U.S. News ranks seven health programs offered by WMU among best in nation

U.S. News & World Report’s recently published rankings of graduate programs puts six WMU health programs among the best in the nation, with three of them—occupational therapy, physician assistant and speech-language pathology—rated both the highest in Michigan and among the top 50 nationally.

The 2013 edition of U.S. News & World Report's Best Grad Schools includes new rankings in seven health fields, including occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, audiology and social work. Rankings of other health fields, including physician assistant and rehabilitation counseling, are based on earlier surveys conducted in 2011.

In all, six of WMU's programs in the health disciplines garnered top-50 ratings, while a seventh was included in the top-100 of such programs.

Faculty Senate announces 2012-14 leadership roster

WMU's Faculty Senate has elected its 2012-14 Executive Board. Except for the immediate past president, members of the board will serve two-year terms beginning this month. The new officers are:

- President, William G. Rantz, aviation science
- Vice president, C. Dennis Simpson, physician assistant and director of the Specialty Program in Alcohol and Drug Abuse
- Past president, Peter W. Krawutschke, foreign languages
- Director, Osama Abudayeh, civil and construction engineering and the engineering college’s associate dean for research and graduate programs
- Director, Susan F. Ayers, human performance and health education
- Director, Richard A. Gershon, communication and co-director of the telecommunications and information management program
- Director, Alan Rea, business information systems
- Director, Delores D. Walcott, interdisciplinary health programs

The Faculty Senate shares in governing WMU by formulating, reviewing and providing advice on policies and other matters of institutional concern. In addition to its governing members on the Executive Board, the organization's membership includes faculty senators and representatives from departments across campus as well as some administrators.
Ohio family gives WMU newly raised funds to support finding cure for rare disorder

Former Fairborn, Ohio, city councilman Frank Cervone knows he’s dying from multiple system atrophy—MSA—but before he leaves the earth behind, Cervone wants to do all he can to make sure the disease’s days are numbered.

Cervone and his family traveled to WMU May 11 to present a check to a University research team that has spent much of the past decade focusing its efforts on finding a cure for the rare neurological degenerative disorder. The $3,350 check they presented was raised in March in what is believed to be the first-ever MSA awareness race, which drew more than 200 runners to Fairborn.

Race organizer Doug Brandt of the Dayton Barefoot Runners group accompanied the Cervone family to Michigan. Brandt says he and others expect the race to grow yearly, so in future years, they can bring a larger check to support the work being done at WMU.

Charles Ide, biological sciences, is leading the work, which uses gene expression techniques to study MSA and is being done in collaboration with researchers at Vanderbilt University’s medical school and the New York Brain Bank at Columbia University. Ide and other members of his team met with the Cervone family and previewed for them information in three papers on MSA that the Cervone family and previewed for them information in three papers on MSA that they will present at the annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience later this year in New Orleans.

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LGBT Student Services appoints new coordinator

Jennifer Hsu has been appointed coordinator for Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay and Transgender Student Services in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. Effective April 9, Hsu replaced Sarah Stangl, who is now an advisor in the College of Education and Human Development. Previously, Hsu was executive director of the OutCenter of Berrien County in Benton Harbor, Mich. She comes to WMU with a strong professional background in social justice advocacy with a focus on the intersections of race, gender, faith, sexual orientation and sexual identity. She also has a background in fundraising and budget development.

WMUK offers program guide

It’s now easier than ever to stay up to date on local program offerings by WMUK 102.1 FM, the University’s public radio station. The station’s “Next Week on WMUK” weekly email guide to upcoming features in news, arts, music and other programming is available free of charge.

To request being added to the guide’s email list, visit the station’s website at wmuk.org and click the envelope located near the upper left corner of the page.

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.

Dean tapped to serve Michiganders

Anthony J. Vizzini, dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, has been named to the State Board of Professional Engineers by Gov. Rick Snyder. Vizzini will serve a four-year term as one of the five professional engineers on the board.

Michigan’s Professional Board of Engineers is housed in the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, which is charged with promoting business growth and job creation in Michigan by streamlining and eliminating unnecessary or burdensome regulations. The board regulates the practice of the state’s more than 20,000 professional engineers.

Vizzini, WMU’s engineering dean since 2009, is a fellow of the American Society for Composites, and is serving this year as president of the Society for the Advancement of Material and Process Engineering.

Emeritus appointed to state council

Ronald J. Winter, emeritus in human performance and health education, has been appointed to the Governor’s Council on Physical Fitness, Health and Sports by Gov. Rick Snyder. Winter will serve a two-year term that expires in 2014.

He is among four appointments and four re-appointments to the 15-member council, which is designed to increase physical activity and health improvements in Michigan.

Winter, of Kalamazoo, retired in 2008 after 38 years of service to the University. He served as the director of campus recreational activities at the American Legion. A former NCAA football and basketball official, he began serving as a National Football League referee after working from 1995 until 1998 as a line judge.

Prof inducted into jazz hall of fame

Stephen L. Zegree has been recognized as an outstanding educator by DownBeat magazine and inducted into its Jazz Education Hall of Fame. Zegree’s induc-

Zegree, the WMU Bob- mytiMc Ferrin Professor of Jazz and director of the award-winning jazz vocal ensemble Gold Company, was lauded in a feature article as a pianist and chor- director of the award-winning jazz vocal ensemble Gold Company, was inducted into its Jazz Education Hall of Fame. Zegree’s induct-

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Campuswide initiative encourages bystanders to get involved

Giving members of the campus community the confidence to step forward and help when they see bad behavior is the goal of a new initiative at WMU.

The program is being launched by the Division of Student Affairs’ Bystander Initiative Committee to counteract the Bystander Effect, which holds that the greater the number of people present during an emergency, the less likely it is that any of them will actually intervene.

Faculty, staff and administrators who would be interested in participating in the Bystander Initiative are invited to learn more by contacting Christine Iaderosa, commit tee co-chair and coordinator of Theatre for Community Health in the Sindecuse Health Center’s Office of Health Promotion and Education.

“People often see someone in need of as sistance, yet don’t get involved. They believe they can’t make a difference or that someone else will intervene,” she says. “We hope to educate our community about when and how to intervene safely. If we can galvanize the campus population to stand up and help in varied situations, from dangerous drinking to dehumanizing behaviors, we can make WMU’s safer and more secure place for all.”

The Bystander Initiative campaign, dubbed Western HEROES, gets its name from what it calls on people to do:

• Notice when something is happening;
• Evaluate the situation to see if assistance is needed;
• Assume responsibility to step in and help;
• Obtain the education necessary to know what to do; and
• Step up and make a difference.

The program will kick off this summer with posters and a video depicting various members of the campus community as everyday heroes. The posters will be put up around campus in mid-August as student leaders return to campus, and the film will be shown to students in late August during Fall Welcome.

Campaign organizers are seeking additional people who are willing to be featured on the posters and in the video, as well as people willing to facilitate workshops that are being planned this fall to educate the campus community about effective intervention techniques.

Some of the WMU employees featured in the initial part of the program include Diane K. Anderson, vice president of student affairs; Carol Eddy, director of the Sindecuse Health Center; Carolyn “Cari” K. Robertson, director of the Office of Health Promotion and Education; Laura Durrah, assistant director of residence life; Jeremy C. Ynclan, assistant director of student conduct; Nicole C. Mills, assistant director of Student Activities and Leadership Programs; and Jennifer L. Bailey, University Recreation’s coordinator of fitness programs.

For more information about participating in the Bystander Initiative, contact Christine Iaderosa at christine.iaderosa@wmich.edu or (269) 387-3126.

Six employees receive 2011-12 awards from APA/PSSO

Six WMU staff members received 2012 awards from the Administrative Professional Association and Professional Support Staff Organization during the annual APA/PSSO Awards and Spring Luncheon May 17. Receiving awards, from left, were: Kristin E. Kenz, maintenance services, revolving APA Spirit Award; Lynda L. Hunt, Develop ment and Alumnus Relations, Tony Griffin Service Award; Kathy Pumall, research, Wayne H. Pushie, maintenance services, Outstanding Professional Award; Paige Warner, First-Year Experience Programs, PSSO Service Award, and Patricia A. Wilcox, payroll and disbursements, PSSO Service Award. The event, which had a casino theme this year, brings together members of the APA and PSSO non-bargaining groups to socialize as well as recognize the hard work and dedication of WMU staffers. (Photo by Tammy Boneburg)

College of Aviation to induct third class of honorees

Three aviation professionals who have made a lasting impact in their fields will be inducted into the College of Aviation Hall of Honor for 2011. This third class of Hall of Honor inductees will be celebrated during an induction ceremony and dinner Friday, June 15. The deadline for the required advance registration has been extended to Friday, June 8. The event costs $25 and starts with a social hour at 6 p.m. in the Aviation Maintenance Education Hangar on the College of Aviation campus at the W.K. Kellogg Airport in Battle Creek, Mich. For a registration form or more information, visit wmich.edu/AvHOF.

Obituaries

Ida Mae Cutshaw, a retired staff member, died May 10. She was 75. Cutshaw was a finance clerk in accounting. She joined the staff in 1979 and retired in 1995 after 16 years of service.

Memorial gifts may be made to Karios Dwelling or a charity of choice. Visit lange lands.com to make a memorial guestbook entry.

Charles H. Ludlow, trustee emeritus, died May 8 in Kalamazoo. He was 89. Ludlow retired as vice president and treasurer of the Upjohn Co. in 1984 after 34 years. He and his wife, Marion, funded one of the University’s prestigious Medallion Scholarships. Ludlow was a member of the WMU Board of Trustees from 1967 to 1987, serving as chair twice and vice chairman five times.

He also supported the University in a variety of other leadership roles, including chairing the 1985 presidential search committee and serving as executive director of the 1997 presidential search. A former member of the WMU Foundation, he was named 1991 Volunteer of the Year.

Memorial donations may be directed to the charity of choice. Visit lange lands.com to make a memorial guestbook entry.

New head coach announced

Shane Chipfell, previously associate head coach of women’s basketball at Michigan State University, has been named the sixth head coach of WMU’s women’s basketball program.

Chipfell has strong ties in the state of Michigan and the Mid-American Conference and has worked at every level of women’s basketball.

He has been at MSU for the past five years, but began as an assistant at Eastern Michi gan University during the 1998-99 season. Prior to that, he spent five seasons at Glen Oaks Community College, including three as head coach, and 11 years as the varsity head coach at Colom (Mich.) High School.

Thousands to attend orientation

More than 8,000 people, including beginning students and their families as well as transfer students, will be attending orientation sessions on campus this summer.

Employees encountering these new Bron cos and their families are asked to take a minute to welcome them to campus and answer any questions they may have.

Up to 3,500 incoming freshmen and 4,500 of their parents and other family members will be on campus for one of the 12 New Student Orientation sessions that begin Monday, June 4, and run through Friday, June 29. Registration has already closed for some of these sessions, which take place over a day and a half in various campus venues. The deadline to register for unclosed sessions is Friday, June 1.

Some 700 transfer students will take part in four half-day Transfer Transition Program sessions from 8 to 11:40 a.m. in the Bernhard Center. The three remaining sessions are set for Friday, June 22, July 20 and Aug. 10. The registration deadline is one week prior to the program the registrant plans to attend.

For details about New Student Orientation, visit wmich.edu/fye/orientation or contact program coordinator Steve Booker. For details about the Transfer Transition Program, visit wmich.edu/transfer/services or contact program coordinator Steve Miller.
University relations promotes one, hires two

Tonya R. Durlach, university relations, has been promoted to director of electronic communication.

In addition, two people with long-time WMU ties have been hired to help expand the University’s editorial and marketing functions. Paula M. Davis was named editor of the WMU Magazine, effective May 21, and Christopher A. Hunt was named marketing communication manager, effective June 4.

Durlach, assistant director of electronic communication since 2008, is responsible for content on WMU’s website, mass email, social media and other forms of electronic communication. She replaces Thom Myers, who is set to retire in December and will devote his remaining time at WMU to implementing WMU’s new Web content management system.

Davis, a longtime Kalamazoo resident, previously spent 13 years at the Kalamazoo Gazette. For seven of those years, she covered higher education and wrote extensively about WMU. She will edit the University’s recently reprised quarterly magazine and do editorial work on a number of other publication projects.

Hunt, a Kalamazoo native, earned a bachelor’s degree in advertising and promotion from Michigan State University in 1999. He will become an integral part of the University’s overall marketing efforts, charged with overseeing market research and helping to guide the creation and production of print, electronic and Web-based marketing materials for recruitment and raising the institutional profile.

BRCC invests $250,000 in breakthrough research

The Biosciences Research and Commercialization Center has invested $250,000 in a Kalamazoo company that is doing early-stage work on a revolutionary approach to treat and restore function to people who have suffered major damage to their peripheral or central nervous systems.

The BRCC award to Axonia Medical is part of $2 million in seed financing the company assembled to advance technology its founders believe can transform medical care for people who suffer a debilitating nervous system injury, such as stroke, and spinal cord, traumatic brain and peripheral nerve injuries.

“The technology Axonia is developing is precisely the kind of innovative, early-stage work our center is designed to support,” says Stephen J. Haakenson, BRCC executive director. “This is technology developed in a university setting that has great potential in the marketplace to address unmet medical needs.”

Axonia is a Kalamazoo startup that is leveraging groundbreaking discoveries on nervous system growth and repair by Douglas H. Smith at the University of Pennsylvania. Smith is scientific co-founder of Axonia.

The company’s products are expected to bridge lost nervous tissues and jump-start regenerative mechanisms that will allow levels of functional recovery not now possible. The company was an early participant in a Penn program called UPstart that focuses on the transfer of technology from higher education to the commercial arena.