Forum to focus on mental health

Members of the campus community will have an opportunity to air concerns about student mental health issues and learn about WMU and Kalamazoo resources during a campuswide forum from 8:15 to 10:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 26, in the Fetzer Center.

President John M. Dunn will make opening remarks, and Kathy Lewis-Ginebaugh, Suicide Prevention Program director, will present an introduction to the program and talk on the “Problems of Student Suicide and Increasing Mental Health Difficulties.” The event will include discussion of faculty and staff concerns about student mental health followed by a panel of campus and community resources in this area. For details, visit wmich.edu/suicideprevention/forum.

New email system to be discussed

Faculty and staff members who want to familiarize themselves with WMU’s new email system, W-Exchange, are invited to attend a presentation set for 1:30 to 3 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26, in Schneider Hall’s Brown Auditorium. An introductory video also may be viewed online at wmich.edu/email/familiarization-learning-resources.

Staff nominations due by Sunday

Nominations for the spring round of semianual Make a Difference awards are due Sunday, Feb. 28. For nomination instructions and forms, visit wmich.edu/makeadifference.

Time to make APA award nominations

The Administrative Professional Association seeks nominations by Tuesday, March 15, for its Outstanding Professional, Outstanding New Professional and Tony Griffin Service awards. Eligibility criteria and nomination form are at wmich.edu/aps/awards.

Sprau Tower undergoing repairs

A boom lift will be in use at Sprau Tower Monday, Feb. 29, through Friday, March 11. Building Restoration Inc. will be repairing the east wall bringing the focus on the exterior of Sprau, and the lift will be set up on every side of the building at some point. Barricades will be used to keep people outside the work area. In addition, entrances will be closed when necessary and traffic rerouted.

Presenters and facilitators sought

WMU is seeking students and faculty and staff members who have educational, professional or lived experience that enables them to present or facilitate diversity and inclusion workshops and other events. WMU units and student organizations often ask for such folks to help with their activities. Those interested in serving as presenters and facilitators are asked to visit wmich.edu/diversity and click Events, then fill out the form under the WMU Speakers section.

Trio wins substance use treatment grant

An interdisciplinary team of researchers at WMU has received a $526,192 grant to improve substance use screening and boost intervention and referral services.

The grant, from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, was awarded to Tiffany Lee-Parker, Speciality Program in Alcohol and Drug Abuse and the grant’s principal investigator and project director; Denise Bowen, physician assistant; and Stephen E. Craig, counselor education and counseling psychology.

It will fund a multi-faceted, three-year study titled “Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment Training with Students and Community Organizations in the Health Professions in West Michigan.” Lee-Parker says the study has three major initiatives involving training both counseling and physician assistant students, community outreach and online training. It also has a research component.

As part of the curriculum in the physician assistant, clinical mental health counseling and counseling psychology graduate programs, more than 100 students will learn substance use screening and referral techniques, take part in a videotaped role exercise, and be followed through their internship or clinical experience and also one year after graduation. Students will

Honorary degree approved for composer Michel Legrand

Acting at their Feb. 11 meeting, the WMU Board of Trustees approved awarding an honorary doctoral degree this spring to famed French composer, conductor and pianist Michel Legrand.

Legrand, best known for classic film scores for such motion pictures as "The Thomas Crown Affair," "Summer of ’42" and "Umbrellas of Cherbourg," will be in Kalamazoo in May to perform with the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra for the 2016 Gilmore Keyboard Festival. He will receive the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree at a small private reception in May. The presentation will be filmed and included in a video that will be shown at WMU’s June commencement ceremony.

A prolific composer, Legrand has written more than 200 film and television scores. He won the first of his three Academy Awards in 1968, when “The Windmills of Your Mind” from ‘The Thomas Crown Affair’ was lauded as best original song. He also has won five Grammy awards. A campuswide committee made the degree recommendation.

Miller, Rinvelt to lead WMU Board of Trustees

Kenneth V. Miller of Kalamazoo and Jeffrey Rinvelt of Ann Arbor have been elected chair and vice chair, respectively, of the WMU of Trustees.

The two were elected at the board’s Feb. 11 meeting and will serve throughout 2016. Miller succeeds James F. Hettinger of Fennville, who remains on the board. Rinvelt replaces Miller who has served as vice chair for the past year.

Miller is a principal with Haviroco, a Kalamazoo-based investment management firm launched in 1983 and is the owner of the Millenium Restaurant Group LLC, which operates several restaurant properties in southwest Michigan. He earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in business from WMU and a law degree from what is now the WMU Cooley Law School. Miller also is one year into a four-year term as a member of the law school’s board of directors. Rinvelt is the principal with Renaissance Venture Capital Fund, a Michigan-based fund that supports the growth of venture capital in the state and is the largest privately funded organization of its kind in the United States. He earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from WMU in 1991.

Other officers elected to one-year terms on the board were: Kahler B. Schuemann, tangent of Trustees, secretary; Jan J. Van Der Kley, vice president for business and finance, treasurer and assistant secretary; and Patti VanWalbeck, associate vice president for business and finance, assistant treasurer.

Continued on page 4
Food Marketing conference moving to Grand Rapids

WMU’s annual Food Marketing Conference, which attracts some 700 industry attendees, will move to Grand Rapids this year.

The 51st conference will take place Monday and Tuesday, April 11 and 12, at DeVos Place. The move to Grand Rapids was a strategic one, designed to support and promote the growth of the event.

“Our conference has grown significantly in the last few years,” says Frank Gambino, marketing, who directs the conference. “With the increased attendance has come the challenge of finding a space that offers one room that can accommodate all our attendees, including students, and also has attached hotel facilities.”

This year’s conference theme is “People, Purpose and Passion: The Pathway to Success” and will feature Hank Meijer, chairman of Meijer Inc.; Millennial and iGen expert Jason Dorsey; Lisa Walsh, senior vice president at Frito-Lay; and author and retail expert Neil Stern of McMellanDoolittle LLP, plus many others.

Proceeds support scholarships and unique educational experiences for students enrolled in WMU’s food and consumer packaging marketing program. For more information or to register, go to wmnw.com and click Events then Alumni Socials.

Around campus and beyond

Uplifting public event scheduled

Arts performances, a lecture and a discussion are on tap from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26, in 208-209 Bernhard Center. The free “Educate, Uplift and Empower” event will feature live performances of poetry and theatre as well as a short lecture by Mariam Konate, gender and women’s studies, followed by a question-and-answer session.

Dance slated Winter Gala concert

The Department of Dance will present its annual Winter Gala dance concert Thursday through Saturday, Feb. 25-27, in the Gilmore Theatre Complex’s Shav Theatre. Performances are at 8 p.m. on all dates with a 2 p.m. matinee Saturday, Feb. 27. This year’s program will include two Great Works dances, two additional guest artist pieces, three faculty works and one dance by a pair of student choreographers. For tickets and more information, visit wmich.edu/news/2016/02/0324.

Choirs to present choral showcase

Three choirs will present a winter choral showcase at 5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 28, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. The free event features the Collegiate Singers, Cantus Femina and the University Chorale.

Series focuses on water issues

The spring Lyceum Lecture Series of weekly Wednesday talks is focusing on water issues and being held from noon to 1 p.m. in the Lee Honors College lounge. Attendees may bring lunch. The next three talks are being presented by Gellert Mezei, chemistry, March 2; Chansheng He, geography, March 16; and Stephen Hamilton, president of the Kalamazoo River Watershed Council, March 23. The latter talk is on the effects of the tar sands oil spill into the Kalamazoo River.

Jazz festival closing concert set

The Western Invitational Jazz Festival closing concert featuring the University Jazz Orchestra will take place Saturday, March 12. Tickets for the event, which starts at 7:30 p.m. in the Dalton Center Recital Hall, are available at milleraudiotorium.com or (269) 387-2300.

March 16 social with Dunn planned

Development and alumni relations is hosting an event for WMU alumni and friends with President John M. Dunn at Webster’s Prime Wednesday, March 16, in Kalamazoo. Join area alumni and friends for appetizers and two complimentary beverages. For details, visit mywmu.com and click Events then Alumni Socials.

Retirement receptions

Thomas McLemore, information technology, will be recognized for 14 years of service during a retirement reception from 3 to 5 p.m. Friday, March 25, in the Stewart Clocktower.

Charles “Chuck” Boos, information technology, will be recognized for 40 years of service during a retirement reception from 3 to 5 p.m. Thursday, March 31, in the Oaks.

Jobs

Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources website at wmich.edu/hr/jobs. Please note that applications must be submitted online by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included with each posting.

Profs elected to national committee

Ajay K. Gupta, computer science, has been elected vice chair of the prestigious IEEE Computer Society Technical Activities Committee. Besides playing a key role in shaping IEEE-CS technical activities, Gupta will be bringing together internationally renowned researchers at workshops, conferences and other initiatives to foster innovation and collaboration for the benefit of computing technologies worldwide.

IEEE, with more than 400,000 members, is the world’s largest professional association dedicated to advancing technological innovation. Gupta is a senior member of IEEE.

He is a world-renowned specialist in parallel, distributed and high-performance computing and directs WMU’s Wireless Sensor Networks Lab. For the past four years, he has been chair of the IEEE-CS Technical Committee on Parallel Processing.

Counselor to edit professional journal

Beverly J. Vandiver, counselor education and counseling psychology, has been appointed the incoming editor-in-chief of the Journal of Black Psychology, a premier journal focused on the psychological issues of black peoples across various disciplines.

Published six times a year by the Association of Black Psychologists—ABPs—the journal focuses on such subjects as African-centered psychology, therapeutic interventions, personality, education, and health and social behavior. The oldest ethnic psychology association in the United States, ABPs seeks to address the significant social problems facing and affecting the black community.

Vandiver is a lifetime member of ABPs and an active member of the American Psychological Association. She is nationally known for her research on racial identity.

Political scientist to be on panel in March

Peter W. Wiethouwer, political science, will spend the evening of March 8 helping Fox 17 in Grand Rapids interpret results of the highly anticipated Michigan presidential primary.

Wiethouwer, who is frequently called on by area media to analyze election results and political developments, was invited by the station’s news crew to “spend election night providing expert commentary” for the station and its viewers, says Carl Gustin, Fox 17 assignment editor.

A WMU faculty member since 2005, Wiethouwer is an expert on campaigns and the American political system as well as a nationally recognized scholar on faith and politics, racial politics, and campaigns and elections.

He also is an occasional political consultant and regularly speaks on faith and politics and American politics at other universities as well as professional organizations, churches and other faith-based organizations.

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Integrated supply management program ranks No. 5 in nation

WMU’s integrated supply management program recently ranked fifth for undergraduate education on a listing of the top 100 universities for supply chain education, produced by SCM World, a cross-industry learning community powered by the world’s most influential supply chain practitioners.

The WMU program received a No. 7 overall ranking. Notably, the curriculum ranked No. 2 in the industrial sector. According to survey administrators, “Having secured a top five ranking for its undergraduate supply chain program, Western Michigan demonstrates a solid commitment to cross-functional education. Especially among industrials, this program scores well.”

Additionally, the program was ranked No. 5 for its preparation of professionals in management and No. 2 in purchasing and procurement. The survey respondents were able to select from among 190 university and college options on the poll and were given the option to specify other universities or business schools not available in the pre-populated list. Respondents were supply chain professionals in a variety of industries.

“This recognition for multiple areas of the WMU program underscores the quality that we offer in our curriculum and how we prepare supply chain professionals to be leaders in multiple industries,” says Robert Reck, marketing and director of the Center for Integrated Supply Management.

The SCM World recognition places WMU in an elite circle of top supply chain programs and is another in a long string of accolades for the program, including a No. 5 ranking from Gartner and a No. 2 ranking for emphasis on technology in the curriculum by Software Advice.

Nobel laureate talk featured at 2016 PeaceJam conference

Nobel Peace Laureate Jody Williams will present a public talk Friday, March 18, as part of the opening activities for the 2016 Great Lakes Peace Jam Conference being held Saturday through Sunday, March 19-20, in Sangren Hall.

Williams and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines were co-recipients of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize for their work to clear anti-personnel landmine fields and establish an international treaty to ban landmines. Her public presentation on “Creating True Human Security” is set for 7 p.m. in Schneider Hall’s Brown Auditorium. It will be followed by a question-and-answer session.

The conference is open to youths and their advisors but closed to the public. To register or obtain more information, visit peacejam.org/affiliates/Great-Lakes-5.aspx. Early registration ends Tuesday, March 1.

Committee to explore safety communication options — During a campuswide town hall Feb. 22, President John M. Dunn announced the formation of a campus committee charged with exploring additional communication tools and procedures for communicating about safety issues to the campus community. Dunn named Thomas N. Edmonds, finance and commercial law, to lead a small group that will include students and employees to explore communication tools that could supplement the WMU Alert system and offer safety communication about incidents that do not happen on campus.

Such tools might include more extensive use of social media or a blend of currently available tools. Edmonds is an attorney, former Kalamazoo County sheriff and retired brigadier general with the Air National Guard. The town hall was held so WMU officials could respond to questions about why no campus alert was issued during a series of Feb. 20 shootings that occurred in three different Kalamazoo County communities. During the event, Dunn reiterated a message he had previously sent to the campus community, apologizing by saying, “While there are legitimate reasons why the events did not warrant activation of our alert system, it is also abundantly clear we did not adequately meet your needs for information.” Dunn said the campus needs to “learn from the experience, make changes and seek other means of enhancing communication.”

The town hall did not warrant activation of the WMU Alert system and offer safety communication about incidents that do not happen on campus.

The town hall drew a crowd of more than 500 people, while more than 200 people watched the event online. It may be viewed through March 4 at media/site.wmich.edu/mediacatalog/catalogs/wmuforum.

Obituaries — wmich.edu/news/obituaries

Emilee Garrity, Dining Services, died Feb. 10. She was 104. Garrity joined the staff in 1963 and retired as a utility food person in Walwood Union in 1983 after 20 years of service.

Eugene L. Keller, Dining Services, died Feb. 15. He was 91. Keller joined the staff in 1971 and retired as Davis Dining Service supervisor in 1989 after 17 years of service.

Carl Shuster, paper and printing science and engineering, died Feb. 8. He was 87. Shuster came to WMU in 1974 and retired as director of the paper and printing pilot plants in 1992 after 18 years of service.
Students across campus rely on Gracie Mae and her second-shift teammates in Dining Services to make healthy meals available long into the evening.

As the University’s lone manager for late-night dining, Mae oversees an after-hours service that’s offered from 8 to 11 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 6 to 10 p.m. Sunday at two of WMU’s six dining centers. Valley II Dining, which offers carry-out sack meals, and Hoekje/Bigelow Dining on the north side of the Bernhard Center, which offers eat-in hot meals.

She begins her “day” at 4 p.m., taking charge of the normal dinner shift in a campus dining center, usually the Valley III center. Then until midnight most nights, she solves whatever problems come up while running the two late-night facilities.

“I may have to locate additional food product, fill in for a missing worker until a replacement can be found, get a hold of maintenance, or if there’s a disruption, call an ambulance or the police,” Mae explains, adding that she finds the job exciting and rewarding.

Among her biggest challenges are having to train new student employees constantly, work through the initial language difficulties some international student employees experience, and keep up to date on product ingredients so that in conjunction with Dining Services’ two dieticians, meals meet the burgeoning special health and dietary requirements of student patrons from vegans to allergy sufferers.

“The best part of working here is the diversity of jobs and people—it’s a wonderful blend of personalities, from the students to the professional staff,” she says. “I never had a chance to have children, but I was blessed by Western Michigan University because I have a thousand young adults from all over the world. It’s not just me—all the Dining Services staff get attached to the students, and we become like a family.”

Mae majored in management at WMU and graduated in 1981. She worked her way up the management ranks in the restaurant industry before returning to campus as a staff member in 1986. Her overarching support of students over the years and their high regard for her helped Mae earn WMU’s annual Make a Difference Award in 2012-13.

The Upper Peninsula native lives on 10 acres near Mattawan and used to raise Labrador Retrievers. She describes herself as a nature lover who especially enjoys walking her dogs, gardening, kayaking, hunting and fishing. Her second-shift schedule limits her ability to participate in extracurricular activities, but Mae was instrumental in promoting the Western Wellness program within Dining Services and remains active with the program.

Nominations sought for three annual campuswide awards

Friday, April 1, is the deadline to make nominations for the 2016-17 Emerging Scholar Award, Distinguished Service Award and Distinguished Teaching Award.

Members of the University community are invited to nominate WMU employees for each award.

The emerging scholar award goes to faculty members and recognizes the scholarly or creative achievements of outstanding colleagues whose accomplishments are evidence of great potential for scholarship or creative work. Eligible faculty are all those current, continuing, full-time, board-appointed, tenure-track people with faculty rank and in good standing who were tenured no earlier than January 2012. Untenured faculty members are ineligible. Self-nominations are accepted.

The Distinguished Service Award recognizes exceptional service in one or more of the following categories: service through innovative and effective programs which are academic, or related to another facet of University life; service in areas and organizations that contribute to the growth and stature of the University; and service that extends the impact and presence of the University into larger communities.

The service must affect a significant segment of the University community. Also, the award is usually given for a body of service, rather than a single activity or achievement. Whenever two awards are made in any given year, one of the awards goes to a person with faculty rank and one goes to a staff member.

The Distinguished Teaching Award is the highest honor given by the University to recognize faculty members for their work. It recognizes outstanding teaching by awarding one or more awards. Outstanding teaching is not fixed in form or venue and is not easily assessed. Whether instruction takes place in lecture courses, seminars, or laboratories or whether it is pitched at introductory or advanced levels, exceptional pedagogy is marked by the active, critical role of the instructor and mentor whose demanding presence fosters critical thinking and inspires students to engage the quest for knowledge as a value in itself and not just a career.

Submissions after April 1 will be considered for the 2017-18 nomination period. More information is available at wmich.edu/facultydevelopment by clicking WMU Awards.