Help Red Cross save a life give blood

The American Red Cross is reporting a slow blood supply this winter. You can help save a life by donating at one of the two remaining campus blood drives in this year's spring WMU-CMU Blood Challenge. The drives are being held from 11 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. today in Miller Auditorium and tomorrow in the Bernhard Center Ballroom.

Technology input forum scheduled

WMU is seeking input from faculty and staff members as well as students on a strategic plan being developed for choosing and implementing technologies to support teaching. One forum remains. It will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 28, in 2033 University Computing Center. For more information, contact Bradley Morgan at bradley.morgan@wmich.edu or (269) 387-5363.

GoWMU services to be unavailable

Some services in GoWMU’s My Work and My Self Service channels will be unavailable this weekend, Jan. 28-30. If you have questions, contact the Help Desk at helpdesk@wmich.edu or (269) 387-4357, option 1.

Free hockey tickets offered

Faculty and staff members can receive up to two free tickets to the Bronco hockey game versus Bowling Green Friday, Feb. 4. Tickets can be picked up at the Waldo Stadium ticket office at least 24 hours in advance, or at the Lawson Ice Arena ticket window on game night. A valid faculty/staff ID is required. Visit http://main.acsevents.org/site/kanley_track. Start your own WMU team for Relay for Life event, set for April 15-16 at Kanley Track. To schedule a private consultation for investment or retirement planning, visit www.tiaa-cref.org and click Consultations and Seminars under Services. If you are unable to register online, call the scheduling group at (800) 732-8353.

Carnegie Foundation lauds WMU’s engagement efforts

WMU is among 115 institutions nationwide to earn a special designation for community engagement from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Colleges and universities selected by the foundation for listing in the 2010 Community Engagement Classification join 196 schools named to the category during the 2006 or 2008 selection rounds. Schools with an institutional focus on community engagement were invited to apply for the classification, part of an extensive restructuring of the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education begun in 2006. “Through a classification that acknowledges significant commitment to and demonstration of community engagement, the foundation encourages colleges and universities to become more deeply engaged, to improve teaching and learning, and to generate socially responsive knowledge to benefit communities,” says Carnegie President Anthony Bryk. “The Community Engagement Classification is elective. This approach enabled the foundation to address elements of institutional mission and distinctiveness that are not represented by the national data used to determine other foundation classifications. "The Carnegie approach provided us an opportunity to comprehensively evaluate the manner in which community engagement is embedded in our curriculum; expressed through the collaborative provision of health, research, education and counseling, among other services in the community; and reflected in our long-standing outreach programs and partnerships," says Kathy Purnell, WMU service learning coordinator.

ALa selects Joslin book as Outstanding Academic Title

Joslin, who joined the faculty in 1986, is director of the WMU Center for the Humanities and a past Fulbright Senior Specialist. She teaches courses in American fiction and non-fiction at the turn of the 20th century with cross-disciplinary interests in material culture and social and political history. She is working on a literary biography of Theodore Roosevelt and is the author of "Edith Wharton in the Macmillan and St. Martin’s Women Writers Series and of “Jane Addams, a Writer's Life.”

Jenson, professor of pediatrics and regional dean for the Western Campus of the Tufts University School of Medicine, was selected from among nearly 60 candidates whose credentials were considered by a community search committee. WMU President John M. Dunn made the announcement of Jenson’s appointment on behalf of the privately-funded medical school initiative, a community partnership involving Borgess Health, Bronson Healthcare and the University. Jenson was one of three candidates invited to make public presentations in Kalamazoo last fall. “Dr. Jenson is the right choice to lead the development of our medical school,” says Dunn. “He brings a strong background in academic medicine, medical education and research from positions at Tufts, Yale and other prestigious university medical schools. Of great importance, he has extensive experience in health care systems very relevant to West Michigan.”

A physician and educator with more than 30 years experience, Jenson was drawn to the founding dean position by the opportunity to help create a new medical school at a national
Public input sought on development of new archives facility

Members of the WMU and local communities are invited to attend a workshop on development of a new home for Archives and Regional History Collections. The workshop is set for 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 28, in the Bernhard Center. Visit www.wmich.edu/passo for more information.

Performance to focus on Red Baron

Lavren H. “Vern” Stillwell, emeritus in theater, will portray the Red Baron as he enacts scenes from the German aviator’s life during the period of World War I. This Emeriti Council program will take place at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 9, in Walwood Hall’s Heinz Emeriti Lounge.

DPS fiscal manager to present talk

Robert C. Bobb, one of the highest profile people in Michigan education today, will present a talk at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 9, Bobb, emergency financial manager for the Detroit Public Schools, will speak on “Transformation of the DPS—Finding Opportunity in Crisis” in 2002 Schneider Hall.

Lifelong Learning Academy event set

An open house to introduce WMU’s new Lifelong Learning Academy for older adults will be held at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 9, in the west lobby of Walwood Hall. Visit www.wmich.edu/offcampus/lifelong or call (269) 387-4200 for details.

Chemist to discuss artificial nose

Kenneth Suslick from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign will discuss the development of a sensitive artificial nose that can be used to detect a variety of substances. Suslick, who helped make the apparatus, will speak on “The Optoelectronic Nose: An Adventure of Molecular Recognition” at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 15, in 1720 Chemistry Building.

Arborists first to earn certification

Two WMU arborists are the first university employees in Michigan to earn certification as Tree Risk Assessors. John Disbro and Chad Avery, Facilities Management-landscape services, attained the designation last year. The tree risk assessment course and certification exam are administered by the Northwest Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture. Applicants for the exam must be certified arborists and have extensive field work in arboriculture.

The required course work is a combination of classroom lecture and field work, which includes modules in biology, structural mechanics, risk theory and practice, reading tree conditions, assessing and assigning risk levels, and prescribing risk mitigation strategies.

Artist participates in exhibitions

Patricia Villalobos Echeverría, art, showed her work overseas as part of two exhibitions staged last fall for the VII Central American Biennial of Visual Arts and the I International Caribbean Triennial. The most recent showing involved a site-specific installation of a piece titled “camuflaje (camouflage)” @ 12°9’19” n, 66°16’19” w at the National Theatre Ruben Darío in Managua, Nicaragua. The other showing involved a site-specific installation of a piece titled “salpullido” @ 18°28’13.46” n, 69°54’36.84” w in the Museum of Modern Art in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Echeverría, chair of art, has a hybrid practice of prints, photos, videos and installations that explore how reproducible forms of representation can alter notions of singularity and states of flux.

Sociologist pens new book on China

Yuan-Kang Wang, sociology and public affairs and administration, has had a new book published that examines whether China’s pacifist Confucian culture has constrained its use of force in the past and discusses the implications for today’s international politics. The book, “Harmony and War: Confucian Culture and Chinese Power Politics,” was published this year by Columbia University Press. It shows that the pacifist, antimalitarian bias of Confucian culture has not constrained Chinese use of force and that the country has displayed strategic behavior similar to that of other great powers.

An assistant professor at WMU since 2008, Wang conducts research in the areas of international relations, East Asian security and Chinese foreign policy.
Trustees approve retirements of four faculty, 41 staff members

The retirements of four faculty members and 41 staff members were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees at its Dec. 17 meeting.

All of the faculty members who are retiring in 2011 have emeritus status. Their names, positions, years of continuous service and effective dates of retirement are: Bruce Naftel, associate professor of art, 38-1/2 years, April 26, 2013; Peter G. Northouse, professor of communication, 36-1/2 years, April 30, 2011; Iskender Sahin, professor of mechanical and materials engineering, 26-1/2 years, Dec. 21, 2010; and Robert Waite, associate professor of sociology, 38-1/2 years, June 13, 2010.

Trustees also approved a promotion for Sharon Peterson, who was raised in rank from instructor to assistant professor of educational leadership, research and technology, effective Aug. 20, 2010.

The retiring staff members with service dates ending in January are retiring in 2011; the remaining staffers retired in 2010. They are: Ellen L. Armstrong, advisor, art, 14 years, Dec. 31; Nancy L. Armson, coordinator, Environmental Studies Program, 14 years, Jan. 23; Kathleen A. Barnes, senior director of principal gifts, Development Office, 12 years, Oct. 25; Stephanie M. Boris, coordinator of physical processing, Waldo Library, 29 years, Dec. 31; Robert L. Campbell, financial services specialist, Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships, 28 years, Dec. 31; Kerry L. Cochran, office assistant, Department of Physics, 10 years, Dec. 31; Janice L. Dekker, academic advisor, College of Health and Human Sciences, 34 years, Jan. 31; Marcia Ellis, physician assistant, Sindecuse Health Center, 26 years, Dec. 12; Patricia M. Emelander, clerk, Registrar’s Office, 14 years, Jan. 31; Wil B. Emmert, contract and grant specialist II, Office of the Vice President for Research, 36 years, Jan. 31; Linda M. Emmons, custodial service supervisor, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services, 21 years, Jan. 31; Barbara J. Eshuis, family and consumer sciences; Rose Ella P. Lyke, College of Fine Arts and Technology, 30 years, Oct. 31; Michele C. McLaughlin, associate registrar-scheduling, Registrar’s Office, 28 years, Jan. 31; Linda Opalewski, finance assistant, Logistical Services, 27 years, Jan. 31; Jeffrey J. Hanson, skills training specialist II, Center for Disability Services, 21 years, Dec. 31; Susan M. Henker, office supervisor, Registrar’s Office, 15 years, Jan. 31; DeAnnaj Hinkley, senior administrative assistant, Development Office, 23 years, Dec. 31; Carol A. Hugomire, office supervisor, Department of Public Safety, 23 years, Jan. 31; Delores J. Huber, office coordinator, Mallinson Institute for Science Education, 17 years, Jan. 31; June M. Jacobs, pharmacy technician, Sindecuse Health Center, 10 years, Oct. 15; Victoria E. Janson, research compliance coordinator, Office of Vice President for Research, 11 years, Jan. 31; Linda J. Judy, graphic designer, Medieval Institute, 23 years, Jan. 31; David J. Kotecki, industrial hygienist, Department of Public Safety, 20 years, Jan. 31; Joanne M. Lee, clerk, Registrar’s Office, 28 years, Jan. 31; Mark S. Liberacki, office coordinator, Office of Administration, 36 years, Jan. 31; Marsha A. Magga, office coordinator, Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, 31 years, Jan. 31; Barbara McKinney, registrar, Registrar’s Office, 30 years, Jan. 31; Michele C. McLaughlin, associate registrar-scheduling, Registrar’s Office, 28 years, Jan. 31; Linda Opalewski, finance assistant, Logistical Services, 27 years, Oct. 11; Floyd Pietsch, general manager, WMUK radio, 26 years, Jan. 31; Mark S. Rafferty, manager of cash operations, Dining Services-cash operations, 34 years, Jan. 31; Pamela J. Robertson, office coordinator, Registrar’s Office, 21 years, Jan. 31; Gregory G. Roseboom, manager of utility administration, Facilities Management-maintenance services, 27 years, Oct. 31; Pamela S. Rups, coordinator of the Instructional Technology Center, Office of Information Technology, 31 years, Jan. 31; Lawrence C. Scott, transportation manager, Facilities Management-transportation services, 22 years, Jan. 31; Marcia L. Thompson, process associate, Human Resources, 13 years, Oct. 1; Iverne E. Thompson, office associate, WMUK radio, 20 years, Oct. 31; Sharon K. Wagner, webmaster, Registrar’s Office, 14 years, Jan. 31; Klaizina A. Welch, office coordinator, Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering, 35 years, Jan. 31; Jane A. Wenchl, office assistant, Extended University Program-WMU Southwest, 10 years, Oct. 31; and Walter L. Worthy, research and program officer, Office of the Vice President for Research, 22 years, Jan. 31.

The faculty member resigning is Edward Van Wesp, faculty specialist II-lecturer, Department of Economics, effective May 1, 2011.

Nomination deadline approaching for semiannual staff awards

Nominations for the spring round of WMU’s semiannual Make A Difference awards are due by Feb. 28. Make A Difference is a campuswide peer-to-peer program that recognizes University staff members for their accomplishments and daily investment of energy and creativity. It features semiannual and annual awards available to Staff Compensation System, AFSCME, MSEA and POA employees who provide exceptional service to the University. Every fall and spring, semiannual awards are presented to a maximum of 15 people. Award winners receive a certificate and a prize of $300 (before taxes) and are recognized at a special reception. Annual Make A Difference awards, which include a prize of $1,200 (before taxes), are extended to each year’s four most outstanding semiannual award recipients. Visit www.wmich.edu/hr/make-a-difference for nomination form and guidelines.

Service

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

40 Years—Regina E. Buckner, University Libraries.
35 Years—Charles A. Boos, information technology.
30 Years—Kirk D. Arnold, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; John Gregory Fitzgerald, University Libraries; Patrick L. Northrop, University Libraries; and Judy A. Rozek, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services.
25 Years—Bhupinder N. Bhatt, Sindecuse Health Center; Frances A. Buedd, Facilities Management-landscape services; Robert D. Champion, Facilities Management-maintenance services; John William Dishro, Facilities Management-landscape services; and Todd K. Moosman, Human Resources.
20 Years—Rebecca Blodgett, Facilities Management-maintenance services; Lorraine A. Caron, WMUK; Kimberly Kay Cho, Center for English Language and Culture; James M. Davis, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Mario A. Gallbreath, information technology; Lynda L. Hunt, Development Office; Calvin Jones, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Kathy L. Mallinson, ombudsman’s office; Joyce A. Simonds, Dining Services-Bernhard Center; Martha B. Warfley, diversity and inclusion; and David A. Wyman, Facilities Management-landscape services.
15 Years—Barbara J. Eshuis, family and consumer sciences; Rose Ella P. Lyke, College of Aviation; Jo Ann Jones Marcilous, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Linda L. Poquette, alumni relations; Kathy L. Rix, Registrar’s Office; and Shelly L. Russell, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services.
10 Years—Rebecca D. Coy, public safety; June Dowdy, Dining Services-Davis; Sandra Lee Gemsta, public safety; Skeri Harper, Facilities Management-projects and construction; Harold L. Hladky, paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging; Lynda Diana Root, educational leadership, research and technology; Shirley A. Swift, College of Arts and Sciences; Kevin A. Wesel, College of Arts and Sciences; and James H. Whittles, College of Aviation.
5 Years—Gordon M. Belar, WMUK; Fawn E. Callen, information technology; Kimberly J. Cauchy, Miller Auditorium; Anne Callem, Evaluation Center; Debora S. Karnemaat, Sindecuse Health Center; Glen P. Langworthy, College of Aviation; Eric J. McConnell, ombudsman’s office; Michael Schwartz, College of Aviation; Craig A. Warner, public safety; and Lor A. Whitehead, alumni relations.

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On Campus with Lisa Johnson

Departments across campus depend on staff members like Lisa Johnson to get correspondence out to groups of alumni, current students, parents and the community in the most effective way. As a database specialist in the Development Office, her job is to compile contact lists for e-mails and other correspondence from databases containing hundreds of thousands of names and addresses.

“One of our goals is to let departments know we are here to take the e-mail burden off them. We can assure the right people are being sent information and that 15 different e-mails aren’t coming to one person,” Johnson says.

Maintaining lists of about 350,000 records and 45,000 e-mail addresses in a single database makes updating easier and more efficient. Plus, it allows Johnson to cross-reference requests for specific contacts and to access opt-out requests. This information prevents over-contacting people or sending them information they have asked not to receive.

“When each department has its own marketing list, they don’t have access to those opt-out lists. You don’t want to aggravate people,” she says.

Johnson began her career at WMU in 2009 after spending 10 years teaching computer to adults through the computer training company New Horizons. Her job as an instructor involved teaching computer skills to adults so that they could apply for jobs.

“I helped them acquire new skills sets for a new job,” she explains. “We covered everything from basic skills to Web page design.”

Johnson earned a bachelor’s degree in comparative religion from Albion College and had planned to enter the counseling field. But while working at and managing Albion’s student computer labs, she found that technology and teaching were her stronger suits.

After graduation, she spent two years in technical support and then joined New Horizons.

While with the company, Johnson moved to Mattawan and became advisor to WMU’s chapter of the Alpha Phi Omega national service fraternity, also serving as its advisory chair from 2002 to 2004. She met her husband Cory, a WMU graduate, through their involvement in the chapter. The couple has two sons, ages 7 and 2.

Johnson and her husband are avid fly fishermen and duck, goose and turkey hunters. In addition, she enjoys reading, is a member of a book club, does yoga and Pilates, and is a big fan of science fiction’s Doctor Who. Down the road, she hopes to rekindle her passion for playing the violin, which she played as a child and throughout college.

Founding medical school dean announced

The University will recognize some 4,000 student employees during its 25th annual Student Employee Appreciation Week, Monday through Friday, Feb. 14-18.

Career and Student Employment Services, which sponsors the week, is accepting nominations through Tuesday, Feb. 8, for the awards it bestows in conjunction with the observance.

The week is a time to honor all student employees for their hard work and the many ways they contribute to WMU. Another main feature of the week is presentation of the student employee Supervisor of the Year award and Gary L. Belleville Student Employee of the Year award.

The 2011 award winners and nominees will be celebrated during a reception from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 17. All nominees and their nominators will receive an invitation to the reception, which will be held in the Bernhard Center’s West Ballroom, with the awards program starting at 3 p.m.

WMU faculty and staff members are encouraged to submit award nominations and to thank their student workers in some way during appreciation week.

While supplies last, the career services office will provide small gifts that may be used as thank-yous for student workers. Gift requests must be received by Tuesday, Feb. 8. The office also has developed a list of suggestions for other ways to thank student employees and makes available a template that can be used to create certificates of appreciation.

Visit www.wmich.edu/career/studentemployment/seaw/nominate.html for more information and to obtain or request appreciation week materials. Direct questions to Brenda Case-Parris at brenda.case-parris@wmich.edu or (269) 387-2725.