of physics and an expert in nuclear and astrophysics. Famiano joined the faculty in 2005 and recently entered the private sector after eight years at WMU. He has written 47 refereed publications and has been the recipient of more than $2 million in research grants and contracts to support his work.

• Kristina Wirtz is an associate professor of anthropology and a linguistic and cultural anthropologist whose work has been vastly influential. Her contributions have been so great that one literary journal editor categorized her WMU award as a long-deserved acknowledgement of her significance to her field.

• Michael A. Famiano

• Kristina Wirtz

WMU project earns state award

The Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project has received a State History Award in the educational programs category. It was presented by the Historical Society of Michigan during the society’s annual Meeting and State History Conference Sept. 27 and 28. The State History Awards are the highest recognition given by the state’s official historical society.

Obituaries

Mary Ann LeDoux, a utility food worker in the Valley 2 Dining Service, died Aug. 29. She was 48. LeDoux had worked at the University for six years.

Marilyn E. Middleton, a former teacher of extension courses, died Sept. 14. She was 88. Middleton, wife of the late Professor Emeritus Owen B. Middleton, was a member of the University Dames.

Arthur W.J. Stoddart, emeritus in mathematics, died Sept. 6. He was 79. Stoddart joined the faculty in 1967 and retired in 1996 after 29 years of service.

Willie J. Mitchell Jr., a supervisor in building custodial and support service, died suddenly Sept. 16. He was 40. Mitchell had worked at the University for seven years.

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Where are you going?

WMU students and the public can take their first step toward planning an overseas learning experience as part of their degree program by attending the annual Study Abroad Fair.

“Where are you going?” is the theme for the 2013 fair, which is set for noon to 4 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 9, on campus in the Bernhard Center’s East Ballroom. It will showcase the more than 70 programs WMU offers in some 30 countries.

“Each year, the Study Abroad Fair enables more than 800 students and community members to explore the study abroad opportunities available to them worldwide,” says Jane Blyth, WMU director of study abroad and global programs.

“It is a popular event that has influenced many to embark on a study abroad course. In fact, our study abroad fair is often the first step in a life-altering journey of exploration and discovery for many of our students.”

On hand to answer questions will be students who have studied as well as interned abroad, professors and others who coordinate programs and courses around the globe, and study abroad specialists from WMU Study Abroad.
**Confucius Center offers classes, welcomes new teachers**

The Confucius Institute at WMU is accepting registrations for fall Chinese culture courses that begin the week of Oct. 14.

The low-cost courses are open to the public. A half-price discount is offered to senior citizens and WMU students; WMU employees attend tuition free. A materials fee applies to some courses. For details or to register, visit wmuconfucius.org/cultureclass, write wmu-confucius-cc@wmich.edu or call (269) 387-3784.

Meanwhile, the institute recently welcomed a new group of Chinese teachers and volunteers to provide language, history and culture courses in the Forest Hills and Portage public schools as well as the Kalamazoo Montessori School.

The Chinese teachers and volunteers, all of whom come from Beijing Language and Culture University, will be in Michigan for periods ranging from one to three years and are formally trained in teaching Chinese as a second language.

They represent the continuation of WMU’s program that began in 2009 and today reaches several thousand students across Southwest Michigan.

**Clinic slates drop-in events**

Employees, students and area residents can get expert advice about injury treatment and rehabilitation during drop-in events being sponsored by the Sports Medicine Clinic in the Sindecuse Health Center.

From 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays, clinic staffers will be in the Student Recreation Center’s lobby Oct. 16, College of Health and Human Services Building’s student commons Nov. 13, and Bernhard Center’s Bronco Mall near PNC Bank Dec. 4.

They will answer people’s questions about training aches and pains as well as other issues, including how a sports medicine approach to treatment allows people to return to activity as soon as possible after an injury.

No appointment is needed. For more information, call (269) 387-3248 or visit wmich.edu/healthcenter/sportsmedicine.