Commencement ceremonies slated
WMU will stage four commencement ceremonies Saturday, April 26, in Miller Auditorium. The scheduled ceremonies are: 9 a.m., graduates of the College of Education and Human Development and Extended University Programs; noon, graduates of the colleges of Aviation, Engineering and Applied Sciences, and Health and Human Services; 3 p.m., graduates of the College of Fine Arts and Haworth College of Business; and 6 p.m., graduates of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Event to fete exceptional grad students
Dozens of graduate students will be recognized for their teaching effectiveness or research and creative work during an awards celebration from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, April 24, in the 208-09 Bernhard Center. Visit surveys.questionpro.com/qa/Alj6M1ZQ4Fm to register for the celebration. The event is for recipients of the 2013-14 all-University and departmental Graduate Teaching Effectiveness Awards and Graduate Research and Creative Scholar Awards. The names of these exceptional teachers and scholars are listed online at wmich.edu/grad/awards.

APA announces 2014 award winners
The winners of the Administrative Professional Association’s annual awards are Jennifer C. Hsu, diversity and inclusion; Suzanne V. Beals, development and alumni relations; and Chris Voss, Student Recreation Center. They will be recognized during an awards reception Thursday, April 17, in the Fetzer Center. Registration for the event at wmich.edu/apa has been extended to Monday, April 14.

Free T-shirts offered to runners, walkers
WMU is giving away custom T-shirts to its employees, students and alumni who are registered to participate in one of the 2014 Borgess Run for the Health of It events. The WMU tech-wear shirts are being offered on a first come, first served basis to support for Broncos registered for the Motivational Mile, Priority Health SK Walk, Borgess 5K Run, Borgess 10K Run, Borgess Half Marathon and Kalamazoo Marathon.

Shirt pickup is from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, May 3, at the WMU booth during the Borgess Run for the Health of It Race Expo in Wings Stadium. Employees and students will need to show their Bronco ID and event registration form. Prior to pickup, alumni should call Donna Marks at (269) 387-2072. Those wishing to pick up a shirt before May 3 should also call Marks.

Next Western News will be in May
This is the final issue of the Western News for spring semester. The paper will resume its regular publication schedule Thursday, May 8.

WMU named finalist for national award
WMU is a finalist to win a 2014 Climate Leadership Award as part of an annual competition among the U.S. colleges and universities that are signatories of the American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment.

WMU is one of four schools in its category for national honors in the awards program. The program is sponsored by Second Nature, a national nonprofit that seeks to create a sustainable society by transforming higher education, and Planet Forward, a Web-to-TV initiative that documents and shares energy, climate and sustainability advances that can be used to tackle some of society’s biggest challenges.

“This is enormously gratifying,” says WMU President John M. Dunn. “We’ve been committed to sustainability for a very long time, and we have a record of significant accomplishments. This honor is an acknowledgment of our past work, our current initiatives and our commitment to the future. It’s about the culture of sustainability we’re building on campus and in our community.”

This year, the award program’s fifth, drew the largest and most competitive pool of nominations to date. The other three schools in the running for top honors are: University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of California-Los Angeles and Georgia Institute of Technology.

Gala premiere set for screening of new-employee video
All employees are invited to a campus premiere of WMU’s updated orientation video for new employees.

Take a walk down the red carpet, pose for paparazzi, meet campus celebrities and enjoy refreshments. Then sit back and watch the show, as well as a one-time screening of the video project’s celebrity blogger reel.

To attend the premiere, go to wmich.edu/hr/premiere and RSVP. Then stop by the Fetzer Center at 3 p.m. Wednesday, April 16.

Nearly a year in the making, Human Resources’ new-employee orientation video features faculty, staff and students sharing information that every new employee should know. It begins with a welcome from President John M. Dunn, who sets the stage for what it means to be a WMU employee.

Six other segments follow, bringing into focus the University’s history, structure, strategic plan, Brand Ambassadors Program and key points of pride, as well as the local area’s quality of life.

The premiere festivities take place in the Fetzer Center lobby. Attendees will move to the Kirsch Auditorium at 4 p.m. for a brief presentation followed by the video screening.

For more information, contact Felicia Crawford in Human Resources at felicia.crawford@wmich.edu or (269) 387-3635.

University pledges to increase study abroad enrollment
The University has committed to increasing study abroad participation by 50 percent over the next five years as part of a national initiative that aims to double the number of U.S. college students studying abroad by 2019.

WMU is one of more than 160 higher education institutions that have pledged to support the goals of the Institute of International Education’s Generation Study Abroad Commitment. The initiative also is supported by study abroad provider organizations, the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and several foreign governments and government agencies.

IIE, a private nonprofit organization, administers the Fulbright Program and Gilman Scholarships for the state department as well as conducts policy research that includes annually publishing the Open Doors Report on International and Educational Exchange.

Through its initiative, IIE hopes to increase the national annual total from the 295,000 students who studied abroad in 2011-12 to 600,000 by the end of the decade.

WMU beats national average
IIE establishes an undergraduate study abroad participation rate for colleges and universities by dividing the number of degree-seeking undergraduates who went abroad by the total number of undergraduate degrees awarded in the reporting year.

A total of 482 degree-seeking WMU undergraduate students were studying abroad during
Time to start registering for camps

Registration is underway for many summer camps at WMU. The website at wnmich.edu/admissions/camps lists all offerings and adds new ones as information becomes available. Deadlines are near for two popular camps.

The Children’s Place Learning Center will again offer a summer program for children who have completed kindergarten through age 9. Priority registration for WMU employees and students runs through Friday, April 11. The camp will run from June 9 through Aug. 29. Parents may sign up children by the week or for the entire summer.

The annual Keith Hall Summer Drum Intensive will run from June 16-21 and June 23-28. The camp is for youths of various ages and levels. Parents will need to finalize payment by Wednesday, April 30. Camp participants will have a chance to perform for the public.

Reception planned for art therapist

Gay Walker, coordinator of WMU’s Integrative Holistic Health and Wellness Program and an art therapist, is exhibiting her work in the second floor art gallery of the College of Health and Human Services building. The exhibit, “My Mother’s Nature,” will run through Wednesday, May 21. An artist’s reception has been planned for 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 16.

‘Life of Pi’ chosen for Universitywide Common Read 2014-15

WMU’s Universitywide Common Read 2014-15 is being turned the spotlight on Yann Martel’s “Life of Pi,” winner of the 2002 Man Booker Prize. The common read officially begins the first week of July, when new students arrive on campus for orientation.

First-Year Experience will be staging activities related to “Life of Pi” during Fall Welcome Week and will continue staging activities until April 2015. In addition, students registered for the First-Year Seminar will be reading the book for class.

Related events planned for fall include a presentation by Martel titled “Healing Journeys: Crossing the Pacific, Dealing With Trauma” Oct. 23 in Miller Auditorium.

University departments, groups and programs wishing to sponsor additional events should contact Miranda Howard at howard@wmich.edu for more information.

Entrepreneur to give forum talk

Kevin Brosovich, owner and chief people officer of HRM Innovations LLC, will speak at 8 a.m. Friday, April 11, in 2150 Schneider Hall. HRM Innovations is a local human resource and management company. The free event begins with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Reservations are required and can be made at wnmich.edu/business/e-rsvp or by calling (269) 387-6559.

Engineers to showcase their projects

Senior engineering students will showcase and demonstrate imaginative and often highly technical projects during the 54th Conference on Senior Engineering Design. They will present their projects from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, April 15, in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences building. The seniors complete projects to solve real business problems.

Conflict in Balkans is lecture topic

Maria Koinova from the University of Warwick will address “Ethnic Conflicts and Governance in the Balkan States” when she speaks at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 17, in the Fetzer Center as part of the George Klein Lecture Series. Koinova is interested in why ethnocratic-national conflicts vary in the level of violence they generate and why violence at whatever level persists and when and why things change for the better or worse.

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Reading group kits will be available at the Waldo Library Access Services desk Monday, June 2. Each kit contains six copies of “Life of Pi” and a discussion guide.

Retirement receptions

The following retirement receptions have been announced: Gary D. Lawson, speech pathology and audiology, 4:30 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 16, the Oaklands; Ellen Miller, Dining Services, 1 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, April 17, President’s Dining Room, Bernhard Center; Gerald Sievers, statistics, 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, April 18, the Oaklands.

Jobs

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

Association provost co-founds journal

Christopher Tremblay, associate provost for enrollment management, has co-founded the Journal of College Access with Patrick O’Connorton, associate dean for college counseling at Kingwood Cranbrook School in Bloomfield Hills, Mich. JCA focuses on the current trends, research and development of enrollment management.

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Faculty Senate plans survey

The Faculty Senate’s Ad Hoc Committee on General Education will soon ask employees, part-time instructors and teaching assistants to complete a short survey on general education at WMU. Responses to the five-minute to 10-minute survey will be taken from Monday, April 14, through Friday, May 2. Participation is encouraged.

The survey represents the first effort of the committee to gather baseline data for what will be a process of engaging the full campus community in a ground-up conversation around general education. The full results of the survey will be made available publicly and will inform the committee’s efforts to facilitate a broad, university-wide conversation on general education.

Professional instructors name first two Outstanding Administrators

Commitment to part-time faculty by the Professional Instructors Organization has each been named an Outstanding Administrator. The following faculty and staff members have each been named as Outstanding Administrators by the Professional Instructors Organization for their commitment to part-time faculty in departmental decisions; promoting teaching effectiveness; including part-time faculty in departmental decisions; working with part-time faculty in decision making; and recognizing and rewarding excellent part-time faculty performance.

Relay for Life fundraiser starts April 11

Colleges Against Cancer at Western Michigan University will host the American Cancer Society’s annual Relay for Life Friday and Saturday, April 11 and 12.

The fundraiser begins at noon Friday and continues until noon Saturday at Kanley Track and the Student Recreation Center. This year’s participants are competing with Central Michigan University to see which school’s teams can raise more money. The contest starts Wednesday, April 9, and runs through noon April 12.

“The overall highest fundraiser from either school between those days gets a brand new Fossil watch valued at $100,” says Cathryn Hella, Colleges Against Cancer at WMU president. “We have a fun and exciting 24 hours planned. Everyone is invited, and you do not need to be in a team to come and enjoy the festivities.”

The event celebrates cancer survivors, remembers those who have been lost to the disease, and gives the campus and local community an opportunity to unite and fight against cancer. Funds raised support the American Cancer Society’s efforts to make this century the last one for cancer.

Because that disease never sleeps, teams of friends, neighbors, families and co-workers commit to keeping at least one team member walking at all times during the relay.

The teams set up camp sites around Kanley Track and also plan a variety of activities and entertainment at their sites.

To participate, visit Relay for Life of WMU at relayforlife.org/wmumi and register a team or make a donation.

Lt. governor signs new legislation into law at WMU

Lt. Gov. Brian Calley was at WMU April 1 to sign legislation encouraging the recovery of oil and natural gas wells to push the once unattainable oil to the surface. It has the added environmental benefit of permanently trapping carbon dioxide gas-based enhanced oil recovery technology.

HB 4885 sets a flat 4 percent severance tax rate for companies using the enhanced oil recovery method, recognizing that this technology revitalizes previously marginal wells. Calley also signed three additional bills that promote the use of enhanced oil recovery. Visit legislature.michigan.gov for more information.

Jonathan Bush, chair of the Department of English, and Alex Eyndt, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, have each been named an Outstanding Administrator by the Professional Instructors Organization. They are the first recipients of the recently created award.

It goes to administrators who demonstrate commitment to part-time faculty by promoting teaching effectiveness; including part-time faculty in decision making; providing sufficient support, resources and encouragement for part-time faculty; and recognizing and rewarding excellent performance.

Other nominees were Tricia Hennawy, art school director; department chairs Marc Alpector-Kelly, philosophy, Ben Atkinson, occupational therapy, Irma Lopez, Spanish, and Donna Talbot, educational leadership, research and technology; Lauren Freedman, unit coordinator for literacy studies; Doris Ravatos, program coordinator for interdisciplinary health studies; and Gay Walker, program coordinator for integrative holistic health and wellness.

Local residents may attend Medieval Congress for free

Kalamazoo residents and members of the WMU community may attend the 49th International Congress on Medieval Studies for free if they register online or in person by Wednesday, April 23. WMU’s congress is the world’s largest annual gathering of people interested in the Middle Ages. The 2014 event will take place Thursday through Sunday, May 8-11.

Kalamazoo-area residents and WMU community members may register online or in person at the Miller Auditorium ticket office through April 23 at no charge. They also may register through that date by mail or fax for a nominal handling fee. After April 23, they will be assessed a $50 late fee.

Register online at wmic.edu/medieval/congress. For information about registering by mail or fax, call (269) 387-8745.

Obituary

Alfred K. Ho, professor emeritus in economics, died Jan. 26. He retired in 1989 after 22 years of service to the University. A memorial service will take place at 2 p.m., Sunday, June 15, in Kanley Chapel. RSVP to alfredk@aol.com to attend the reception that will follow. Visit avinkcremation.com to make a memorial guestbook entry. Memorial gifts may be made to WMU or Rose Arbor Hospice in Kalamazoo.

Greg D. Roehrick, a professor of theatre who served the Department of Theatre as director of design and technical production, died Feb. 25 at age 60. A memorial service will take place at noon Saturday, April 12, in the Williams Theatre of the Gilmore Theatre Complex.
Class project results in book of World War II remembrances

A gerontology class project that gathered people’s memories of the World War II era has grown into the book, “There is No Substitute for Victory—Remembrances of World War II.”

It is the result of a spring 2013 class project by students in Janet Hahn’s class, Issues in Aging: Service Learning. The handsomely arranged and illustrated spiral booklet is packed with the reminiscences of nearly 200 area residents who lived through the war.

Twenty-two students conducted the interviews, and Hahn served as editor. Sections include Rationing, Our Troops, Family Life, Our Brave Men and Women, After the War, Patriotism, Rest in Peace, Stories Told From Men and Women Around the World, and Recipes. The idea for the project came from Barbara Rider, emerita in and former chair of occupational therapy, and Ellen Page-Robin, founding director of the Gerontology Program.

The book can be bought for $20 by going to wmich.edu/disabilitycenter and clicking on Online Store and then Center for Gerontology Book.

University pledges to increase study abroad enrollment

Students per year to 900 students by 2019.

Study abroad enrollment from about 600 with plans to study abroad or have family or ties,” Schlör says. “Consequently, many of our students do not come to the University with plans to study abroad or have family or friends who encourage them to do so. We need to actively encourage study abroad in all stages of the student experience.”

The steps that WMU plans to take to achieve its participation goal include:

- Launching a new pre-freshman study abroad program;
- Training college-specific peer advisors;
- Expanding teacher education internships abroad;
- Developing study abroad programs targeted at students of migrant parents;
- Working with academic units to increase college-based study abroad scholarships and to identify programs that fit well into major and minor degree requirements; and
- Working with WMU’s longstanding transnational education partners to establish study abroad programs for WMU students that meet major, minor and general education requirements.

Continued from page 1

WMU named finalist

WMU named finalist among doctorate-granting institutions are the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, University of North Texas and Ohio State University, according to Second Nature.

The four other collegiate categories also are based on higher education Carnegie classifications. Winners will be announced in late spring.

The Climate Leadership Award program features a public, online voting component. Each of the 20 finalists was invited to produce a video that promotes its specific sustainability efforts. The videos may be viewed at planetforward.org/content/climate-leadership-awards-2014. People can vote through that website once daily until Tuesday, April 15.

The WMU video highlights both the University’s long-time strengths in energy savings as well as its commitment to building a culture of sustainability by weaving sustainable practices into every part of University life.

Featured in the video are a number of scenes highlighting campus initiatives as well as interviews with Dunn; Harold Glasser, executive director for campus sustainability; graduate student Kate Binder; and undergraduate student Carlos Daniels.

For more information about WMU’s sustainability initiatives, visit wmich/sustainability or contact the Office for Sustainability at wmu-sustainability@wmich.edu or (269) 387-2947.