

BUSINESS & FINANCE NOTES



SEPTEMBER 2023

ISSUE: 5

ATTENTION! Business and Finance Employees! We want to know your interests. Have a topic you want to know more about? Tell Karmella. If you are asking the question, someone else probably has as well. Call, text, or email.

Did you know?

Demolition Is More Than Knocking Over a Building.

Although the Bernhard Center may be closed to the public, its life is not yet over. There is much to be done inside before demolition work can begin. The crews will remove any remaining furniture, signs, or photographs. An accounting of any hazardous materials in the building must be conducted, and an asbestos National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) survey must be performed. Then bid documents will be provided to demolition contractors. The best course of action will be chosen, a schedule set and the asbestos will be abated before other work can begin. Maintenance will have the last chance to salvage any items it may use such as generators, electrical panels, heat, HVAC, fire or hot-water components. If everything goes as planned, abatement will start in January and demolition will follow in February or March. Then the Bernhard Center will become a memory.



Our Colleagues Have Published an Article.

In an effort to create a space in which our students will grow in all aspects of their lives personal and professional, we collaborate with others. The American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO), is a non-profit voluntary association of more than 11,000 higher-education professionals. The AACRAO shares best practices in many facets of higher education including admissions-enrollment management, and student services. One way this is done is by publishing a quarterly academic journal. The College and University Summer 2023 issue contains the article "The Importance of a Strong Campus Visit: A Practice Brief Outlining Collaboration Between Admissions and Facilities Management," written by Alicia Kornowa, director of admissions, and Eleonora Philopoulos, director of architecture and design. The article discusses the importance campus tours have on a student's decision to attend a particular college, how the collaboration between admissions and facilities management directly impacts the opinion those students might form about the university as a whole, and how a university can achieve successful tours. [Read the article here.](#)

And did you know?

Accounts Receivable Makeover Provides Private Confidential Service.

The Accounts Receivable team works collaboratively to coordinate student and retiree billing, manage university payment plans, facilitate tuition deferment for employer-sponsored reimbursement programs, process refunds for student accounts, and coordinate third-party billing with sponsors and employers. In addition, the team receives and processes tuition charge-appeals, and manages past-due accounts. Confidentiality and privacy are at the core of the services provided by Accounts Receivable. In collaboration with Facilities Management, Accounts Receivable was able to reconfigure its office space to create an expanded private-reception area for customers. The new reception space includes artwork that displays our Bronco Pride!



The Oaklands Received Summer Lovin'.

During the last couple of months, you may have noticed some activity at the Oaklands. Fences and scaffolding changed our view and the sounds of hammers and power tools may have drawn your attention to the quiet and often overlooked structure hidden behind trees and shrubbery on the main campus. Originally built in 1869, families, university presidents, and students have lived within its walls. Celebrations of all kinds have filled the rooms. The wooden components had deteriorated needing repair, in addition to all the soffit, gutters, and downspouts. The sidewalk and roof at the main entrance were replaced and the rear-porch structure was removed. Approximately 60 new energy-efficient windows will replace the current ones in November and December. The Oaklands was put on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. The next time you walk by, take a moment to admire the beauty of the home and the work and care of your colleagues.

Move-in is a Top Priority for Facilities Management.

From May to August, prior to the rush of students, Facilities Management does room-to-room checks on all residence halls. Additionally, during July and August, it will perform roughly 250 - 275 work orders to prepare for apartment turnover. This year on move-in weekend, 10 employees performed 56 work orders on Saturday and six employees performed 36 work orders on Sunday. This extra service gives the staff the chance to get out and introduce themselves to the students and parents they will serve during the year. Repairing showers, and installing blinds or air conditioners are just a few of the work orders. Since the students are our top priority, meeting face-to-face gives us the opportunity to show that their well-being matters, and WMU is committed to getting their concerns addressed. For more information about maintenance see [Links of Interest](#).



MEET YOUR COLLEAGUES!

Parking Services



Ashley Allers

From retail manager at American Eagle and Carters, and ER patient-care assistant at Borgess Medical Center, to paraprofessional in a special-education classroom at Mattawan Early Elementary to WMU Parking Services, Ashley Allers has had a diverse journey. During the year and a half, she has been a Bronco, Ashley has enjoyed helping students with their tickets, printing ID cards, and other day-to-day activities. She was able to work a tent at Bronco Bash watching students try to win a free-parking pass. Ashley also has the benefit of lunch with her husband who also works on campus. When not on the job, Ashley finds pleasure in time with her family and watching her children engage in sports.

Prior to Western, David Hatton spent 18 years as a small-business owner in the audio-video industry. In April of 2022, David joined WMU Parking Services. David chose Parking Services because the Department of Public Safety and his current co-workers make him feel welcome and make the day-to-day easy. He enjoys helping the students and employees. David listens to them and uses compassion to help create a sense of ease with parking services. He also educates them on the process of making future transactions less intimidating. If David is not at work, he is enjoying his family and is usually at a baseball diamond or a hockey rink with his talented son, and possibly future Bronco.



David Hatton



Eunice Ruiz

Since 1998, Eunice Ruiz has been part of the ever-changing fast pace of the WMU campus. Working in accounts payable, admissions, cashiering, Bronco Express, and currently with Parking Services, she is also a student when her schedule allows. In her role as department financial assistant, she has the opportunity to work with those outside of the WMU community in addition to her fellow Broncos. Often parking issues are just a misunderstanding. Assisting the community with having the best experience on campus is her job. Eunice enjoys gardening and tending her chickens when she can find spare time. She doesn't shy away from tinkering with a household project and loves camping and the opportunity to visit new towns.

Mark Johnson began his WMU journey as a student. He attributes much of his personal and professional successes to the foundations he built being a WMU graduate. In 2010 Mark joined the staff of the WMU registrar's office. A year later he transferred to Parking Services. As office supervisor, Mark oversees daily functions and he enjoys working with multiple user groups across campus developing professional partnerships with other departments and students. Outside of work, as an avid fan, he spends time at sporting events and concerts. Over the past decade, Mark and his father have made it their mission to see as many classic rock groups as humanly possible.



Mark Johnson

If you are interested in participating in this segment, please reach out to Karmella Todd. Otherwise, don't be surprised if she knocks on your door asking for participation.





Campus Fun for Staff and Faculty Consider Pickleball

What is this thing called pickleball? Would you believe it was some dad's attempt at a boredom buster with leftover sports equipment? A cross between tennis and ping pong, it was named after Pickles, the pet dog that kept stealing the wiffle ball used in the game. It uses a badminton net and a smaller space to create a game the whole family can enjoy. There is even an area lovingly dubbed the kitchen. Who wouldn't want to play this game?

The Student Recreation Center's spring league had more than 30 participants. It returns on Sept. 6, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 12:15 to 1 p.m. and on Sept. 18, Monday evenings from 5:15 to 6 p.m. The cost is just \$9 to join.

Meet people and have fun. The focus is on recreation, not competition.

No excuses allowed! You do not need to be a magnificent athlete. All equipment is provided. Learn in 30 minutes or less on your first day. Just come early. You can jump in anytime during the league. Join the fun. Pickles not provided!

Just a Thought

Summer fun has been had, the students are moved in, classes are rolling, the new Student Center is fully open, football is under way, and the campus is full of life again. With a little something for everyone, college football brings the masses together to start the semester that features the game, tailgating, marching band, cheer and dance teams, students, employees, and the community all bursting with energy. Western, first known as the Hilltoppers, spent those first years with the majority of W's only on their shirts. Fast forward to the building of Waldo Stadium, Sam Dunlap, MAC titles, division titles, and bowl games. Not to mention 57 former Broncos drafted into the NFL. Four of them with those special rings. What will this year bring? Time to find out. Let's go Broncos!

<https://www.kpl.gov/local-history/kalamazoo-history/recreation/foot-ball-in-kalamazoo-1870-1939/>

Upcoming Events

Sept. 22 - Historic Walk: Westnedge Hill Neighborhood

Oct. 8 - Historic Walk: Architects in Kalamazoo

Oct. 13 - Health Equity Summit

Oct. 20 Historic Walk: Mountain Home Cemetery

Oct. 24 - Faculty Head Shots

Oct. 27 - Nov. 5 - WMU Theatre Presents Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812

Links of Interest

www.epa.gov/asbestos

www.aacrao.org

wmich.edu/accounts-receivable

wmich.edu/oaklands

www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm

wmich.edu/facilities/maintenance

If you are interested in submitting information for the next Business and Finance Updates, please contact Karmella Todd at Karmella.Todd@wmich.edu.