A veteran WMU administrator has been selected to lead a revamped physical plant structure that is charged with managing the entire life cycle of all of the campus's facilities.

Peter J. Strazdas will lead the newly realigned Facilities Management Department, which was formed in late April. The unit includes all areas that were previously part of the Physical Plant and Campus Facilities Development units and will encompass planning, engineering, project management and operations. The consolidation of all facility functions under one umbrella organization is expected to provide better coordination among all the functional areas that deal with campus facilities.

Strazdas, manager of the Physical Plant’s maintenance services division since 1994, has been named a vice president for facilities management. He is completing the transformation process with John Goes, who will retire at the end of this year after directing the Physical Plant for nearly 20 years. “The new structure will deal with the complete life cycle of capital projects, from the visioning and design phases, all the way through the construction, ongoing maintenance, and eventual structural updating and retrofitting,” said Lowell P. Rinker in announcing the change. “We’ve made wonderful progress toward such a seamless organization with John Goes leading the Physical Plant, and I am very pleased that Pete Strazdas has agreed to accept this substantial increase in the scope of his responsibilities.”

Strazdas has played a lead role over the past dozen years in streamlining the University’s energy management and operating procedures as well as in enhancing the use of technology.

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WMU, University of Malta to launch new program

WMU and the University of Malta are preparing to launch a collaborative degree program that will tap the resources of both institutions to provide a master’s level criminology program to be taught at that Mediterranean nation’s flagship university.

WMU President John M. Dunn and University of Malta Rector Juanito Camilleri met May 5 at WMU to sign a memorandum of understanding outlining a new dual Master of Arts in Criminology, Law and Public Policy. The collaboration is designed as a novel international and interdisciplinary venture in a dual master’s degree program based on contributions from two universities, one in North America and the other in the Mediterranean region of the European Union.

“Now we’ll be working to make this agreement come to life,” said Dunn during the signing ceremony. “We’ll take what’s on paper and make it a reality. This will be a world-class opportunity for students at both institutions ready to take advantage of a program that will give them a unique set of credentials.”

The partnership is an opportunity for both schools to create a research and instructional environment based on different cultural perspectives. It also will provide rigorous criminological training at the graduate level that will increase WMU’s international engagement.

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Engineering student first confirmed H1N1 virus case

An engineering student who traveled over the semester break has been confirmed to have the 2009 North American H1N1 virus, also known as swine flu.

The student fell ill May 13 and stopped attending class. He went to the Sindecuse Health Center to seek treatment May 15 and was tested for the virus by health center staff. The Michigan Department of Community Health confirmed his test was positive late May 18, and communicated the results immediately to the Sindecuse medical director. The confirmation brings to four, the number of known H1N1 cases in Kalamazoo.

After being treated at Sindecuse, the student recovered from typical flu symptoms at home in an off-campus Kalamazoo apartment and is now symptom free. Early May 19, WMU President John M. Dunn sent a message to students, faculty and staff about the student’s diagnosis.
Around Campus

Commercialization workshops set
Two programs remain in a three-part series of training workshops being held in the Fetzer Center that are designed for faculty and staff members wanting to learn about commercializing their research. The series began May 19 and is being sponsored by Biotechnology Business Consultants in Ann Arbor, Mich., and WMU’s Office of the Vice President for Research and Office of Intellectual Property Management and Commercialization.

Attendees should come with their questions and will have the opportunity to schedule one-on-one appointments with each of the presenters in the afternoon following the training. Registration is required for the final two programs, which will take place from 9 a.m. to noon on back-to-back Tuesdays.

“Intro to Commercialization: Michigan-based Life Sciences” on May 26 is free and will explore commercialization options for early-stage life science companies. “Government Accounting and Grants Management” on June 2 costs $50 and is designed for those unfamiliar with the accounting and management requirements associated with receiving federal dollars. To register, go to www.bioconsultants.com/training_scheduled.html or call Kris Bergman at (734) 993-9742.

Wellness Wednesday event slated
The next Wellness Wednesday Workshop is titled “Strength & Stability” and will take place from 12:05 to 12:55 p.m. May 27 in 3014 Student Recreation Center. Preregistrations are required and may be made by calling 387-3543.

Entrepreneurship is subject of talk
A local entrepreneur will be the featured speaker in a presentation Friday, May 29, as part of the Keystone Community Bank Breakfast Speaker Series at WMU. Amy Knapp will discuss the inspiration, creation and success of her new business, Amy Knapp’s Family Organizers, in a talk titled “Advantages of Operating a Small Business During Difficult Economic Times.”

Her presentation begins at 8 a.m. in the Dean’s Conference Room in Schneider Hall. The event begins with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. and is free and open to the public. Reservations are required and may be made by calling 387-5070.

Retirement reception scheduled
A retirement reception honoring Becky Roberts, millwright/maintenance mechanic in physical plant-maintenance services, for her 24-1/2 years of service to the University will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. Friday, May 29, in the Faculty Lounge of the Bernhard Center.

Sports staffer wins writing award
Matthew D. Holmes, intercollegiate athletics, has been named the recipient of an inaugural award presented by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association and United States Tennis Writers Association.

Holmes, associate director of athletic media relations, took first place in the ITA/JUSTWA Sports Information Directors Writing Competition for a women’s tennis-related story. Holmes came to WMU in 2005 after two years with ESPN Radio in Indianapolis. He was promoted to his current position in 2007 and is close to completing a master’s degree in sport management at WMU.

Academic advisor earns state honor
Marilyn S. Kritzman, faculty specialist in the School of Communication, has received the 2009 Outstanding Academic Advisor-Primary Role Award from the Michigan Academic Advising Association.

Kritzman received the honor during the association’s annual state conference May 11 for her “extraordinary dedication” to her students and colleagues as well as to the academic advising field. The association is an organization of college and university professionals concerned with the structural, personal, and career or vocational advising needs of students in Michigan.

A 1987 alumna of WMU’s master’s program in communication, Kritzman was appointed to her current position in 2002 to coordinate undergraduate advising and internships for the communication school.

Kritzman came to WMU in 1982 as a residence hall director and in 1991 was promoted to assistant manager of facilities and success of her new business, Amy Knapp’s Family Organizers, in a talk titled “Advantages of Operating a Small Business During Difficult Economic Times.”

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Prof’s projects aid war-torn Liberia
Susan Weinger, social work, is heading a project called “Micro Enterprise—Macro Impact in Liberia” to help citizens of the war-torn West African nation start small businesses that rent or create wedding dresses. Weinger says when one Liberian begins a business, the profits support an extended family.

She and the student group she’s collaborating with are seeking donations of good-quality, used and new wedding dresses, as well as wedding dress fabric, veils, beaded appliqué, lace and sewing machines.

Weinger has been to Liberia, serving as a consultant to a rehabilitation center. She also has sent used computers to the country, and two Internet-related stories have been developed as a result. Her direct contacts there help ensure the goods will go to the appropriate people. To learn more, e-mail elegant liberia@gmail.com or call 344-0760.

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

Exchange
For sale—House in quiet Westwood neighborhood at 721 Fletcher Ave., Cape Cod with 1,700 square feet. Three bedrooms with huge master, 1-1/2 baths, remodeled kitchen, dining room, sun room/den, breezeway to garage and fenced-in backyard. Fresh paint throughout, new bathroom fixtures, most windows replaced, central air and security system. $132,900. Call Carol at 377-3226.
WMU archaeologists are making history come alive at the site of Fort St. Joseph in Niles, Mich., with camp offerings in July for middle school students, educators and other interested adults.

Sign up is under way for three summer camps that will offer hands-on training and learning at the premier public archaeology program in the Midwest.

Teachers can earn Continuing Education Unit credit as certified by the State Board of Education or graduate credits for their participation.

Camps include: an adult non-credit program July 13-17, a program for junior high school students in grades six through nine July 20-24, and a program for educators, including teachers, principals, librarians and aides, July 27-31.

The field school will take place near Niles, Mich. Each five-day program will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Availability is limited to 10 students each week, and a $125 fee is charged.

Scholarships, Continuing Education Certificates and credit hours are available. The review of applications will begin June 8, and candidates will be notified of their acceptance by June 15 or until the program is filled.

Go to fortsjosephmuseum.org for complete details or to apply.
Strazdas to head revamped facilities structure

in managing facilities. During the period, campus building square footage has increased by 19 percent while at the same time, total energy consumption has decreased by 17 percent. In addition, the efficiency of response to building maintenance requests was increased through the use of an online paperless work-order system and equipping employees with handheld wireless devices linked to the University's software and databases.

“Western Michigan University has been a part of my entire working career,” Strazdas says. “There are many dedicated people in the new integrated department, and I look forward to working with these professionals to manage our facility resources very carefully. We take our facility stewardship seriously, and our entire team will work together to improve efficiencies and customer service.”

Strazdas has been a WMU employee since 1980. Before assuming his present duties at the Physical Plant in 1994, he was an engineering technology faculty member and later a construction administrator. For several years, he chaired the Michigan Construction Safety Standards Commission, which he served on by gubernatorial appointment, and since 2004, he has served as president of the Michigan Higher Education Facilities Officers Association.

Engineering student first confirmed H1N1 case

diarrhea and vomiting. Studies have shown that people may be contagious from one day before they develop symptoms to up to 7 days after they get sick.

As a precaution early in the development of the current flu strain, Sindecuse implemented portions of WMU's preparedness plan and ensured that it screens and treats patients without spreading the flu.

• Sindecuse has hand sanitizers and paper masks for patients who come to the center with flu symptoms.
• The staff has set up a triage system to separate patients with flu symptoms from those without symptoms.
• The staff is prepared to perform rapid tests for influenza and will send appropriate tests to the state laboratory for confirmation.

Sindecuse Medical Director Lisa Marshall says any student, staff or faculty member with flu symptoms should immediately isolate themselves from others and stay home. If flu symptoms become severe enough to seek treatment, they should visit Sindecuse or their family doctor.

Students, faculty and staff are being reminded of basic precautions such as hand-washing that will help prevent or slow the spread of influenza.

Go to www.obf.wmich.edu/safety/pandemic and www.wmich.edu/flu for more information.

VanRiper clinic urges employees to get their hearing screened

May is Better Hearing and Speech Month, and there’s still time to make an appointment to schedule a hearing screening this month at the Van Riper Language, Speech and Hearing Clinic. For employees and retirees enrolled in the University’s Community Blue FPC Health Plan, screenings and other comprehensive speech and audiologic services are covered at campus facilities under the WMU Health Services Plan.

An annual hearing checkup is recommended for people age 45 and up. In addition to WMU employees, the Van Riper clinic’s services are available to residents throughout Southwest Michigan, from newborns to senior citizens.

The Van Riper clinic is located in the WMU United Clinics office on the fourth floor of the Kalamazoo Center for Medical Studies, 1000 Oakland Drive. To set up an appointment, call 387-8047.

The United Clinics participate in many insurance plans and offer services on a sliding pay scale as needed. In addition to treating hearing loss, individual clinics offer many health care services provided through clinical programs attached to the College of Health and Human Services. Go to www.wmich.edu/hhs/unifiedclinics for more information.