Annual dance fundraiser scheduled

The Department of Dance and Partners in Dance will host the 2010 version of “Dancing with the WMU/Kazoo Stars” at 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 22, in Miller Auditorium. The annual fundraiser supports scholarships for dance majors and features dance instruction and a ballroom exhibition as well as local celebrities competing with one another. The cost is $75. To make a reservation, contact Robin or Juliette at (269) 387-5830.

Wooping cough on rise in Michigan

It is recommended that adolescents and adults receive a one-time dose of pertussis (whooping cough) protection, in combination with diphtheria and tetanus, with a vaccine called Tdap. Sincadice Health Center patrons who have not had a Tdap vaccination may arrange with Sincadice to get one when they come in for their flu shot. The cost of the Tdap vaccine is in the range of $42 to $54, depending on the patient, and most insurance plans cover the charges. Visit www.wmich.edu/news to learn more. As well as obtain details about this year’s opportunities to get flu shots on campus.

TIAA-CREF reps available in December

All October and November time slots have been booked for TIAA-CREF representatives who will be on campus for private financial consultations. But slots are open for employees to schedule an on-campus consultation Tuesday through Thursday, Dec. 7-9, or later. To make an appointment, visit www.tiaa-cref.org and click Consultations and Seminars under Services. If unable to register online, call the scheduling group at (800) 732-8353.

Chicago trip deadline approaching

The Professional Support Staff Organiza- tion is sponsoring a bus trip to Chicago Saturday, Nov. 20, for $30. The reservation deadline is Saturday, Oct. 16, and there will be no refunds.

The bus will start loading at 7:45 a.m. in Lot 41 by Sangren and return to Kalamazoo at 8 p.m. There will be three drop-off points at the Midway, O’Hare and Midway. Go to www.wmich.edu/apa for details and a reservation form. Direct questions to Carol Morris-Mier at carol.morris- mier@wmich.edu or (269) 387-3475.

Receptions slated for alumni, friends

The WMU Alumni Association is bringing senior administrators to alumni and friends by hosting receptions in the Michigan counties of Grand Rapids, Holland and Troy, as well as in Texas; Washington, D.C.; and Wisconsin. Registration is required for all of these events at www.wmich.edu/alumni/alumni@wmich.edu or (269) 387-8777. The cost ranges from free to $15, and the earliest registration deadline is Tuesday, Oct. 12.

WMU one of nation’s ‘best for vets’ colleges

WMU has been named one of the nation’s top-20 schools for military veterans by a national publication that serves all branches of the armed forces.

Military Times’ EDGE magazine ranked WMU at No. 16 on its list of 101 colleges around the United States that are “best for vets” and “make veterans’ success a priority.”

This is the first such ranking by the monthly publication, which is a supplement to the widely distributed Military Times publications—Army Times, Navy Times, Air Force Times and Marine Corps Times.

The magazine invited more than 4,300 colleges and universities to report on their programs, policies and resources for veterans. The rankings were based on four broad categories—financial assistance, academic flexibility, campus culture and support services. The only other Michigan college to make the overall list, the University of Michigan-Flint, was ranked No. 99.

Major NSF project aims to boost college math readiness

The University has been awarded a three-year, $3.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation to develop a mathematics course for high school seniors that will prepare them for college-level courses in majors that do not require calculus.

Christian Hirsch, who is nationally known for his work in leading the successful Core-Plus Mathematics Project at WMU, will lead a new effort called Transitions to College Mathematics and Statistics. The goal is to design, develop, field-test, refine and bring to publication a fourth-year mathematics course that can be used in high schools around the nation, regardless of the type of curriculum used for the first three years.

Hirsch and his team will develop an eight-unit course for seniors that blends core mathematical skills from algebra and geometry that students need to succeed on college placement tests with a wide range of high-interest topics that cover the ways mathematics is used in a variety of professions. Those topics range from the coding and encryption technology that is part of Internet use, to the mathematics that governs democratic decision-making—polling, redistricting and apportionment—and mathematics used in financial services. The only other Michigan college to make the overall list, the University of Michigan-Flint, was ranked No. 99.

Chinese studies center named for Tim Light officially opens

The Timothy Light Center for Chinese Studies will formally open Monday, Oct. 11, with a free public lecture followed by a reception.

Stephen R. Mackin- non, a renowned Arizona State University scholar, will talk on the “Impact of World War II on China: A Reevalua- tion” at 6 p.m. in the Fetzer Center’s Kirsch Auditorium. Mackin- non, a former director of Arizona State’s Center for Asian Studies, will go beyond the traditional political story of World War II and the China War by discussing the social, cultural and economic impact of those wars on the Chinese people.
Around Campus

‘Cherry’ to premier in local theatre

Familiar campus sites and city landmarks will star when the movie “Cherry,” filmed primarily on the WMU and Kalamazoo College campuses, has its commercial theatrical premiere Friday, Oct. 8, at Celebration Cinema Crossroads in Portage, Mich.

Employees invited to info meetings

The Academically Talented Youth Program administered by the Lee Honors College is holding a series of meetings around Kalamazoo County that will explain the process for applying to the program. The next available meeting is Sunday, Oct. 10. Go to www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2010/10/009.shtml for the complete schedule.

Ethics center to focus on oil firms

The Center for the Study of Ethics in Society celebrates its 25th anniversary this year and kicks off its fall season Tuesday, Oct. 12, with a panel discussion on “Do Oil and Ethics Mix?” Panelists will discuss the ethics involved in the quest for oil in light of this summer’s oil spills in the Gulf of Mexico and Kalamazoo River.

Emerging Africa to be focus of talk

Steven Badelet, senior advisor of development for the U.S. Secretary of State, will discuss the fundamental changes driving the revitalization of 17 African countries at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 13, in 3301 Friedmann. His talk will be based on his newly released book, “Emerging Africa: How 17 Counties are Leading the Way,” and a book signing will follow the presentation.

Business Career Day is Oct. 14

More than 100 businesses and organizations will be on the campus for Business Career Day Thursday, Oct. 14. The event runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the East Ballroom of the Bernhard Center and is open to students, alumni and the public.

GMAT exam prep course offered

WMU-Battelle Creek is offering a GMAT Exam preparation course that will meet from 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays from Oct. 19 to Nov. 16 in the Kendall Center. Go to www.wmich.edu/battlecreek/gmatInfo.php for cost and registration information.

Grad programs fair scheduled

The 2010 Professional School and WMU Graduate Programs Fair being sponsored by Kalamazoo College and WMU is set for 3 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 20, in the Bernhard Center. Go to www.wmich.edu/grad for details.

Fall Make a Difference staff award nominations due Oct. 31

Nominations for the fall round of WMU’s semiannual Make a Difference awards are due by Oct. 31.

Make a Difference is a campuswide peer-to-peer program that recognizes WMU staff for their accomplishments and daily investment of energy and creativity.

It features semiannual and annual awards available to Staff Compensation System (those eligible for membership in APA and PSSO, AFSCME, MSEA and POA employees who provide exceptional services to the University.

Every fall and spring, semiannual awards are presented to a maximum of 15 people. Those selected for the accolade receive a prize of $300, before taxes, and a certificate; are recognized at a special reception; and may be nominated for one of four annual Make a Difference awards that includes a pre-tax prize of $1,200.

Semiannual award recipients may win multiple times, but are limited to one semiannual award per academic year.

Visit www.wmich.edu/hr/make-a-difference for nomination instructions and forms.

Obituary

Lyman C. Aldrich Sr., a former researcher in what is now paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging, died Sept. 24, in Lawrence, Kan. He was 93.

Aldrich was a research associate from 1970 until his retirement in 1983. He taught and conducted research on fibers, water reuse and other environmental and pulping subjects.

He also was an active member of the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry, and wrote or revised more than 20 TAPPI standards.

Exchange

Wanted—Experienced babysitter. Rates negotiable. Call (269) 599-8397 between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m.

Jobs

Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources Web site at www.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.

Prize-winning translator writes book

Jeffrey Angles, foreign languages, has penned a new book that is the first full retrospective of the writings of Tada Chimako, an important Japanese poet known for her use of mythological images and sumptuously beautiful waka (poetry). “Forest of Eyes: Selected Poems of Tada Chimako,” was published by the University of California Press.

In April, Angles’ mentorship work for the book earned him the 2009 Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission Prize for the Translation of Japanese Literature. “Forest of Eyes” includes the translations of more than 100 of Chimako’s most famous poems, as well as commentary and an introduction.

The book was a personal accomplishment because Chimako wrote in a wide variety of poetic styles, including free verse, prose poetry, and the traditional Japanese genres of tanka and haiku.

Counselor receives national award

Alan Hovestadt, counselor education and counseling psychology, has received the Outstanding Contributions to Marriage and Family Therapy Award from the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. The award was presented during the association’s annual conference Sept. 24 in Atlanta.

It is bestowed by the 24,000-member group for accomplishments that are career long and exceptional. Hovestadt was honored for his distinguished record in marriage and family therapy training, publications and scholarly work, and professional leadership.

During the last 35 years, he has built a prominent record of publications and presentations in several areas of his field, most notably, family of origin therapy and intergenerational family therapy.

Trustee named distinguished alumnus

William D. Johnston, a WMU trustee, is one of three high-profile graduates to receive the WMU Alumni Association’s most prestigious honor—the Distinguished Alumni Award. Johnston was presented with one of the three 2010 awards during a recognition dinner Oct. 1 held in conjunction with Homecoming.

The prize, established in 1963, recognizes graduates who have achieved a high level of success in their professions. Johnston earned two diplomas from WMU, a bachelor’s degree in 1970 and a master’s degree in 1974.

He is president, CEO and chairman of the Greenleaf Companies, which includes Greenleaf Trust, Greenleaf Hospitality Group and Catalyst Development, L.L.C. Headquartered in Kalamazoo, it collectively employs more than 900 people. Johnston also is chairman of Southwest Michigan First and serves on several local boards.
Friends and fans of the late Lamidi O. Fakeye will gather at WMU and Kalamazoo College Thursday, Oct. 21, to honor the famous Nigerian sculptor. Fakeye, who had been Africa’s most renowned woodcarver for the past several decades, had a close association with WMU that dated back to 1960. His work has been showcased by the Smith College Museum and several other institutions.

All of the events planned for the Fakeye celebration are free and open to the public.

The full schedule of events is as follows:
• Reception, 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Richmond Center for Visual Arts. Attendees will be able to meet Elizabeth Morton and Joe Reese, who made the new documentary video, “Lamidi Olanude Fakeye: The Life of a Master Carver.”
• Eulogy and memorials, 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., Richmond Center. Bruce M. Haight, history, will give the eulogy. Attendees are invited to share their personal stories about Fakeye as well as pieces of his art that they own.
• Movie and lecture, 12:30 to 1:45 p.m., 35A Knudson. Morton will show her documentary and discuss its making.
• Movie premier, 7 p.m., Dalton Theatre, Light Fine Arts Building, Corner of Thompson and Academy Streets, Kalamazoo College. This will be the documentary’s formal premier.

The retirements of six faculty members and 45 staff members were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees at its Sept. 23 meeting. Trustees also accepted one faculty resignation.

In addition, she also will now oversee the Center until a full-time director is appointed.

For celebration details, visit www.wmich.edu/history/news/spring10/fakeye.html or contact Bruce Haight at bruce.haight@wmich.edu or (269) 387-5360 ext. 1245 or visit www3.wabash.edu/LamidiTheFilm/home.htm for documentary details.

University trustees approve academic program changes

The WMU Board of Trustees signed off on several academic-related actions during its last two meetings. Most recently, trustees approved a new minor program and accelerated master’s degree program when they met Sept. 23.

The race and ethnic relations minor provides practical information and, among other things, explores the implications of various dynamics for the delivery of human services as well as business and other interactions. The accelerated computer science program shortens the time required to obtain a master’s degree in this field.

In related actions during their July 23 meeting, trustees:
• Created a Master of Arts in Sports Management that is distinct from the sports management emphasis of the master’s degree in physical education.
• Created a new Graduate Certificate in the History of Monastic Movements, enabling graduate students who are working in this field to gain a formal credential.
• Eliminated, in a long-planned move, the departments of Industrial Design and Materials Sciences and Engineering along with their associated degrees.
• Transferred the Occupational Education Studies Program from Extended University Programs to family and consumer sciences.
• Renamed the undergraduate major and minor in imaging to graphic and printing science.
• Renamed the Jean E. Lowrie Lecture Series the Jean E. Lowrie Children’s Literature Fund and expanded its scope to include the purchase of books and other resources.

WMU governing board approves retirements of six faculty, 45 staff members

The retirements of six faculty members and 45 staff members were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees at its Sept. 23 meeting. Trustees also accepted one faculty resignation.

All 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: Richard B. Forrester, engineering and aeronautical engineering, 34 years, effective June 30, 2011; Harold L. Hدلk, paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging, 10 years, effective June 30, 2011; Paul L. Maier, history, 31 years, effective May 3, 2011; Peter E. Parker, paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging, 14 years, effective May 3, 2011; Steven C. Rhodes, communication, 36 years, effective July 5, 2011; and Frank L. Severance, electrical and computer engineering, 25 years, effective June 30.

The staff members retiring are: Jacqueline R. Ang, Facilities Management-landscape services, 17 years, effective Sept. 1; Rebecca A. Bodeh, English, 27 years, effective Aug. 31; Gail O. Birch, music, 34 years, effective Aug. 31; David J. Blowers, Facilities Management- construction services, 37 years, effective Aug. 31; Eleora C. Bowmnan, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services, 10 years, effective Oct. 3; Joan D. Bynum, music, 33 years, effective Aug. 31; Amy A. Capelli, Development Office, 17 years, effective Aug. 31; Carolyn E. Cardwell, counselor education and counseling psychology, 13 years, effective Aug. 31; John S. Carr, WMU Bookstore, 45 years, effective Aug. 31; Trudy L. Carr, Facilities Management- maintenance services, 33 years, effective Aug. 31; Libby L. McCarty, University Libraries, 37 years, effective Aug. 31; Janice S. Cleverleg, Facilities Management-landscape services, 30 years, effective Aug. 31; Jeffrey W. Decker, Facilities Management-landscape services, 39 years, effective Aug. 31; Robert E. Slocum, Facilities Management-maintenance services, 21 years, effective Aug. 31; MaryAnn Ford, Extended University Programs, 14 years, effective Aug. 31; Linda A. Goldner, research, 31 years, effective Aug. 31; Rose A. Hathaway, Facilities Management, 26 years, effective Aug. 31; Ronald A. Joyce, Facilities Management-maintenance services, 23 years, effective Aug. 31; Sandra A. Khan, Haenicke Institute for Global Education, 30 years, effective Aug. 31; Beverly C. Knapp, Registrar’s Office, 23 years, effective Aug. 31; Thomas A. Konin, public safety, 22 years, effective Aug. 31; Jerald W. Kuss, public safety, 30 years, effective Aug. 31; Lillian Y. Love, First-Year Experience-orientation, 27 years, effective Aug. 31; Sarah E. McChesney, intercollegiate athletics, 14 years, effective Aug. 31; Pamela J. Miller, teacher certification office, 18 years, effective Aug. 31; Suzanne M. Moorian, foreign languages, 20 years, effective Aug. 31; Gerald L. Morehouse, Facilities Management-landscape services, 40 years, effective Aug. 31; Jo E. Morrison, Facilities Management-remodeling services, 24 years, effective Aug. 31; Deborah N. Newcom, Extended University Programs, 32 years, effective Aug. 31; Margaret Pratt, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services, 11 years, effective Sept. 30; Penelope S. Schellenberg, ombudsman’s office, 21 years, effective Aug. 31; David B. Schneider, Facilities Management- maintenance services, 37 years, effective Aug. 31; Donald E. Slocum, Facilities Management-maintenance services, 45 years, effective Aug. 31; Nancy K. Sluss, Facilities Management-landscape services, 34 years, effective Aug. 31; Caroline L. Smith, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services, 33 years, effective Aug. 31; Diane A. Spiegles, Dining Services-Burnham, 34 years, effective Aug. 31; Margaret L. Springer, College of Health and Human Services, 28 years, effective Aug. 31; Barney Stockwell, Facilities Management- maintenance services, 22 years, effective Aug. 31; Pernice Dry, Bronson School of Nursing, 19 years, effective Aug. 29; Stuart O. Strayer, public safety, 40 years, effective Aug. 31; Thomas L. Swihart, Facilities Management- landscape services, 30 years, effective Aug. 31; Burnie J. Tabb, accounts receivable, 25 years, effective Aug. 31; Suzanne M. Timmerman, ombudsman’s office, 39 years, effective Aug. 31; Dennis L. VanDenburg, information technology, 23 years, effective Aug. 31; and Sally A. Veeder, Evaluation Center, 29 years, effective Aug. 31.

The faculty member resigning is Conrine Overmyer, Bronson School of Nursing, effective Aug. 8.
On Campus with Ray Murphy

From scuff marks on a residence hall wall to repainting complete buildings, WMU painter Ray “Murph” Murphy and other members of WMU’s painting team do the touch ups that keep the campus beautiful.

A painter by trade prior to coming to the University 13 years ago, Murphy says he enjoys his job for the variety of work and people he encounters every day.

“I love my job, and I tell people that all the time,” he says. “There are new projects and challenges every day, and the atmosphere, the camaraderie, is just great.”

Taking a cue from former president Diether Haenicke, Murphy and the University’s other painters tackle any reports of graffiti first thing in the morning.

“It was one of his pet peeves,” Murphy said of the late Haenicke. “We still follow that, and get on it as soon as we can. If you let it go, it gets a good run going on it.”

The projects are varied and are always a necessity but, generally, Murphy says a residence hall gets repainted every seven years. The amount of work needed in a residence hall can often be predicted.

“You can really tell the buildings and what needs to be done by the age of the students who live there and their maturity,” he explains. “The buildings with the younger students take a bigger beating.”

But Murphy adds that it’s the energy that the students bring to campus that also makes working at WMU so enjoyable.

When he doesn’t have a brush in his hand, he says he enjoys bicycling, cross-country skiing and watching sports, especially Bronco hockey. He also volunteers for the United Way and the charity Helping with Community, which provides housing for people in need in the Kalamazoo and Battle Creek areas.

Murphy and his wife, Susan, have been married for 34 years and have one son and two daughters as well as two grandchildren. The couple lives in Plainwell, Mich.

WMU, CMU to compete in 2010 blood drive contest

WMU and its friends are again competing with Central Michigan University to see who can collect the most blood for local people in need and the American Red Cross.

This year’s goal for the annual fall WMU/CMU American Red Cross Blood Challenge is for WMU to collect 665 pints of blood. Donors may make appointments online to give blood at one of 12 individual drives, all of which run from 11 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Drives are scheduled for: Monday, Oct. 11, Bernhard Center, kickoff drive; Tuesday, Oct. 12, Miller Auditorium; Wednesday, Oct. 13, Ernest Barnham; Wednesday, Oct. 13, Henry; Thursday, Oct. 14, Schneider.

Half of University’s employees have yet to report needed data

The University must begin reporting faculty and staff data on race and ethnicity to the federal government Oct. 15, but more than half of campus employees still have not provided the information needed.

“Our first official report goes to Washington Oct. 15,” notes Lowell Rinker, vice president for business and finance. “With so few responses, what we have now is clearly not an accurate snapshot of the diversity of our campus community. We don’t know what future state and federal decisions will be affected by this data, but we do know we should be presenting as accurate a picture of who we are as possible.”

To report race and ethnic data, login to GoWMU and click Employee Self Service, then Personal Information and lastly, Ethnicity. There are only two questions on the reporting form, and it takes less than one minute to answer them.


Study abroad grants offered

Information sessions for the study abroad program in Querétaro, Mexico, that is open to all benefits-eligible faculty and staff are planned for 12:15 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 13, and 5:15 p.m. Monday, Nov. 8, in 2033 Brown.

This two-week intensive language and cultural study abroad program will be held at the Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro. Those who have sufficient Spanish language competency are eligible to apply for one of 12 grants worth $1,750 each to offset the program’s cost. The deadline to apply is Monday, Nov. 15.

For more information, visit the Mexico Faculty and Employee Study Abroad Program online or contact the Haenicke Institute’s Jane Blyth Warren at jane.blyth.warren@wmich.edu or (269) 387-5890.

Chinese study center

The idea for the center came from the family of Timothy Light, emeritus in comparative religion and a former WMU provost. Family members wanted to honor Light’s lifetime achievements and commitment to Chinese studies, and they also provided a generous endowment to fund the center and its activities.

The Light Center will work closely with the Confucius Institute at WMU as well as area partner organizations such as the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, which opened its new Joy Light Gallery for Asian Art Aug. 28.

For more information, visit www.wmich.edu/chinesestudiescenter or contact higelightcenter@wmich.edu or (269) 387-3951.

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