WMU recognized as Purple Heart University

WMU was recognized April 20 as the first Purple Heart University in Michigan. Scott E. Wilson, commander of Battle Creek's Chapter 110 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, joined President John M. Dunn in a ceremony to formally confer the Purple Heart title on WMU.

The Purple Heart is awarded to members of the U.S. armed forces who are wounded in combat. It dates back to 1792 when President George Washington launched it as the Badge of Military Merit. The Military Order of the Purple Heart, which was chartered by Congress in 1958, awards the Purple Heart University designation to universities for outstanding service to military service members, veterans, their dependents and their survivors. WMU is being lauded for its "proud tradition of recognizing all the men and women who have selflessly served their country and the University in the armed forces."

"One of the things I'm most proud of is our focus on empowering those who have served their country well," Dunn said in response to the award. "It's not about the University. It's about all those men and women who have served our country." WMU is being praised for its "proud tradition of recognizing all the men and women who have selflessly served their country and the University in the armed forces."

Koretsky tapped to lead College of Arts and Sciences

Carla M. Koretsky, geoscience and dean of the Lee Honors College, will become the dean of WMU's College of Arts and Sciences, effective July 1.

Koretsky, head of the honors college for the past three years, was appointed to take the helm of the University's largest college following a nationwide search. Pending approval by the WMU Board of Trustees, she will replace Keith Hearit, who was appointed in early 2015 to serve as interim dean.

"I am delighted that Dr. Koretsky has agreed to step forward and take on this new role," says Provost Timothy J. Greene. "She's shown talent and a real affinity for leadership as she's shepherded the honors college to record enrollment and new levels of scholarship and accomplishment over the past few years. We look forward to watching her use those same skills in the college that is her academic home."

Koretsky, who has held faculty rank in arts and sciences since her arrival on campus in 2000, says she is "deeply honored" to have been chosen for the position.

"The skills I gained from my own undergraduate education in a liberal arts college have tremendously benefited me throughout my own career as a professional scientist, teacher and administrator," she says. "I am passionate about the value of the liberal arts, and from my many years of experience at WMU, I know very well that we are fortunate to have a truly outstanding College."

Annual fall convocation to feature new format, location

A daylong celebration and collaborative gathering is being planned for WMU’s 2016 Fall Convocation, scheduled to take place Friday, Sept. 30.

Members of the campus community are being asked to mark their calendars now and plan to be part of the event that will be held in the Bernhard Center. This fall’s convocation will include a campuswide award ceremony recognizing achievement in teaching, research and service; President John M. Dunn’s State of the University address; a Universitywide picnic; a Teaching and Learning Bash; and Assessment in Action and Teaching with Technology conferences.

Fall Convocation has been held in early fall in the Dalton Center Recital Hall each year since 2008. Prior to that, timing for the annual convocation varied. Fall Convocation has traditionally been the time for the president to present an annual address and for the campus community to honor standout faculty and staff members for service, teaching, and research and scholarly achievements.

The new format and day of opportunity this year is the product of a collaboration involving faculty development, academic affairs and the president’s office. This year, the University launched a Spring Convocation in February to honor achievements in numerous areas. That event is expected to be repeated each spring going forward.
Open-air film screening planned
Join fellow Bronco alumni, family and friends at 9:15 p.m. Friday, May 20, at the debut of “Now Showing…On Prospect Hill,” an open-air event featuring a free, family-friendly movie and snacks.

The first film to be shown on an over-sized screen on Heritage Hall’s Grand Lawn will be 1999’s “October Sky.” Enjoy snacks and self-guided tours of Heritage Hall from 8 to 9:15 p.m. For details, visit mwcmu.edu or call (269) 387-4200 for details.

Lifelong learning classes, trips set
Eighteen enrichment courses and four daylong excursions are being offered this summer by the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at WMU. Registration for the summer 2016 term is open for members of the Osher Institute and will open Tuesday, May 24, for institute nonmembers. Visit mwcmu.edu/oli or call (269) 387-4200 for details.

Service-March
The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 40, 35, 30, 25, 20, and 15 years of service during March.

40 Years—Diana K. Allen, building custodial and support services; John Parks, telecommunications; Christopher Newsted, information technology; and Eddy Life.

35 Years—Tobias J. Boyle, information technology, and Lisa K. Hotchkiss, Residence Life.

30 Years—Patricia A. Moore, maintenance services, and Elizabeth Richardson, multilingual affairs.

25 Years—Carol L. J. Hustoles, vice president for legal affairs and general counsel; Stephen L. Kettner, information technology; and John Parks, telecommunications.

20 Years—Devera R. Gardner, Career and Student Employment Services; Suzette A. Kohlert, Sindicuce Health Center; Shannon A. Rininger, Miller Auditorium; and Anthony Craig Velez, maintenance services.

15 Years—Connie Black-Pond, social work; Audrey K. King, Bernhard Center Dining Services; and Shellie Mosher, grants and contracts.

10 Years—Megan L. Anderson, admissions; Bonnie K. Ayers, student financial aid and scholarships; Christine A. Dingman, WMU-Grand Rapids; Joyce Lavame Dixon, student financial aid and scholarships; Adam Christopher Newsted, information technology; and David J. Wright, Bernhard Center.

Five Years—Kevin S. Bridges, power plant; Julie A. Ford, art; Kayla Anne Garner, vice president for legal office’s affairs; Todd T. Gerry, Fetzer Center; Kim A. Hunt, College of Arts and Sciences; Amber Lynn Hutson, psychology; Geraldine Rinna, University Libraries; Gretchen Elizabeth Smiley, Bernhard Dining Service; Kenneth W. Taylor, Fetzer Center; Shawn L. Tenney, Center for Academic Success Programs; Deanna C. Welter, Center for Academic Success Programs; Heather Lauren White, Mallinson Institute for Science Education; Karla E. Willmann, management; and Cathie M. Wilson, mathematics.

Around campus and beyond
Health insurance is talk soup
Employees and retirees are invited to attend a presentation on “Using the BCBSM Website” from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Friday, May 13, on campus in 1010 College of Health and Human Services building. Speaking at the May 13 event will be Melissa Rosak from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. Knowledge of the BCBSM website can help employees as well as retirees understand their WMU health care plan and the costs associated with it.

Art exhibit curated by Desmet
The art exhibit “Farewell: Print from the WMU Gwen Frostic School of Art University Permanent Collection” is on display in the Richmond Center’s Monroe-Brown Gallery through Friday, May 27. It has been curated by center Director of Exhibitions Don Desmet, who is retiring in June after 30 years of work in higher education and the visual arts.

Receptions
Owen Thomas, College of Health and Human Services advising, will be recognized for her 19 years of service to the University during a retirement reception from 4 to 6 p.m. today, in 4100 College of Health and Human Services Building.

Christopher Tremblay, associate provost for enrollment management, will be recognized at a going-away reception from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 17, in 2100 Seiber Administration Building. There will be a brief program at 5:15 p.m.

Economist edits health-related book
Donald J. Meyer, economics, is the editor of a new book published by the Upjohn Press in April. In “The Economics of Health,” Meyer leads a group of notable health economists who explore critical issues—and their economic impacts—facing the nation’s health care system today.

They include lifestyle choices and their health impacts, decisions on medical care and self-care, the fee-for-service payment model, disability and workers’ compensation insurance claims, long-term care, and how aspects of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act impact the nation’s health care system. The book is a product of WMU’s 2011-12 Werner Sicel Lecture Series co-sponsored by the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research.
Research shows virtual, blended schools continue to struggle

Full-time online schools and blended learning schools show outcomes that are consistently below traditional public schools, reports a study co-authored by a WMU researcher.

Gary Miron, educational leadership, research and technology, wrote the study along with Charisse Gulosino from the University of Memphis.

“Virtual Schools Report 2016: Directory and Performance Review” was released by the National Education Policy Center, whose mission is to produce and disseminate high-quality, peer-reviewed research to inform education policy discussions that are based on sound evidence.

Full-time virtual schools deliver all curriculum and instruction via the Internet and electronic communication. Blended schools, combine traditional face-to-face instruction in classrooms with virtual instruction.

“Although increasing numbers of parents and students are choosing virtual or blended schools, relatively little is known about the inner workings of these schools,” the authors write in the report’s executive summary.

And while school performance measures for both virtual and blended schools show they are not as successful as traditional public schools, Miron notes that their enrollment growth has continued.

“Large private education management organizations dominate the full-time virtual sector and they are increasing their market share in the blended school sector,” Miron says, adding that growth has been assisted by vigorous advertising campaigns, corporate lobbying and favorable legislation.

The authors recommend that, given the rapid growth of virtual and blended schools and their relatively poor performance, policymakers should slow or stop their growth until the reasons for their performance have been addressed.

They also suggest increasing oversight and regulations to require the private operators to devote more of the public resources they receive to instructional costs.

For more information or a copy of the study, visit bit.ly/1Nl4sW7.

WMU represented on UN international education panel

Two officials from the University were invited to United Nations headquarters in New York City May 6 to speak during a session on educational opportunities for young people in the Arab world.

John M. Dunn, president, and Wolfgang Schlör, associate provost for the Haenicke Institute for Global Education, were part of panels developed around the recent “Arab Knowledge Index,” released by the United Nations Development Programme in the Arab States last December in Dubai. The pair were joined by panel moderator Essam Heggy, geosciences, an Egyptian-French-American space scientist who has ties to NASA.

Schlör took part in a panel on discussion on the implications of the Arab Knowledge Index for reform and innovation in the Arab world. Dunn took part in a second panel on education in the Arab world used as a pathway to tolerance, peace and youth development.

WMU has actively recruited students in the Arab world for decades. About a third of the University’s current international student population of nearly 1,900 comes from the 22 nations that make up the Arab world. WMU’s largest number of Arab students come from Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

GREAT GIVERS—At the April 18 celebration of progress to date in the Broncos4Broncos Campus Campaign, attendees learned that the dance department won the $250 incentive check from Meemic Insurance to donate to the scholarship fund of its choice. Nina Nelson, dance, accepted the check from Meemic Insurance’s Marcus Gleaton. The department reached a 166 percent participation level because so many of its temporary and part-time employees donated to the campaign. WMU employees have until Thursday, June 30, to make a gift at mywmu.com/broncos4broncos yet this fiscal year. (Photo courtesy of development and alumni relations)

Robert “Rob” E. Fedorchak, a former millwright/maintenance mechanic in maintenance services, died April 14. He was 69. Fedorchak joined the staff in 1989 and retired in 2010 after 21 years of service.

Sophia J. Marvin, a former data operator, died April 9. She was 94. Marvin joined the staff in 1973 and retired in 1983 after 10 years of service.

Paula Miller, emeritus in languages and linguistics, died May 1. She was 91. Miller joined the faculty in 1961 to teach French and retired in 1992 after 31 years of service. A celebration of Miller’s life will be held

from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, June 3, in Kalamazoo. Details will be announced online at ryanfuneralservice.com.

Dorothy E. (Corey) Mortimore, a former Annual Fund director, died March 20. She was 73. Mortimore joined the staff in 1972 and resigned in 1989 to take a development post at Michigan State University after 17 years of service to WMU. Survivors include her husband, Fredj J. Mortimore, emeritus in public affairs and administration.

Eleanor R. Samson, a former cashier in the WMU Bookstore, died April 11. She was 93. Samson, joined the staff in 1977 and retired in 1996 after 19 years of service.

Robert L. Smith, emeritus in communication, died April 11. He was 82. Smith joined the faculty in 1964 and retired in 1996 after almost 32 years of service. Survivors include his wife, Carol Payne Smith, emeritus in teaching, learning and leadership.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Robert L. and Carolyn Payne Smith Opera Endowment Fund or Jennifer, Katherine, Karen and Megan Smith Music and Theatre Students’ Academic and Artistic Emergency/Special Projects Needs Fund administered by the WMU Foundation.
Staffer continues efforts to fight Huntington’s disease

Amy Mack, Children’s Trauma Assessment Center, pushes off Friday, May 20, in Bike Ride for the Cure 2016. Mack will pedal her mountain bike more than 400 miles from Pittsburgh to Washington, D.C. She will finish her journey Thursday, June 2, in Baltimore, site of the Huntington’s Disease Society of America National Convention.

Huntington’s is a degenerative, genetic, neurological disorder that has no known cure. It slowly diminishes a person’s ability to walk, talk and reason, and sufferers eventually become totally dependent on others. In short, it affects every aspect of their lives. Mack has a family member with the disease. Her previous fundraising efforts have included helping to organize a local enduro car race and riding her bike from Portland, Maine, to Daytona Beach, Florida.

To donate, go to hdsa.org/bike2cure.

LBGT giving day is May 19

WMU hopes to raise significant funds for student scholarships and internships through its participation Thursday, May 19, in national Give OUT Day. This is WMU’s first time joining the national day of giving for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender organizations.

“We hope that the LBGT and ally community will support the great work being done here at WMU and continue to support our students through this campaign,” says Jen Hsu, LBGT student services.

Give OUT Day is a national, 24-hour online fundraiser that began in 2013 and supports the LBGT and queer community. To learn more about the University’s participation or donate, visit mywmu.com/GiveOutDay.

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Purple Heart University

about people coming together to do the right thing and ensuring our veterans feel honored and valued.”

Also during the ceremony, Timothy Unangst, public safety, unveiled a special Purple Heart campus parking permit available to Purple Heart veterans who are students or members of the faculty and staff.

The Military Order of the Purple Heart is a national organization that works primarily with refugees and people with disabilities.

To learn more about the University’s participation or donate, visit mywmu.com/GiveOutDay.