Board of Trustees to meet Sept. 28
The next meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees will be held Wednesday, Sept. 28. Details and key agenda items will be posted online at www.wmich.edu/news closer to the meeting date. The board usually meets in the morning in 157 Bernhard Center.

WMU again named to U.S. News list
U.S. News & World Report’s 2012 list of top-tier national universities includes WMU and just three other Michigan schools, singling out the University as having national standing and being among the nation’s best.

The 2012 ranking of more than 1,500 four-year colleges and universities includes a ranked top tier as well as an unranked second tier. WMU was ranked 181st out of the 280 institutions—172 public, 101 private and seven for-profit—in the top-tier national universities in the group.

International flag bearers needed
Volunteers are needed to carry a nation's flag in the parade of flags that will take place at 1:50 p.m. just before kickoff of the Homecoming football game Saturday, Oct. 8. Flag bearers and others will gather for a complimentary pre-game tailgate and flag-assembly party from 10:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Kanley Track.

A sign-up sheet for reserving flags is available in the International Programming Office, 3520 Ellsworth Hall, or by emailing intl-rso@wmich.edu or calling (269) 387-3944.

Program proposals sought for summit
Area professionals and WMU alumni, graduate students, and faculty and staff members are invited to submit program proposals for a Gender and Leadership Summit Friday, Jan. 27. The event gives undergraduate student leaders a chance to build their leadership abilities.

Proposals for one-hour programs are due by 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 4. Visit www.wmich.edu/leaders/gender/index.html for more information. Questions should be directed to Sarah Schultz at salp-rs@wmich.edu or (269) 387-2482.

Campus Classic road closings slated
Several campus roads and parking areas will be closed for varying periods the morning of Homecoming Saturday, Oct. 8, to accommodate the 13th annual Homecoming Campus Classic 1K and 5K race/ walk. Visit www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2011/09/020.html for details. Go to www.wmich.edu/race to register or volunteer for the event.

Fall enrollment up slightly compared to 2010
Notable items from this fall's census include:
• A beginning freshman class of just over 3,300.
• A 2.4 percent increase in the number of new fall transfer students.
• A 10.2 percent increase in the number of minority students.
• A 10.5 percent increase in the number of international students.

The size of WMU’s student body increased this fall to 25,086, reflecting stability in the size of both the undergraduate and graduate student populations. Conducted Sept. 14, the official 2011 enrollment count shows an overall gain of 41 students compared to last year.

The total tally illustrates a number of emerging enrollment trends, including fewer beginning students and more diversity in the student body.

Dunn explains WMU's new strategic plan
President John M. Dunn outlined the underlying principles of WMU's strategic plan during his State of the University address Sept. 16.

The plan is based on three pillars: learner centered, discovery driven and globally engaged.

“As a University community, we embrace lifelong learning for every part of our campus community,” he noted, later adding that discovery is at the core of learning and WMU impacts the globe positively.

“Being learner centered, discovery driven and globally engaged will set the stage for each of us and our University to reach new heights,” Dunn said. “Those heights are limited only by our own reticence to reach for them.”

Visit www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2011/09/048.html for the complete text of this year's State of the University address.

Fall enrollment up slightly compared to 2010
Notable items from this fall's census include:
• A 14.2 percent increase in the number of students enrolled in online courses.
• A 3 percent increase in the number of beginning Lee Honors College students, adding to this college's better than 40 percent enrollment increase over the past three years.

“Our students are smart, slightly older, diverse, technically savvy and globally connected,” says WMU President John M. Dunn. “The influx of international students reflects the regard in which this University is held around the world.”

Some of the enrollment trends represented in this year's fall count reflect the ongoing annual decrease in the number of graduating high school seniors in Michigan that began in 2007-08 and will continue through 2014.

The census also reflects the popularity of online classes and growth in community college enrollment, which brings students to the University later in their academic careers.
New goals set for campus United Way campaign

A goal of $300,000 has been set for this year’s campus United Way campaign, which began Sept. 10. WMU also hopes to see a 10 percent increase in the number of employees and retirees who contribute.

WMU’s United Way Advisory Board began distributing pledge cards to all faculty and staff members and retirees earlier this month. Gifts can be made as one-time donations by cash, check or credit card or as pledges, payable by payroll deduction, this month. Gifts can be made as one-time gifts to the president’s office by 5 p.m. the Thursday before each weekly prize drawing will be eligible for that week’s and future week’s drawings—until they win a prize. Those who contribute early can also win prizes. WMU faculty and staff members who give any amount and return their pledge cards to the president’s office by 5 p.m. the Thursday before each weekly prize drawing will be eligible for that week’s and future week’s drawings—until they win a prize. There also will be a grand-prize drawing at 4 p.m. Friday, Nov. 18.

All campus contributions go to the Greater Kalamazoo United Way, and for every dollar given, 87 cents directly supports programs that improve Kalamazoo County.

Visit www.wmich.edu/ethics/events/lecture_series.html for details about other talks in the series.

Talk to focus on East Campus

Efforts to restore East Campus will be the topic of the first 2011-12 Keystone Community Bank Breakfast Series talk, set for 8 a.m. Friday, Sept. 30, in the Dean’s Conference Room of Schneider Hall. The talk will be given by Bob Miller, WMU associate vice president for community outreach.

Study, internship abroad fair set

Students and the public can learn how to globalize their degrees and experience other cultures at the Study and Intern Abroad Fair from noon to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 5, in the Bernhard Center’s East Ballroom.

Jason Derulo appearing at Miller

Student tickets are on sale now for a concert by pop-R&B sensation Jason Derulo at 8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 14, in Miller Auditorium. Ticket sales open to the general public Wednesday, Sept. 28. Doors will open at 7 p.m. Visit www.millerauditorium.com to purchase tickets.

Frostic Reading Series starts today

The Gwen Frostic Reading Series resumes today with a talk examining the ethical implications of one of Dostoevsky’s works at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 28, in the Bernhard Center’s Brown and Gold Room. Visit www.wmich.edu/ethics/
Pedometer challenge winners announced; fall contest launched

Some 420 walkers completed this summer's Stepping up to Better Health Pedometer Challenge, more than enough to inspire another employee walking program this fall. Participants in the summer initiative, referred to as the 300 Steps program, reported in from vacation spots across Michigan as well as places like China and Turkey. One person affectionately called her pedometer the "tyrant on my belt" because it made her walk more.

Seventy percent of those who were stepping and wearing cited making health a priority as the reason they joined one of the challenge's numerous five-person teams established at Wellness Hubs around campus. Each Wellness Hub belonged to either Tier I (under 100 employees) or Tier II (100+ employees) and had at least one Wellness Champ who was the go-to person for the easy-going contest. When the challenge began, only 13 percent of participants were getting the recommended 10,000 steps a day—the equivalent of five miles per day. At the end of the four-week period, 59 percent were logging 10,000 steps.

The top performing team in Tier I was Booking Along from University Libraries. Led by Teri Stowers, it reported a total of 1,781,976 steps (about 891 miles). The top team in Tier II was Team HAVOC, from the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences. It was led by Tammy Bergman and reported a total of 2,499,631 steps (about 1,230 miles).

University Libraries had nine teams in total and was the leader for Tier I Wellness Hubs with a grand total of 5,933 miles. The Seiber Administration Building had 14 teams and was the leader for Tier II Wellness Hubs, logging a total of 7,134 miles.

Now, a new challenge is beginning—the 10K Fall Tour Pedometer Challenge, which is also being coordinated by Holtryn & Associates, WMU's provider of one-to-one health assessments and wellness coaching services available to all benefits-eligible employees. Participants will receive a free pedometer wrap is La Noue's official 2011 ArtPrize entry, titled "The Bronco Epic." It will be displayed at the B.O.B., 20 Monroe Ave. N.W., and La Noue's sketches will be displayed at the Tavern on the Square, 100 Ionia Ave. S.W.

La Noue and his Mascot Gallery have developed a national reputation by telling the stories behind the campus mascots for many of the nation's top universities, including Duke University, University of Notre Dame, University of Texas, Stanford University and University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. WMU is the first college in Michigan to be featured by La Noue's Mascot Gallery.

Three opportunities remain to meet and hear from La Noue in Grand Rapids:
- He will lead a 90-minute walking tour from Gilly's in the B.O.B. to WMU-Grand Rapids at noon Saturday, Sept. 24, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 25. Both will include viewing of a video on the artistic process involved in the making of the "Epic Bronco" installations.
- He will coordinate a 90-minute drawing activity with fun and support from co-workers.

Ten Years—Janice Evans, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Denise M. Forman, Facilities Management-landscape services; Senora Jones, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Janet M. Keyes, Dining Services-Valley #1; and Matthew A. Knewstun, theatre.

15 Years—Kevin Abbott, information technology; Bonnie S. Akhdari, Dining Services-Valley #1; Lynda M. Baker, Dining Services-Bernhard Center; Stacey M. Doxtarter, Registrar's Office; Megan McCoy, catering; Todd Lenard-Noeske, public safety; and John Stjdan Petrovic, mathematics.

20 Years—Shirley L. Everett, residence life; Betty J. Hughes, University Libraries; Esther Newlin-Hauss, College of Education and Human Development; and Wendy W. Pooesch, development and alumni relations.

Five Years—Ann M. Ganz, Haenicke Institute; M'Myia Hughes, College of Education and Human Development; and Pamela J. Zeller, GEAR UP Learning Centers.
Third dual-degree partnership launched

WMU and Cooley Law School have launched their third dual-degree partnership, providing West Michigan with its first-ever Master of Social Work/Juris Doctor program.

Graduates of the program will earn an MSW from WMU and a J.D. from Cooley. The program is expected to be offered in fall 2012 and could require nine to 15 fewer credits than if the two degrees were earned separately.

Under the new partnership, students will take their law classes at Cooley’s campus in Grand Rapids, Mich., and their social work courses at WMU’s regional locations in Grand Rapids or Benton Harbor, Mich., or at its main campus in Kalamazoo.

“This is an example of a program designed to fulfill the needs of students who have unique career objectives that can be best met by completing two degrees instead of one,” says Linwood Cousins, director of WMU’s School of Social Work.

For more information about the new MSW/J.D. program, contact Linwood Cousins, director of WMU’s School of Social Work, at linwood.cousins@wmich.edu or (269) 387-3171.

Two high-profile speakers coming to campus

An Africa expert and a major defense industry player are among the high-profile speakers who will be giving free, public talks at WMU during the next few weeks. First up will be David H. Shinn, a 37-year veteran of the U.S. Department of State. He will speak on “U.S. Policy Toward the Horn of Africa” at 3 p.m. Friday, Sept. 30, in 2028 Brown Hall.

Shinn has served as ambassador to Ethiopia and Burkina Faso and was coordinator for Somalia during the international intervention in the early 1990s. He also served three years as director for East African Affairs, ITT Defense and Information Solutions, a top-tier defense contractor.

Kison admits he wears several hats and has varied duties, but he enjoys that variety. He joined the University’s professional staff in 1999 as a receptionist in Career and Student Employment Services. His interest in electronics led him to tinkering and teaching himself to work with computers, and five years ago, he accepted his current position with the Graduate College.

Kison’s responsibilities frequently take him outside the office, such as when he was out at Gull Lake setting up computers and print stations for a WMU-hosted Michigan Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate dissertation retreat. This was the second time he provided technical support for the retreat, at which students from several Michigan universities spend several days intensely focusing on their dissertations.

Then it was back to Walwood Hall, where he worked on a membership reporting module for the Graduate Student Advisory Committee. It allows GSAC representatives to directly access their data on the Graduate College server by running a choice of reports that query the database.

“Previously they would have had to ask me to run a report for them to get the most recent information. Now, there’s no waiting,” he says. “I love it when we are able to take advantage of technology to increase efficiency in our work.”

In addition to maintaining the Graduate College website, another large part of Kison’s job is posting event announcements. He also creates printed flyers and posters for many of those events, which include workshops and discussions on topics such as research, dissertation formatting, grant writing, data management and professional writing.

“I’m excited about the direction WMU is taking with its Web presence. The University has done a great job of getting everybody on the same page as far as adopting standards for style and substance of our websites,” he says. “It’s good for students to be able to switch from department to department and have the feeling they are still on the same website, with things like navigation being in a standard format and location.”

Kison’s wife, Lori, is a WMU library assistant. The couple has two sons and lives in Marcellus, Mich. Kison still tinkers with electronics, as well as enjoys woodworking and learning the Linux computer operating system. He’s used his talents to build the Graduate College’s Homecoming Soap Box Derby car, among other things.

Anthropology open house set

New archaeology labs and an anthropology mural will be on display at an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 7. The free event will be in 1060 Moore Hall.

In addition to featuring murals by local artist and WMU alumna Conrad Kaufman, the open house will highlight three new labs in the space that formerly housed the Writing Center, which has moved to Ellsworth Hall.

One lab will be dedicated to the Fort St. Joseph archaeological project, directed by Professor Michael Nassaney. Another will be for the Farmstead Archaeology project in the Finger Lakes National Forest in New York, directed by anthropology Chair LouAnn Wurst. The last new space will be used as a wet lab to process artifacts recovered through other local projects by faculty members and students.

Several upcoming events for graduate students are posted at www.wmich.edu/grad/events on the Graduate College website. They start on Wednesday, Oct. 5, and focus on such important topics as successful grant writing, statistical concepts in SPSS and what researchers need to know about writing an HSIRB protocol.