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This week’s severe weather resulted in two important events being rescheduled.

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The session is the second in a series of three such events and will feature design professionals from TowerFinkster, a Kalamazoo architectural and engineering firm selected last year to guide the renovation, and the Hopkins Burns Design Studio in Ann Arbor, that specializes in historic preservation.

Also rescheduled is the Academy of Lifelong Learning’s January Thaw/Semester Seminars under Services. If unable to register online, call the scheduling group at TIAA-CREF representatives will be on campus thermostats to 55 degrees, the greater the energy savings.

The University began lowering building temperatures campuswide from Dec. 14 to Jan. 5 avoided $194,257 of energy expenditures. The colder the outside temperature, the greater the savings when you lower the inside building temperature," notes Peter J. Strazdas, associate vice president for facilities management.

“Past, Present and Future: Living the Dream” is the theme of this year’s MLK celebration. Many scheduled events are free and open to the public.

They begin with a birthday celebration at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15, at Kalamazoo Valley Community College’s Texas Township Campus and conclude with a career-related panel discussion at noon Wednesday, Feb. 26, at WMU.

Major events taking place this month are:

- Friday, Jan. 17, a “Redeem the Dream: All Hands on Deck” community reflection, 11 a.m., Stetson Chapel, Kalamazoo College.
- Saturday, Jan. 18, a public school students’ visitation, 9 a.m. registration, East Ballroom, Bernhard Center. Open to middle and high school students and parents and guardians

from the Kalamazoo Public Schools and surrounding school districts.

- Sunday, Jan. 19, the 28th annual Northside Ministerial Alliance Martin Luther King Jr. celebration, 5 p.m., Gallilee Baptist Church, 1216 N. Westnedge Ave. Keynote speaker

Alumni center to incorporate core of East Hall only

WMU officials, honoring a previously announced Dec. 31 deadline for setting design parameters for the new WMU alumni center, have made a final decision to focus renovation only on the original core of East Hall.

A decision about the final building configuration was made so that design work could be finished in anticipation of a spring 2014 start to construction.

The configuration chosen will turn the University’s birthplace into a center that reflects national best practices, preserves the building’s designation as part of the National Register of Historic Places and incorporates a high level of sustainable building features.

Construction is expected to be complete by summer 2015. The budget, set at $21.4 million, includes $15 million borrowed by the University as well as $1 million donated by the WMU Alumni Association.

The remaining $5 million-plus will come from additional private gifts. Funds raised in excess of the project budget will go into landscaping for the site.

East Hall was completed in 1905. The north and south wings of the building, built in 1908 and 1909, respectively, will be demolished before construction on the alumni center begins, with the likely timetable for demolition to be late February or early March.

Building setbacks net about $200,000 in energy-cost savings

Temperature setbacks in campus buildings from Dec. 14 to Jan. 5 avoided $194,257 of energy expenditures.

The University began lowering building temperatures Dec. 14 at the end of winter semester, particularly in residence halls.

Then with a single mouse click Dec. 24, business and finance Vice President Jan Van Der Kley used WMU’s sophisticated building energy management system to dial back more than 3,000 campus thermostats to 55 degrees for the annual eight-day holiday closure. This closure was expected to avoid about $140,000 in energy costs.

“We need to be good stewards of the University’s resources and a model for campus sustainability,” said Van Der Kley as she dialed back temperatures campuswide from the University’s Campus Facilities command center.

That setback affected 75 campus buildings and some 5,000 pieces of mechanical equipment. The temperature reduction was carefully planned to avoid impacting animal and research spaces on campus.

“The colder the outside temperature, the greater the savings when you lower the inside building temperature,” notes Peter J. Strazdas, associate vice president for facilities management.

“You really can lower your home energy bill by lowering your thermostat at night and when you go on vacation in the winter.”

Activities at WMU and across the broader Kalamazoo community are planned for January and February to honor slain civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr.

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Spring Chinese culture classes slated
The Confucius Institute at WMU is accepting registrations for spring Chinese culture classes that begin the week of Jan. 20. The low-cost classes are open to the public, taught in English and meet once a week for a personal enrichment rather than academic credit.

A half-price tuition discount is offered to participants age 55 and older and WMU students. All WMU full- and part-time employees may participate in classes tuition-free. Some classes change all participants a fee for materials, and those with low enrollment may be canceled.

Spring 2014 offerings are Basic Chinese Painting, Basic Chinese Language, Chinese Minority Dance, Tai Chi, Intermediate Chinese Painting, Chinese Characters, Chinese Calligraphy and Intermediate Chinese Language. More information is available at wmuconfucius.org, wmu-confucius@wmich.edu or (269) 387-3784.

Lee talks to focus on uncertainty
The Lee Honors College’s spring Lyceum Lecture Series, called “Living With Uncertainty,” will begin Jan. 15 and continue through April 9. Topics to be discussed will encompass areas such as economics, politics, education and the arts as well as explore factors such as decision making, and information availability and accuracy.

The 12 multidisciplinary talks are free and open to the public and will be held from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesdays in the Lee Honors College Building.

Attendees are welcome to bring a brown bag lunch. Not all will be offered March 5 due to the spring recess. Visit wmich.edu/honors/lectures for more information.

Sichel lecture series resumes Jan. 22
The 2013-14 Sichel Lecture Series continues Wednesday, Jan. 22, with a talk titled “Economic Development from a Historical Perspective: The Origin and Nature of Good Institutions” at 3 p.m. in 2028 Brown Hall.

The program will be presented by Avner Greif, professor of economics at Stanford University and winner of a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship.

The series, now celebrating its 50th anniversary, is bringing six high-profile economists to campus this spring. The theme for 2013-14 is “Award-winning Economists Speak on Contemporary Economic Issues.”

First spring faculty-staff mixer set
The first Fridays With Friends faculty-staff mixer of the spring semester will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 24, in the Gilmore Theatre Atrium. This free event features light hors d’oeuvres and a cash bar.

Registration starting for lifelong learning academy classes, trips
Cuba today, dark humor, Spanish conversation, outdoor sculpture, the Republican Party and U.S. women in the 19th century are just a few of the topics that will be explored during the spring session of WMU’s Academy of Lifelong Learning.

Twenty-nine courses are being offered this semester, the largest number since the academy was formed in 2011. Three special classes have been scheduled in collaboration with the Gilmore International Keyboard Festival and a five-week seminar on poverty reduction in Kalamazoo is being offered in cooperation with WMU’s new University-Community Empowerment Center.

The academy also has planned several one-day excursions as well as a six-day trip to Minneapolis and a two-day golfing trip. Registration for most classes and trips began Jan. 6 for members of the Academy of Lifelong Learning. Registration for non-members opens Thursday, Jan. 23.

The Academy, developed under the auspices of Extended University Programs, provides low-cost, short-term, non-credit learning experiences for adults in an informal and stimulating environment without exams or grades. Academy faculty members are volunteers. Some are retired teachers while others are experts from the local community.

The spring courses brochure is available at wmich.edu/ocfcampus/lifelong or by calling Extended University Programs at (269) 387-4200, Visit wmich.edu/extended/reducepoverty for more information about the poverty reduction seminar.

Jobs
Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources website at wmich.edu/hr/jobs. Please note that applications must be submitted online by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included with each posting.

Professors earn statewide awards
Debra Lindstrom and Jaclyn West-Frazier, occupational therapy, were awarded Distinguished Service Awards during the Michigan Occupational Therapy Association meeting in October.

The awards honor MiOTA members for their continuing and outstanding contributions to the development, growth and process of MiOTA.

Lindstrom also was named to the association’s Roster of Fellows, a highly prestigious award that recognizes MiOTA members who have contributed significantly to the education and professional development of members by using special skills or knowledge in therapeutic practice, education, research or administration.

Shakespeare expert writes new book
Grace Tiffany, English, has written a new novel that explores the life of a female writer in the age of Shakespeare. Titled PAINT, the book is based on the life of Emilia Lanier, an early 17th-century poet.

It has been described as both poignant and hilarious and was published in October by the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies. More information is available at http://acmrs.org/publications/catalog/paint.

A WMU faculty member since 2003, Tiffany teaches Shakespeare and Renaissance literature and earned WMU’s Distinguished Teaching Award in 2010.

She has written five historical novels set in the Middle Ages or the English Renaissance. Her fiction has been honored by the American Library Association and by Book Sense 76, the “best books” list of the association of American independent bookstores.

Project team receives national honor
Amy Wagenfeld, occupational therapy, was one of three faculty advisors on a project involving University of Washington students that received a Student Honor Award in the community service category during the annual American Society of Landscape Architects conference in November.

The project addressed the unique needs of elderly Japanese American residents by integrating therapeutic and universal design features into the Nikkei Manor Assisted Living Center Ichi-go Ichi-e (“a moment in time”) Garden in Seattle.

Wagenfeld, an adjunct faculty member at WMU, has a landscape design consultation practice and is certified in health care garden design.

She is on the review board of two occupational therapy journals and was the lead author of the recently published article, “Collaborative Design: Outdoor Environments for Veterans with PTSD.”
WMU Board of Trustees approves retirements of 12 faculty, seven members

University trustees approved 19 employee retirements and five faculty resignations during their Dec. 5 meeting.

All of the faculty members retiring are doing so with merit status. Their names, positions, years of continuous service and effective dates of retirement are: Nora Berrah, physics, 23 years, effective Aug. 31; Dwayne E. Channell, mathematics, 35 years, effective April 30; John Gregory Fitzgerald, University Libraries, 35 years, effective June 30; Marion W. “Buddy” Gray, history, 18 years, effective April 30; Barbara L. Harris, teaching, learning and educational studies, 43 years, effective April 30, 2018; James W. Kamman, mechanical and aerospace engineering, 22 years, effective Dec. 31; Thomas L. Kent, English, 15 years, effective May 1, 2019; Richard G. Long, blindness and low vision studies, 21 years, effective June 1, 2019; Donna M. Ring, University Libraries, 35 years, effective Aug. 31; Leo J. Stevenson, finance and commercial law, 38 years, effective Aug. 31; Susan Weinger, social work, 26 years, effective April 30, 2019; and Allen Zagarrell, anthropology, 29 years, effective April 30, 2019.

The faculty members retiring are: Linda K. Cleland, Smedes Health Center, 16 years, effective Oct. 29, 2019; Leon J. Coleman, building custodial and support services, 35 years, effective Oct. 31, 2019; Judy K. Dinda, building custodial and support services, 33 years, effective Dec. 31, 2019; Cheryl L. Edgar, business information systems, 12 years, effective Jan. 5; Patricia A. Evans, University Recreation, 22 years, effective Dec. 31, 2019; Margaret T. Magallon, building custodial and support services, 15 years, effective Jan. 1; and Rosalie J. Nelsen, development and alumni relations, 26 years, effective Dec. 31, 2019.

The faculty members resigning are: Ann Gribbin, family and consumer sciences, effective Dec. 22, 2019; Andreas Rudolph Regelsberger, world languages and literatures, effective Dec. 22, 2019; Steven Tkachuk, aviation, effective Sept. 23, 2020; Alan H. Wuoma, psychology, effective Aug. 22, 2021; and Ruth Zielinski, nursing, effective Dec. 22, 2021.

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

40 Years—Dr. Betty A. Kocher, president’s office.
35 Years—Donna M. Ring, University Libraries, and Ruby Wilson, building custodial and support services.
30 Years—Lynn C. Kelly-Albertson, Career and Student Employment Services.
25 Years—Joyce A. Alexander, payroll and disbursements; Stephen C. Brumbaugh, building custodial and support services; Michelle E. Hruska, provost’s office; Cherie S. Neumann, building custodial and support services; Allan C. Poole, information technology; and John J. Rook, maintenance services.
20 Years—Shahla Bryant, Burnham Dining Service; Shari Glaser, Parent and Family Programs; Shannon K. Landsis, Fetzer Center; Tammy M. Miller, building custodial and support services; and Elizabeth Whitten, special education and literacy studies.
15 Years—Mervyn J. Elliott, College of Aviation; Thomas C. Grossman, College of Aviation; Gary N. Hubbard, University Libraries; Kim L. Violette, Valley Dining Service; Jack N. Perlstein, WMUK Radio; Lori A. Frichard, accounting; Ronald S. Ruby, construction; Michael D. Rutz, construction; and Ryan C. Seiler, College of Aviation.
10 Years—Jonathan H. Epstein, Smedes Health Center.
Five Years—Alexander Aivars, College of Education and Human Development; Debra A. Gambino, Lee Honors College; Cara E. LaLumia-Barnes, university relations; Kathleen Langan, University Libraries; Scott A. Puckett, Enrollment Management; Kristin S. Purney, Center for Fostering Success; Robert J. Rufh, Mollenkopf Institute for Science Education; and Adam Scheidt, WMU-Battle Creek and Lansing.

Dunn praised for leadership

Acting at their Dec. 5 meeting, WMU trustees unanimously approved a positive annual evaluation for President John M. Dunn.

They cited Dunn for improving the University’s financial strength, increasing student diversity, improving relations and giving among alumni, and developing and implementing the University’s first strategic plan in many years.

They also praised the president for improving WMU’s standing with partners in Lansing, at the Higher Learning Commission and with many other strategic organizations, in addition to his leadership in creating the WMU School of Medicine and a formal affiliation between WMU and the Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

Key administrative appointments made

Recent appointments have filled two key administrative posts.

Jane Baas is the new associate dean of the Lee Honors College while Nancy B. Mansberger is the new director of academic collective bargaining.

The effective dates of retirement are: Nora Berrah, physics, 23 years, effective Aug. 31; Dwayne E. Channell, mathematics, 35 years, effective June 30; Marion W. “Buddy” Gray, history, 18 years, effective April 30; Barbara L. Harris, teaching, learning and educational studies, 43 years, effective April 30, 2018; James W. Kamman, mechanical and aerospace engineering, 22 years, effective Dec. 31; Thomas L. Kent, English, 15 years, effective May 1, 2019; Richard G. Long, blindness and low vision studies, 21 years, effective June 1, 2019; Donna M. Ring, University Libraries, 35 years, effective Aug. 31; Leo J. Stevenson, finance and commercial law, 38 years, effective Aug. 31; Susan Weinger, social work, 26 years, effective April 30, 2019; and Allen Zagarrell, anthropology, 29 years, effective April 30, 2019.

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Thirty-seven faculty members granted sabbatical leaves by board

During its Dec. 5 meeting, the WMU Board of Trustees granted sabbatical leaves to 37 faculty members.

Fourteen faculty members were granted leaves by the semester and 23 were granted leaves for the full 2014-15 academic year.

Fall 2014 semester

Bruce E. Bejecck, biological sciences; Elena Gapova, sociology; Barry Goetz, sociology; Michael Millar, Spanish; Michael G. Miller, human performance and health education; Lori Sims, music; Judith Swisher, finance; Joyce, chemical and paper engineering; and Stephen M. Tasko, speech pathology and audiology.

Spring 2015 semester

Lucius F. Hallett IV, geography; Margaret Joyce, chemical and paper engineering (effective date change); Fairin Katerrattanakul, business information systems; Cynthia Jo Klekar, English; and Caroline B. Webber, family and consumer sciences.

Full 2014-15 academic year

David A. Barnes, geosciences; Linda J. Borish, history; Kristal E. Ehrhardt, special education and literacy studies; Susan Pozo, economics; Rika Saito, world languages and literatures; and Eve Salisbury, English.

Regulatory changes result in fewer student work hours

Beginning Jan. 1, the maximum allowable work hours for student employees was reduced to better align with regulations related to IRS taxation, the Fair Labor Standards Act and the Affordable Care Act.

Students may now work up to 25 hours a week for all student positions during fall and spring semesters, breaks and periods of non-enrollment. They may work longer during the summer I or II sessions, but should stay below 40 hours each week.

A list of the changes, by student employee type, is posted at wmich.edu/career/campus.

Fall 2014 and fall 2015 semesters

Susan Steurer, University Libraries.

Spring 2015 semester

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