Cooley Law, WMU affiliation finalized

America’s largest law school has a new identity and name—the WMU Thomas M. Cooley Law School—marking completion of an affiliation agreement between the University and private nonprofit law school that was in the works for more than a year. WMU President John M. Dunn and Cooley President Don LeDuc announced the news during an Aug. 13 event. At the same time, officials also rolled out the law school’s new visual identity, revealed curricular initiatives, and launched one campus committee to manage operational issues and another to facilitate faculty discussion of curriculum development.

Initiatives unveiled included the offering of first-year law classes on WMU’s Kalamazoo campus in fall 2015 and development of both a law minor and a 3+3 program at WMU that will allow students to earn both a bachelor’s degree and a law degree in just six years.

“We were delighted that our respective accrediting bodies have given the nod to the affiliation between Cooley and Western Michigan University,” Dunn says. “This move will broaden the range of opportunities available to students, expand the collaboration and research options available to faculty members, and improve the range of services to students, employees and our respective communities.”

The affiliation agreement won the approval of both schools’ governing boards last year but had been awaiting review by the schools’ accrediting agencies, the Higher Learning Commission and American Bar Association. It is expected to enable initiatives that will leverage the common commitment both institutions have to educational access, diversity, applied research and professional preparation. Under terms of the agreement, both schools retain their independent governance structures and separate fiduciary responsibilities.

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Next free photo session scheduled

All faculty and staff as well as professionally active retirees may have an official University photo taken free of charge between 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 25, in Walwood Hall’s Emeriti Lounge. Leave your name with Sue Beougher at sue.beougher@wmich.edu or (269) 387-8402 to confirm your attendance or receive your photo.

Medical school has separate exchange

Employees are reminded that the WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine is not linked to WMU’s internal phone system. The phone number for the medical school is (269) 387-4500. Dialing 7-4500 will connect callers to the psychology department.

Negotiation updates provided online

The University’s latest update on contract negotiations between WMU and the WMU-American Association of University Professors is available online at wmich.edu/aab/negotiations. The AAUP website may be found at wmuuaap.net.

Six to receive one of two Universitywide awards

WMU will honor six people for service to the University during this year’s Academic Convocation, which is set for 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 10, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. Harold Glasser and former employee Tracey Quada will receive the 2014-15 Distinguished Service Award. Receiving the 2014-15 Annual Make a Difference Award will be Mary Lou Brooks, Elena Gaudio, Nancy Landsberger and James Oswalt.

Distinguished Service Award

This award recognizes one staff member and one faculty member who have built careers that exemplify exceptional service to WMU and the larger community. Glasser and Quada join 57 faculty and staff members who have received the accolade since it was established in 1980.

• Glasser is executive director for campus sustainability and a professor of environmental and sustainability studies. He joined the faculty in 1999 and has been a driving force behind the University’s sustainability initiatives. He is cited for his University bridge building—between service and teaching, physical and academic infrastructures, and WMU and the community.

• Quada was director of what is now the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs. She joined the staff in 2009 and provided excellent support, advocacy and mentoring for WMU’s military and veteran students and their families and played a key role in WMU being nationally recognized as one of the best schools for military vets.

Cooley personnel plan Sept. 11 vigil

ROTC personnel plan Sept. 11 vigil

Military veteran employees and students are encouraged to participate in a 9/11 vigil performed by the Army and Air Force ROTC at the Siebert Administration Building flagpoles. Multiple 30-minute shifts are available from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and consist of standing at parade rest. Visit wmich.edu/military for more veteran-related news.

Surplus sales starting an hour earlier

WMU’s surplus sales store has extended its hours and now is open noon to 3 p.m. two Wednesdays each month. The store, which is available to the campus community and general public, is located in the Activity Therapy Building. The next sale will be Sept. 10. Visit wmich.edu/logisticalservices/stores for this semester’s sale dates.

Time to obtain new Bronco Card

To update to the new Bronco Card, employees and students must have a new photo taken in the Bronco Card office on the first floor of the Bernhard Center. Bring your old card to exchange through Wednesday, Oct. 1, to avoid a $30 replacement fee. Visit wmudps.wmich.edu/broncocard for details.

Employees are reminded that the WMU American Association of University Professors is available online at wmich.edu/aab/negotiations. The AAUP website may be found at wmuuaap.net.

Cooley’s Board of Directors

The law school’s new visual identity meshes with WMU’s.

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The law school’s new visual identity meshes with WMU’s.

Cooley

This award goes to staff members who have made exceptional contributions to the University. It is the highest honor WMU bestows specifically to non-faculty employees.
Faculty development slates cash
The Teaching and Learning Bash sponsored by the Office of Faculty De-
velopment is set for tomorrow from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Fetzer Center. The event allows all regular faculty, instruc-
tors and graduate teaching assistants to enhance their skills through workshops, presentations and posts. Visit wmich.edu/facdev for details.

Dybek to be first up in Frostic series
Celebrated author and WMU professor emeritus Stuart Dybek will kick off the fall 2014 Gwen Frostic Reading Series. Dybek, a distinguished writer in residence at Northwestern University, is the author of two new collections of fiction, “Eccentric Cahoots” and “Paper Lantern,” published simultaneously in June by Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

New year begins for ethics series
The Center for the Study of Ethics in Society will present “Pictures Travel, Discourses Do Not: The Mohammed Cartoons Controversy, Global Media Communication and Ethics” by Oliver Hahn from the University of Passau at 4 p.m. Sept. 16, in 216 Bernhard Center.

Diversity series addresses trauma
The Real Talk Diversity Series will feature J.L. Carson, English, facilitating discussions of how Yann Martel’s story “The Life of Pi” encourages people to think about ways to cope with trauma, make meaning out of disaster, and survive extreme loneliness and adversity. The discussions will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sept. 19 and 24 and Oct. 1 in the Trine Building’s Multicultural Center. Make reservations at parnell.l.fleming@wmich.edu or (269) 387-6324, as a book and lunch will be provided.

Special programs announce upcoming noncredit classes
Two established WMU programs that provide noncredit classes to adult learners have been announced. The Other Lifelong Learning Institute at WMU, formerly the Academy of Lifelong Learning, will offer 12 courses and four trips during the fall semester. These low-cost, short-term learning experiences are geared toward mature adults.

Entrepreneurship Forum resumes
The owners of a company that started with a competition between friends as to who could wear the craziest socks to work will begin the 2014-15 Entrepreneurship Forum breakfast speaker series. Business partners Ryan Preiser and Ryan Rolf of BoldSOCKS will speak at 8 a.m. Friday, Sept. 12, in 2150 Schneider Hall. The 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/e-rspv or (269) 387-6059.

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WMU is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

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All WMU campuses are now tobacco free

It’s official. WMU became a tobacco-free higher education institution Sept. 1. The University’s new tobacco-free policy applies to campus visitors as well as everyone who studies or works on campus, and it encompasses all University-held property in Kalamazoo and around the state.

Electronic cigarettes and water vapor products are among the items that may no longer be used on campus. However, FDA-approved cessation products, such as nicotine patches, remain permissible. The only exception to the campuswide mandate is that smoking is allowed inside enclosed personal vehicles.

It also should be noted that the tobacco-free policy does not extend to city-owned streets, sidewalks and rights of way.

More information about tobacco-free WMU is available at wmich.edu/tobacco-free. This comprehensive website explains the University’s new status in detail as well as provides helpful documents such as an extensive FAQ and toolkits for employees, students and supervisors.

Additional material will be added to the website as necessary. In the meantime, those who have questions should not contact WMU’s Department of Public Safety. Use the website’s Contact Us form instead.

Anniversary evokes brown and ‘golden’ memories for two longtime employees

Doralee N. DeRyke, Haworth College of Business, and Laurel A. Grotzinger, University Libraries, recently celebrated their 50th anniversary at the University.

Both officially began their service in August 1964 under President James W. Miller.

DeRyke, director of budget, operations and service support, has spent her entire WMU career in the business college. She started as a secretary in management and was promoted to administrative assistant to the dean in 1971 and to her current post in 1991.

“I’ve worked for every dean in the college of business. I’ve seen a lot of changes, but the most exciting one was when we got a dedicated building for the college and moved from East Campus to Schneider Hall,” DeRyke says.

Among her other memories is traversing East Campus’ steep Prospect Hill during the blizzard of 1967.

“I had to walk down the hill to Davis Street to meet my husband because my car was stuck in behind North Hall,” DeRyke says. “We didn’t have good weather forecasts back then, so I didn’t have my boots, which is why you’ll always see a pair in my car from Oct. 1 until May 1.”

DeRyke earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in business administration from WMU. For several years, she was a member of the Association for Business Communication and made presentations at numerous national and regional meetings.

“The college has a friendly, family atmosphere, which makes it an enjoyable place to work,” she says. “There have been some friendships that have continued over many years. And it’s always heartwarming when former student employees show up for orientation with their children.”

Grotzinger, reference services librarian and professor of University Libraries, has held several high-profile administrative positions. She started her career teaching in the School of Library and Information Science. An accomplished library history scholar, she is cited among the pioneers who established the historical foundation of the role of women in the discipline.

Prior to the school closing in 1985, Grotzinger served as the school’s assistant director, acting director and director. She also was instrumental in developing the accredited Master of Science in Librarianship as well as several important related programs.

Her career in education took another pioneering turn in 1979 when she was appointed dean of the Graduate College and became the first woman to be named an academic dean at WMU.

Grotzinger held that post from 1979 to 1992, concurrently serving as the University’s chief research officer for seven years, among other added duties. Under her tenure, WMU significantly expanded its doctoral degree programs as well as strengthened and institutionalized its development as a major research university.

“I’ve served under six of the University’s eight presidents. The people here are amazing, and every decade has produced its stars among the staff and its good people who make things happen,” Grotzinger says.

“Every set of freshmen and transfer students, every student seeking graduate study and research, every faculty and staff member provides a new opportunity to, as one of our past slogans emphasized, ‘make a difference.’ I never want to walk away from that environment and that community.”

Faculty Senate announces leadership for 2014-16

The Faculty Senate has elected its 2014-16 Executive Board. Except for the immediate past president, members of the board will serve two-year terms.

Executive Board officers are: president, C. Dennis Simpson, physics; assistant, and director of the Specialty Program in Alcohol and Drug Abuse; past president, William G. Rantz, aviation sciences; and vice president, Richard Gershon, communication, and co-director of the telecommunications and information management program. Executive Board directors are: Osama Abudayyeh, civil and construction engineering, and the engineering college’s associate dean for research and graduate programs; Susan F. Ayers, human performance and health education; John Jellies, biological sciences; Alan Rea, business information systems; Bret Wagner, management; and DeLores Walcott, interdisciplinary health programs.
Group helping to fill food gap for students

Meeting critical unmet student needs is the aim of a new campus initiative that also will help build a culture of giving at WMU. Called the Invisible Need Project, the multi-faceted initiative kicked off this summer and is initially focusing on collecting food donations as well as establishing a Student Emergency Relief Fund to assist any WMU student facing immediate need.

“The first component of the project is creating a food pantry for students that will open Sept. 15. And we’re relying on donations from the campus community to stock the pantry,” says Julia P. Kuntz, development and alumni relations, who is one of the members of the committee of University employees spearheading the invisible need initiative.

“The project will engage WMU employees and purposefully include our students so they, too, can contribute to their fellow students but without an added financial burden.”

Committee members are looking for volunteers in each campus building to set aside food collection sites and regularly assist with having the donations picked up. Kuntz notes that the committee will provide the necessary containers, and the volunteers will be given a contact person to call when pick-up is needed.

Initially, the point of contact for students accessing WMU’s food pantry will be the reception area of the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs.

Only nonperishable food items in their original, commercially canned or packaged containers will be accepted. Foods that contribute to a nutritious meal will be especially welcome.

To ensure food safety, the items must have intact labels and be in good condition (no rusty cans) as well as within their expiration dates. Alcoholic beverages will not be accepted, nor will items that are perishable, homemade or repackaged.

The Student Emergency Relief Fund is being launched with a fundraising effort featuring a $10 student-designed T-shirt available in mid-September through various registered student groups, at athletic events and at the Campus Flagpoles on Western Wednesdays.

To volunteer for the Invisible Need Project, contact Karen Lamons in Residence Life at karen.lamons@wmich.edu or (269) 387-4742.

For more information, visit mywmu.com/invisibleneed or follow WMU Invisible Need on Twitter.

WMU launches national grandparenting journal

A national journal that focuses on the needs of millions of families headed by grandparents has been launched at WMU as a free open-access online resource for scholars and public service professionals.

GrandFamilies: The Contemporary Journal of Research, Practice and Policy is a product of the National Research Center on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, a collaboration between Georgia State University and WMU. The first issue can be found at scholarworks.wmich.edu/grandfamilies.

GrandFamilies provides a forum for research with sound scholarship, knowledge, skills and best practices for scholars, clinicians, policymakers, educators, program administrators and family advocates.

The peer-reviewed journal’s co-editors are WMU’s Andrea Smith, teaching, learning and educational studies, and Georgia State’s Deborah Whaley, social work. The two also are co-directors of the grandparenting research center.

Response to the journal is “off the charts,” they say, with enough submissions already received to produce the next two issues.

Fall News

TV spot earns national honor

A 30-second television commercial that is part of the Go West advertising campaign has garnered a 2014 silver Communicator Award from the Academy of Interactive Visual Arts, or AVIA.

The spot was edited and partially filmed by Kalamazoo-based Lawrence Productions and produced for the Office of University Relations. It features a montage of WMU still and video images set to the music of the “William Tell Overture.”

One of three similar spots, the award-winning commercial opens with a student musician tapping out the melody on one of the School of Music’s Steinway pianos. The music then evolves into a full-throated rendition of the classic work by WMU’s University Chorale before closing with the “Go West” tagline.

ELP, PNC Bank partner to offer free personal finance workshops for employees this fall

Personal finance workshops for faculty and staff members are being offered this fall. All sessions are free and will be held from noon to 1 p.m. in the President’s Dining Room of the Bernhard Center. Each session will be offered twice, and participants may attend as many sessions as they wish.

• “Early Career: Establishing Yourself,” Tuesday and Thursday, Sept. 23 and 25.

New workers and recent graduates learn how to choose benefits, build a budget that accommodates rent and commutes, and understand how and why to start investing to grow money for retirement.

• “Middle Career: Expanding Your Household,” Monday and Thursday, Oct. 6 and 9.

Learn how to manage credit and safeguard against identity theft, find the right mortgage to buy a house, and care for older relatives.


Learn how to define retirement goals, explore different retirement plans, maximize money growth by choosing different strategies, and identify any potential risks or problems.

• “Raising Money, Smart Kids,” Tuesday and Thursday, Nov. 11 and 13.

Teaching children about money at an early age can help them develop good financial habits. Learn which money skills a child should master before leaving home and how to teach young children to save toward a goal.

The Office of Professional Development in Extended University Programs is partnering with PNC WorkPlace Banking to host the series. The office provides training programs, workshops and holistic learning experiences for a variety of on- and off-campus clients seeking to advance organizational goals or to develop and enhance professional skills or personal aptitude.

Refreshments will be provided at the workshops. Visit wmich.edu/extended/professional/pncworkshops for details or to register. Direct questions to the professional development office at (269) 387-4200.

DIGGING OUT—Work on transforming East Hall into the WMU Alumni Center is on schedule, with Parking Lot 1 by Walwood Hall expected to reopen Wednesday, Sept. 17, and the center to open in September 2015. The most visible work at the construction site lately has been excavation for an underground retention basin to store water run-off from both the Walwood and East hall parking areas as well as roof run-off. After back filling the retention basin in early September, this giant mound of soil nearly as high as East Hall’s famed cupola is where workers will install the Alumni Center’s geothermal heating and cooling system. The system will have 54 400-foot wells and water running through closed-loop tubing, allowing the 55-degree earth to cool the center in warm weather and heat it in cold weather. Shoring up and restoring the North Hall facade that has been retained will start Monday, Sept. 8, and masonry and historical renovation of East Hall’s exterior will start in October. Other near-term major activities include completing the retention wall in front of East Hall and putting in the footings and foundations for the building’s new stairwell additions. Once Parking Lot 1 reopens, a small number of parking spaces will be closed off occasionally as construction work continues. [Photo by Jeanne Baron]
Medical school welcomes inaugural class

The nation’s newest medical school, the WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine, welcomed its inaugural class of 54 students Aug. 18. A white-coat ceremony for this year’s students is slated for mid-September, just before the public grand opening Sept. 18 at the medical school’s W.E. Upjohn M.D. Campus.

The reservation deadline for the grand opening has passed, but no reservation is needed to attend the Community Open House set for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 20. The Upjohn Campus is a seven-story former research facility at 300 Portage St. in downtown Kalamazoo that has just been renovated and expanded to house the medical school.

The school’s incoming class includes students from 14 states, with 43 percent hailing from Michigan. The students earned their undergraduate degrees at 35 colleges and universities ranging from Big Ten schools like the universities of Illinois, Michigan and Minnesota to liberal arts colleges, like Albion, Calvin and Hillsdale. Three students are WMU graduates, and two earned degrees at Kalamazoo College. Both of those schools enjoy a preferred relationship status with the medical school.

At 54, the Class of 2018 is slightly larger than the goal of 50 students originally announced. The school expects to admit 60 students next year and grow in each succeeding year until it reaches an eventual class size of 84 students per class.

EUP marks 50th anniversary

This year marks the 50th year that WMU has been providing its Master of Business Administration in Grand Rapids. In observance of the milestone, Extended University Programs has planned an anniversary celebration for invited guests Friday, Sept. 12.

WMU began offering the MBA in Grand Rapids in 1964 after identifying that a quality graduate program in business education was needed and being spurred on by two local companies.

Today, EUP has two facilities in Grand Rapids that offer several programs. The MBA, which is offered through the Haworth College of Business, may be pursued as a general degree, or students may concentrate in aviation, computer information systems, finance, health care, international business, management or marketing.

Personal data updates urged

Faculty and staff members must update their personal records by Monday, Sept. 22, to be included in the 2014-15 WMU Directory, as well as to help the University develop effective emergency plans and meet federal reporting guidelines.

Review and update campus as well as home addresses and phone numbers, plus privacy settings, emergency contacts and ethnic group affiliations. Set your privacy flag to “Yes” if you do not want your home information published in the directory.

To make changes to personal data, visit the My Self Service channel in GoWMU. Select Employee Self Service, then Personal Information Summary. For more information, visit wmich.edu/hr then click Resources for Employees followed by Employee self service guides and then Personal data updates.

Exciting annual events lead off new academic year

Another academic year is underway, and the campus community is looking forward to a variety of exciting traditional events. Among the biggest is Bronco Bash, now in its 34th year.

This annual back-to-school party brings some 20,000 WMU students and employees together with members of the local community.

This year’s event will be held from 3 to 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 5, on the pedestrian mall in front of Sangren Hall. It will feature booths, entertainment, food and activities, and is free and open to the public.

Attendees can obtain information or sign up for services or volunteer experiences at more than 450 informational booths. There also is live entertainment, novelty attractions and food available for purchase. For more information about Bronco Bash and this year’s entertainment schedule, visit wmich.edu/broncobash.

Numerous other major events are taking place this semester:

• Fall Fab Fest—Saturday, Sept. 7, 1 to 5 p.m., Student Recreation Center tennis courts. Public lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender and ally welcome event in association with various community organizations.
• CommUniverCity football game—Saturday, Sept. 20, 4 to 6:30 p.m., Hyman Field. Corporate tailgating at more than 30 host tents, prior to the game against Murray State University with fireworks at halftime.
• Bronco Stampede—Saturday, Sept. 27, Blacksburg, Virginia. Pregame tailgate before the football game against Virginia Tech.

Fall News

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The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 50, 45, 40, 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service during August.

50 Years—Doralee N. DeRyke, Haworth College of Business; and Laurel A. Gregoire, University Libraries.
45 Years—Richard DePeaux, art.
40 Years—Thomas A. Carey, management; David G. Houghton, political science; and Kenneth L. McGinley, services.
35 Years—Kuriakose K. Athappilly, business information systems; Jane Baas, Lee Honors College; Kailash M. Bafna, industrial and entrepreneurial engineering and engineering management; Kathi B. Beasgery, intercollegiate athletics; Hans J. Dykshorn, accounting; Maureen Lassiter, maintenance services; Kathleen E. Sinning, accounting; and Frederick Zigmund Sitkins Sr., industrial services; Kathleen E. Sinning, accountancy; Maureen Lassiter, maintenance services; Kathleen E. Sinning, accountancy; and Frederick Zigmund Sitkins Sr., industrial and entrepreneurial engineering and engineering management.
30 Years—Christopher S. Cho, mechanical and aerospace engineering; Alyce M. Dickson, psychology; Philip J. Egan, English; Frank M. Gumbal, management; Frank R. Morris, counselor education and counseling psychology; Dennis D. Pence, mathematics; Alvin S. Rosenthal, physics; and Dennis J. VandenBrink, mechanical and aerospace engineering.
25 Years—Ronald S. Bell, public safety; Clifton E. Ealy, mathematics; Karim Essami, biological sciences; Richard A. Gershon, communication; Ajay K. Gupta, computer science; Lynn N. Johnson, teaching, learning and educational studies; Rand H. Johnson, world languages and literatures; Paul A. Johnston Jr., English; Emanuel Y. Kamber, physics; Anna Lee Miller, sociology; Joshua Naranjo, statistics; John O. Norman, history; Silvia Roederer, music; Scott W. Thornburg, statistics; and Frederick Zigmund Sitkins Sr., industrial and entrepreneurial engineering and engineering management.
20 Years—Eskander Alvi, economics; Jeffrey Matthew Angles, world languages and literatures; Robert J. Bunda, English; Mary Anne Bunda, emerita in educational studies, died July 17. She was 70. Bunda joined the WMI faculty in 1973 and retired in 2002 after more than 28 years of service. J. Michael Keenan, emeritus in management, died July 28. He was 82. Keenan was a faculty member from 1962 to 1965 and returned to the University in 1968, retiring in 1999 after 31 years of service. William J. Kowalski, retired assistant vice president for facilities engineering, died June 18 in Kalamazoo. He was 91. Kowalski joined the staff in 1966 and retired in 1985 after 11 years of service. Harvey Overton, emeritus in humanities, died April 16. He was 92. Overton joined the faculty in 1955 and retired in 1982 after 27 years of service.
No slowdown in important research news during summer

A wealth of exciting research news hit the papers and airwaves this summer. Key among the stories reported was a team of WMU student engineers under the guidance of faculty advisor Massood Atashbar, electrical and computer engineering, that could reduce football injuries. At a time when football concussions are triggering lawsuits and making headlines, the students have come up with a device that can be implanted in a football helmet and monitor the severity and location of blows to the head. Now, they are looking for investors and grants to get their business startup, SafeSense Technologies LLC, off the ground.

Their idea was recognized as one of the top eight final teams in a recent competition sponsored by the University of Michigan in which the students received training for young entrepreneurs. Another major development reported this summer is the University being slated to receive $4 million to boost its autism research and professional training initiatives.

The announcement was made by State Rep. Margaret O’Brien June 20 during a stop on campus for a news conference.

**Retirements of eight faculty, staff members approved**

The retirements of eight employees were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees at its July 23 meeting. Trustees also signed off on faculty resignations and a faculty tenure recommendation. Both of the faculty members who are retiring are doing so with emeritus status. Their names, positions, years of continuous service and effective dates of retirement are: Loren Heun, statistics, 29 years, effective April 30, 2019, and William A. Sauck, geosciences, 29 years, effective April 30, 2019.

The staff members retiring are: Jeanine M. Bartholomew, College of Health and Human Services, 33 years, effective June 30; Marilyn A. Johnson, geography, 15 years, effective May 23; William L. Jones, custodial and support services, 32 years, effective July 31; Valerie J. Levenskoe, Valley 1 Dining Service, 28 years, effective Aug. 31; Donnie L. Phelps, Bernhard Center, 29 years, effective July 31; and Loisjean Shelton, custodial and support services, 26 years, effective April 30.

The faculty members resigning are: Jessica Kersting, speech pathology and audiology, effective Aug. 17; Joseph M. Pellerito Jr., occupational therapy, effective June 30; Renéé Schwartz, biological sciences, effective Aug. 17; and Stacey Wieland, communication, effective Aug. 17.

Tenure was granted to Brandy A. Skjold, Mallinson Institute, effective with the beginning of the 2014-15 academic year. July filed reports that could lead to as much as $2 million in annual savings for the city.

- Gellert Mezei, chemistry, has been awarded a $284,833 grant from the National Science Foundation to study negatively charged ions, or anions. Mezei will study anions that are potentially damaging to lakes and rivers when found in fertilizers and also are a toxic byproduct in waste from manufacturing and mining.
- Maarten J. Vondolf, biological sciences and environmental and sustainability studies, and Robert Eversole, biological sciences, are heading a multinational project that has garnered more than $220,000 to study a fatal fungal infection affecting hibernating bats in eastern North America.

University begins STARS sustainability initiative as one of just 66 schools with ‘gold’ rating

WMU has launched its involvement in a national higher education sustainability program by achieving gold-level status as the result of its first annual data report. Reporting to the WMU Board of Trustees July 23, Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness Jody Brylinsky outlined the University’s submission to the Sustainability, Tracking, Assessment and Rating System—known as STARS—administered by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.

The STARS program involves reporting comprehensive information related to a college or university’s sustainability performance in a broad range of areas. More than 600 U.S. colleges and universities have registered for the program that offers its own sustainability assessment and rating system. Of those, 312 schools are rated and only 21 percent are rated at the gold level.

Brylinsky notes that the STARS system is not often used by very large universities, but it is particularly well suited to WMU because it takes the same broad definition of sustainability that has become the hallmark of the University’s commitment.

“Too often, we think of sustainability only from the perspective of saving energy or conserving other physical resources,” Brylinsky says. “We have outstanding accomplishments in those areas, but the STARS assessment model looks at a much broader range of achievement. It looks at our campus culture, the elements of our mission and how sustainability plays into every aspect of University life.”

Points are accrued in each of dozens of assessed areas, Brylinsky notes. Among WMU’s strongest areas for point accumulation were innovation, diversity and accessibility, research, community partnerships, continuing education, rainwater management and coordinated planning and governance.

In the area of community service and community stakeholder engagement, for instance, the WMU data reflects the total number of student community service hours during a one-year period of 1,148,930, with some 85 percent of the University’s more than 24,000 students engaging in some form of community service.

And in the research area, 712 faculty and staff members from 57 departments at WMU were counted in the STARS assessment as engaged in research, while 139 individuals from 32 departments were specifically engaged in sustainability research.
Six to receive awards

for their service.

• Brooks is office coordinator for the Department of Geography. She joined the staff in 1993 and has earned high praise for not just her professional skills, but also for her selfless willingness to help others, being a “mom away from home” for many students, and always showing a positive attitude as well as always promoting a positive image of the University.

• Gaudio is executive assistant in the Office of the President. She joined the staff in 1987 and is almost unanimously known as a consummate professional who embodies effectiveness and efficiency. Her award nominators note that she ably serves all of WMU’s many constituents, is the “perfect mentor” for students and consistently makes things happen.

• Landsberger is office coordinator for the Department of Civil and Construction Engineering. She joined the staff in 2002 and is lauded for working hard and taking personal responsibility for the University and the success of others. She also is cited for her warm and welcoming attitude and going above and beyond to be helpful.

• Oswalt is a millwright/maintenance mechanic in maintenance services. He joined the staff in 2009 and is praised for his professionalism, work ethic, dedication to the job and integrity. In addition, he is known as a patient teacher, excellent mentor and a person who displays uncommon courtesy and kindness.

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On Campus with Dale Hagens

Dale Hagens has been a full-time carpenter for 40 years, half of them at WMU. Hagens is one of 10 tradespeople in construction services who work on remodeling projects across campus that can be completed in a couple hours or in the case of major improvements, can carry on for weeks.

“Carpenters do everything from furniture installation—all the cubicles you see on campus—to framing, drywall hanging, ceiling installation and fabricating Corian, a solid surface material for making countertops that can be very involved and interesting,” he says. “We do a variety of things and are pretty well rounded. We’re especially busy in July and August getting everything wrapped up in time for the start of school.”

Hagens joined Facilities Management in 1993 after 20 years in the private sector working for construction companies. He started in maintenance services then moved to construction services in 2000, becoming part of a team of carpenters, painters and electricians who typically work under a project manager on jobs drawn up by WMU’s interior designers. He and his co-workers also regularly show up on the call-in list for tradespeople who can be summoned at all hours and days of the week in case of campus emergencies. “I like meeting the customers and I like the people I work with and for. We’re a pretty tight group. We’re here to make customers happy, and sometimes we do a little extra, such as hang pictures or change out pencil drawers and keyboard trays. We work with customers until they’re satisfied,” Hagens says. “I’ve been here 21-plus years, and there’s been a lot of great changes technology-wise and building-wise. It’s nice to see the University move forward. Along with that comes new products and technologies that we get to work with.”

He and his wife, Barb, live in Mattawan. They have a son, Travis, an electrician, and a granddaughter, Angel. Both Barb and Kimberlee are WMU alumni. Hagens describes himself as an “average Joe,” but decades of carpentry work have gone above and beyond to be helpful.

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Six to receive awards

University still celebrating recent awards garnered by WMUK-FM

WMU’s public radio station, WMUK-FM, won two national awards for local news programming June 21. WMUK reporter and producer Gordon Evans accepted a first-place award for “best interview among mid-sized stations” from Public Radio News Directors Inc.—known as PRNDI. The award was for a segment of Evans’ “WestSouthwest” weekly program that focused on the e-book “We Are One” as PRNDI. The award was for a segment of Evans’ “WestSouthwest” weekly program that focused on the e-book “We Are One” as PRNDI. The award was for a segment of Evans’ “WestSouthwest” weekly program that focused on the e-book “We Are One” as PRNDI.