In his first formal evaluation as WMU president, John M. Dunn was unanimously lauded for leadership, accessibility and a successful "nuts-and-bolts" approach to addressing multi-year enrollment and budget challenges, even in the face of statewide economic decline. WMU Board of Trustees Chair Ken Miller delivered the board's assessment at its Dec. 12 meeting.

Following his remarks, Miller recommended and the board approved a 3 percent increase to Dunn’s base salary. Dunn responded by noting his intent to donate the entire amount of the increase — just over $10,000 — to a student scholarship fund.

Faculty award nominations due Jan. 23
Nominations are due Friday, Jan. 23 for the 2009 Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award. Recipients receive a $2,000 honorarium and the opportunity to present their work to the University community. Go to www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2008/10/035 for nomination details.

Lansing Campus numbers corrected
Phone numbers for the Lansing Campus were listed incorrectly in the printed WMU directory distributed last month. The correct phone number is (517) 483-9728 and the fax number is (517) 483-9746.

WMU’s office and department directory pages are posted online as a PDF file and may be updated by request. Go to www.wmich.edu/directories and click “Office Directory (PDF)” in the left column. Check your office listing and send changes to Teresa Ventimiglia at teresa.ventimiglia@wmich.edu.

Student security officer appointed
As mandated by federal law, WMU has appointed a student information security officer under the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act. Tapped for the post was Keith Hearit, interim vice provost for enrollment management and Lee Honors College dean. Hearit will serve as the information security officer until a permanent vice provost for enrollment management is appointed.

New POA contract implemented
In a Dec. 12 vote, trustees authorized the administration to implement a new three-year agreement between WMU and its 18-member Police Officers Association.

The agreement, which is effective July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2011, was ratified by the union Dec. 3. The contract includes language changes, a 3 percent across-the-board increase to base pay in each year of the agreement, and items detailing life insurance and annual eligibility for a fitness bonus.
Spring welcome debuts today

The campus community is invited to welcome new students to campus at the inaugural Spring Welcome Fest from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. today in the Bernhard Center. The event is a mini Bronco Bash for students beginning their studies at WMU in the spring semester. It will feature an hour-long program as well as staffed informational displays. Light refreshments will be served.

The program will be held twice to accommodate student, faculty and staff schedules. WMU President John M. Dunn will give the welcome for the program that starts at 10 a.m. while Provost Timothy J. Greene will give the welcome for the program that starts at noon.

Numerous MLK events slated

This year’s Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration will kick off Sunday, Jan. 11, with a higher education open house to teach students and parents about the benefits of attending college. A wide variety of other events are taking place across campus through February.

For details about these events or how to pre-register for the higher education open house, go to www.wmich.edu/mlk or call 387-6313.

New Frostic lecture series begins

Kenneth Deffeyes, a famed Princeton geologist who believes world oil production peaked three years ago, will speak at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13, in the Fetter Center’s Kirsch Auditorium.

Deffeyes will be the first to speak as part of the new Gwen Frostic Environmental Studies Seminar Series. The talk is open to the public without charge and will be immediately followed by a reception.

Teaching subject of faculty seminar

All faculty members are invited to attend a seminar presented by the Haworth College of Business’ College Faculty Enhancement Committee from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 16, at 1350 Schneider. The seminar is titled “Do We Teach the Right Stuff in a Time of Crisis and Change?”

It will feature Andrew Targowski, business information systems, as facilitator, and panelists Jerry Kreuze, accounting; Christopher Korth, finance and commercial law; Robert Landeros, management; and Steven Newell, marketing.

Detroit Tigers to visit WMU

Some of the biggest names in Detroit Tigers baseball will be at Miller Auditorium from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 22. Doors will open at 4:45 p.m. for this free public rally, which is part of the 2009 Detroit Tigers Winter Caravan.

The event will feature a variety of Tigers players and coaches who will take the stage to discuss the team’s 2008 season as well as its prospects for the coming year. No tickets or reservations are required to attend the event, but anyone who registers by 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 16, will be entered in a drawing for items autographed by Tigers personnel.

To make a reservation, visit www.wmich.edu/alumni and click “Events,” send an e-mail message to alumni@wmich.edu or call 387-8777.

Exchange

Services provided—Do you need someone to dog sit or walk or watch your house? Reasonable rates. Call 344-6676.

For sale—Condo in unique setting close to downtown Kalamazoo, WMU and Meijer. Four years old with many construction upgrades. Two bedrooms, den, open floor plan, skylights, three-sided fireplace, transom window in kitchen, large deck, mature pine trees, three full baths, two-car attached garage and large yards. New kitchen with great room, stainless appliances, granite counters and recessed lighting. Lease for $1,450 per month with 3 months’ security deposit. Insulated walkout basement. Ready for immediate occupancy. Priced to sell at $195,000; low maintenance fees. Call 267-7855 or 267-7859.

For rent—Uplscale home for rent in Winchell area. Totally renovated 1,700 square-foot ranch. All wood floors, two-burning fireplaces, new windows, three bedrooms, 2.5 baths, three-seasons room, two-car attached garage and large yard. New kitchen with great room, stainless appliances, granite counters and recessed lighting. Lease for $1,450 per month with $1,450 security deposit. Dogs negotiable. Long-term lease available. Call 267-7855.

Weight Watchers meeting set

Weight Watchers at Work is holding a free informational meeting Tuesday, Jan. 13, from noon to 12:45 p.m. in 1160 Lawson Arena. The next 12-week session begins Tuesday, Jan. 20. Cost is $16. For more information, contact Jen Bailey at jen.bailey@wmich.edu or call 387-3762.

WMU in the spring semester.

Jobs

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

Profs receives national award

Chris L. Coryn, director of the interdisciplinary doctorate in evaluation in the Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, is the co-recipient of the 2008 Marcia Guttentag Award of the American Evaluation Association. The award is given to promising new evaluators, during the first five years after they have completed their master’s or doctoral degrees, whose work is consistent with the AEA Guiding Principles for Evaluators.

Coryn was honored by the association along with four other Guttentag Award winners at its national conference Nov. 7 in Denver.

He earned his doctorate from WMU in 2007 and his master’s from Indiana University in 2002. An author of numerous publications, he is managing editor of the Journal of Multidisciplinary Evaluation.

Dancer wins choreography competition

Carolyn Pavlik, dance, won the 2008 Maggie Allessie New Choreography Award for her dance “Nothing was left but white fragments.” The dance was performed by senior dance majors Tercell Waters and Lonnie Poupart Jr. in the annual competition hosted by the Michigan Dance Council.

Pavlik has been a member of the dance faculty since 2004. She recently produced, choreographed and performed her dance for the camera works Rack 3 and Gentions. Her concert choreographic works have been presented in Austin, Seattle and New York, and she has performed and toured nationally and internationally with the Austin-based Sharir + Bastamante Danceworks for 13 years.

Technology expert pens new book

Andrew Targowski, business information systems, has written a book that examines in depth the full range of impacts of information technology on civilization and the development of societies.

“Information Technology and Societal Development” looks at the social implications of informational technology and how breakthroughs waiting to be discovered will have a profound impact on the way organizations will cope with the direction civilization is taking.

Published in October by Information Science Reference, “Information Technology and Societal Development” is one of 21 books by Targowski on information technology, history and political science in English and Polish.

A native of Poland, Targowski headed the Polish Computer Development Program in the 1970s. He joined the WMU faculty in 1980, first serving in industrial and manufacturing engineering and later transferring to business information systems.
VETERAN EMPLOYEES HONORED— More than 30 people were inducted into WMU’s 25 Year Club Dec. 3. President John M. Dunn, center, recognized the inductees, who included, from left, Lonnie Wesseling, physical plant-building, custodial and support services; Rebecca Beech, English; Bradley Wong, music; and Greg Lozeau, information technology. (Photo by Neil Rankin)

The Student Recreation Center’s remodeled service desk has a sleek, modern look. The project also improved functionality. (Photo courtesy of physical plant-remodeling services)
When campus offices shut down for winter and summer recesses and closures, Joe Odehnal’s plate is still full. Rows of stand-up files on his desk hold requests for estimates for at least 10 projects on campus, another five awaiting funding approval and more than a dozen in the works.

In the 38 years Odehnal has worked for WMU’s Physical Plant, there’s been a constant stream of new facility needs—from hanging a bulletin board or laying carpet in an office to a several hundred thousand dollar fire alarm upgrade in three residence halls. Licensed by the state to work with asbestos, he also is frequently called in to navigate repairs or removal of the material.

“Every week it changes. I’m like the project manager, and we have the contractors on call,” Odehnal says.

He started his WMU career in 1970 as a custodian, then became a planner and estimator. He’s held that job for the past 22 years, except for a five-year stint as a maintenance supervisor from 1990 to 1995. When Odehnal joined the University, he had just earned an associate degree in automotive mechanics and was still attending college full time. With one young child at home and another on the way, he put his education at WMU on hold for 25 years to continue working while helping raise his family. In 1998, after all six of his children had gotten older, he finished his bachelor’s degree in general university studies.

Odehnal still uses his mechanic talents to work on his 1958 Ford Skyliner and 1992 Mustang convertibles. An active member of the International Ford Retractable Club, he admits that his garage and basement are full of parts, including the shell of the first Skyliner he purchased in 1948 for $100.

Back at his office, photos of the cars are interspersed among pictures of some of Odehnal’s 11 grandchildren. Three of his six grown children—two daughters and one son—are WMU graduates. He and his wife, Joan, who is retired from Fifth Third Bank, live in Kalamazoo.

Odehnal has been active at WMU as treasurer for five years of the Administrative Professional Association and as United Way fundraiser for the Physical Plant for 15 years. He also has been a bass vocalist for more than 30 years for the Kalamazoo First Assembly of God church.