Michigan earns liberal education status

Michigan's public universities have been invited into a national coalition aimed at championing and advocating for the importance of a 21st-century liberal education. Michigan will become the 12th state-designated as a formal member of the Liberal Education and America's Promise—LEAP—Initiative. David Reinhold, provost's office, served as coordinator of Michigan's LEAP committee. He was informed in October that Michigan's LEAP State application had been accepted by the Association of American Colleges and Universities, which is guiding the initiative. The LEAP effort is aimed at promoting an approach to higher education that empowers individuals and prepares them to deal with complexity, diversity and change. It provides students with broad knowledge of the wider world as well as in-depth study in a specific area of interest.

A liberal education helps students develop a sense of social responsibility, strong and transferable intellectual and practical skills such as communication, analytical and problem-solving skills; and an ability to apply knowledge and skills in real-world settings. Reinhold notes that WMU's long commitment to liberal education and its current work aimed at revisiting its general education programs make the timing of the Michigan LEAP designation ideal.

"We want our faculty across the University to become active participants in this initiative and take advantage of the opportunities for conversations about what liberal education is," Reinhold says. "Those conversations will take place both within WMU and between institutions. The work will involve getting faculty from different institutions together to explore how this initiative impacts their discipline."

WMU, Peace Corps giving students added service edge

WMU, Michigan's second largest producer of new Peace Corps candidates, has partnered with the legendary international service organization to give WMU undergraduates an even greater edge in preparing for international careers. The University has become one of just over three dozen colleges and universities around the nation—and one of only two in Michigan—to offer a Peace Corps Prep program that will build hands-on experience in the health work sector, develop leadership skills and focus on intercultural competence and service learning in health care settings. The Peace Corps Prep program, launched by the Peace Corps in 2007, will be offered as a minor open to students in any major at the University. WMU will be the first school in the nation to house such a program in its interdisciplinary health care program. Jill Rowe, School of Interdisciplinary Health Programs, is institutional coordinator for the program at WMU. Applications will be accepted immediately for fall 2016—the first semester in which the program will be offered. One goal of the WMU program is to attract students from all seven degree-granting colleges at the University.

"The School of Interdisciplinary Health Programs, like the Peace Corps, shares an approach to higher education that empowers individuals and prepares them to deal with complexity, diversity and change. It provides students with broad knowledge of the wider world as well as in-depth study in a specific area of interest. A liberal education helps students develop a sense of social responsibility, strong and transferable intellectual and practical skills such as communication, analytical and problem-solving skills; and an ability to apply knowledge and skills in real-world settings. Reinhold notes that WMU's long commitment to liberal education and its current work aimed at revisiting its general education programs make the timing of the Michigan LEAP designation ideal."

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First Lady to spotlight campus assault prevention

Michigan First Lady Sue Snyder will visit the campus Monday, Nov. 9, to highlight the "Inform. Empower. Prevent. Let's End Campus Sexual Assault" initiative and grant program. Snyder will speak at 7 p.m. in 1920 Sangren Hall as part of this year's Raise Your Voice lecture series organized by the Lee Honors College. She will be joined by Rebecca Campbell, neurobiological trauma response expert and professor of psychology at Michigan State University. They will address sexual assault prevention at Michigan's universities, colleges and community colleges; Michigan's campus sexual assault grant program; and the benefits of trauma-informed response to survivors. Their presentation is free and open to the public, with seating available on a first-come, first-served basis. Snyder has dedicated her time as First Lady to the health, safety and well-being of Michigan's children and families. As a mother whose youngest daughter is now a college sophomore, she hopes to help make
Around campus and beyond

Gloria Steinem to make presentation
Gloria Steinem, the woman who became the nationally recognized leader and spokeswoman for the women's liberation movement, will present a free talk at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6, in Miller Auditorium. The presentation, “An Evening with Gloria Steinem,” is part of the fall Raise Your Voice Series. As with other programs in the series, it is free and open to the public, with seating offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

Event offers all things Russian
WMU’s Fester Center will again be the host site for the annual Kalamazoo Russian Festival, which is co-sponsored by the English department and Haenicke Institute. This year’s festival is set for 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7. Attendees can immerse themselves in Russian history, music, art, dance, crafts, children’s activities and cuisine as well as a series of humanities lectures and poetic readings.

Service anniversaries
The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 25, 30, 35 and five years of service during November.

25 Years—Donald Scott Paff, landscape services.
20 Years—Terry Cleveland, online education; Michele L. Cole, Office of the Associate Vice President for Facilities Management; Teresa M. Cronkhite, Valley II Dining Service; Kerrie Jo Harvey, College of Arts and Sciences advising; Douglas Lloyd, construction; John Phillips, building custodial and support services; M. Montgomery Porter III, intercollegiate athletics; Dale Allen Shepherd, engineering sciences advising; and Mary Jo Starks, building custodial and support services.
15 Years—Mark L. Belmar, building custodial and support services; Karen E. Crane, Valley II Dining Service; James Dancy, building custodial and support services; DouglasEngelbrecht, College of Education and Human Development; Betty Merrifield, Valley II Dining Service; Cathleen S. Smith, provost’s office; Earle M. Washington, dean of the College of Health and Human Services; and Jeffrey A. Winkle, landscape services.

Western News
Volume 42 Number 5

EDITOR: Jeanne Baron. CONTRIBUTORS: Cara Barnes, Paula M. Davis, Deanne Peters, Cheryl E. Rolland and Mark E. Schwan. DESIGNS AND PHOTOGRAPHY: Teresa Ventriglia.

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Archaeologist writes book on fur trade
Michael S. Nassaney, anthropology, has penned a book about the social, economic and ideological effects of the fur trade that synthesizes how this extractive economy impacted the settlement and exploitation of North America.

Titled “The Archaeology of the North American Fur Trade,” the book will be released later this month by the University Press of Florida.

Nassaney shows how the ways in which exchange was conducted, resisted and transformed to suit various needs led to an indelible imprint upon the American psyche, particularly in the way fur trade has been remembered and commemorated.

His book includes research from historical archaeologists and a case study of the Fort St. Joseph trading post in Michigan. Nassaney is the principal investigator of WMU’s Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project, which is unearthing one of the most important Colonial outposts in the western Great Lakes.

Emeritus receives honor from Purdue
Daniel L. Stufflebeam, emeritus in educational studies, received the Purdue University College of Education’s highest alumni honor Oct. 30 during its Distinguished Education Alumni Awards celebration. The celebration is held every two years to honor the college’s most accomplished alumni.

Stufflebeam was lauded as a thought leader in the assessment field and an icon whose work has played a major role in shaping educational evaluation.

His Context, Input, Process and Product Evaluation Model was one of the first models used for program evaluation and is still in use today. In addition, he directed the development of more than 100 standardized achievement tests, including the GED.

Stufflebeam came to WMU in 1973 and founded the Evaluation Center, which he directed until 2002. A Distinguished University Professor, he retired from WMU in 2007 after 34 years of service.

Professor’s book wins second award
Brian Wilson, comparative religion, has won a second award for his latest book, “Dr. John Harvey Kellogg and the Religion of Biologic Living.”

The volume was one of four books to win an award from the Historical Society of Michigan in the University and Commercial Press category of its State History Awards.

“Dr. John Harvey Kellogg and the Religion of Biologic Living” offers a complex figure in the history of wellness, religion and dietary reform. Kellogg also was well-known for his pioneering work at the Battle Creek Sanitarium.

Earlier this fall, the book won an Independent Publisher Book Award, also known as the “IPPY,” taking home a Silver Medal in the biography category.
Sessions on solar garden project slated

Two briefings for members of the campus community will take place in November to provide information on a solar garden initiative that will result in a photovoltaic array being staked adjacent to Floyd Hall to harvest clean solar energy.

The sessions are set for 2 to 3 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday, Nov. 10 and 12, in the Parkview Room of Floyd Hall. During each briefing, University officials will be joined by personnel from Consumers Energy to provide an overview of the technology as well as an outline of how a solar garden is opened and the benefits of having a facility.

Those attending will be able to view a WMU solar garden display and take away information. Each session also will feature a question-and-answer period.

The garden is among the first large-scale solar projects Consumers Energy will build around the state that are part of an effort expected to be operational in 2016.

The WMU Board of Trustees authorized the University to enter into a series of agreements in August to grant about an 8.5-acre parcel to Consumers Energy for construction of the solar garden PV array in an area along U.S. 131 and immediately west of the Parkview Campus’ engineering complex.

Electricity produced by the garden will be delivered to the Consumers Distribution System. The University will receive energy credits from the project in the coming years. The agreement also has the potential to generate solar energy education initiatives.

Consumers has committed to provide WMU $120,000 in funding for a Solar Learning Module that will educate WMU students, provide exposure to K-12 students and train emergency first responders in how to deal with solar arrays.

Consumers also will provide $55,000 for WMU to construct up to three additional solar systems for research and educational use by faculty and students.

Learn more at consumersenergy.com/solargardens.

Excellence in diversity nominations solicited

The University’s Excellence in Diversity Awards Selection Committee is seeking nominations by Friday, Dec. 4, for this year’s 2016 Excellence in Diversity Awards.

Individual as well as groups of employees, students and other WMU community members who exemplify the importance of diversity and inclusion are eligible.

Recipients will be recognized at a spring convocation Friday, Feb. 5. Nominations should support diversity and inclusion goals defined in the Diversity and Multiculturalism Action Plan.

Cross-disciplinary and multidisciplinary nominations are encouraged, as are self-nominations.

For more information, visit wmich.edu/diversity or contact Tiffany White in diversity and inclusion at tiffany.white@wmich.edu or (269) 387-6327.

Campus team assisting in revising strategic plan

A broad-based team of campus community members has been put in place to assist WMU in revising its strategic plan.

The 23-member University Strategic Plan Transition Team received its charge from WMU’s senior leadership in September.

The team is being led by Jody Brylinsky, institutional effectiveness. Its members have been put in place to assist WMU’s senior leadership in September.

The team has been recruited to help the university to be more effective in maintaining a healthy and safe learning environment to help fund the renovation of the building. Visit mywmu.com and click WMU Alumni Center for links to photos, video stories covering the weekend festivities. Heritage Hall is closed to the public until Monday, Nov. 9, to allow for project completion and staff move-in. Below right: While kneeling on his proposed paver, Nick Bennett asks fellow alumnus Anna-Marie Krause to marry him. (Photo by Matthew Thaler)

Obituaries

Richard L. McAnaw, emeritus in political science, died Oct. 21. He was 85. McAnaw joined the faculty in 1964 and retired in 1990 after 35 years of service to WMU. He was the founding director of the Center for Public Administration Programs.

Services will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, Nov. 9, at St. Augustine Cathedral, 542 W. Michigan Ave. in Kalamazoo. Memorial gifts may be made to a college scholarship fund of choice to help a deserving student. Visit obits.mlive.com/obituaries/kalamazoo for more information.

Leo S. Rayl, a University retiree, died Sept. 15. He was 92. Rayl retired in 1987.

Edith Yahr, a former state member, died Sept. 23. She was 84. Yahr came to the University in 1986 and retired in 1997 after 10 years of service to WMU. She was a word processor operator I and a receptionist in the Graduate College.

Crawford is new director of Title IX compliance

Felicia Taylor Crawford, a director of Human Resources since 2005, has been named to the new position of director of Title IX compliance in the Office of Institutional Equity, effective Dec. 1.

Crawford will lead the campuswide coordination, integration and monitoring of policy implementation; adherence to federal, state and local guidelines; and other efforts related to Title IX, Title VII, Clery Act/VAWA and other civil rights laws and matters involving University students and employees.

In that role, she will oversee impartial investigations into allegations of sexual and gender-based harassment and violence. She also will be involved in educational, training and prevention activities related to maintaining a healthy and safe learning and working environment.

East patio was a happening place during Heritage Hall opening

Many of the more than 6,000 people attending Heritage Hall’s grand opening weekend Oct. 23-25 visited the east patio, looking for the bricks and pavers they purchased and had inscribed as a donation to help fund the renovation of the building. Visit mywmu.com and click WMU Alumni Center for links to photos, video stories covering the weekend festivities. Heritage Hall is closed to the public until Monday, Nov. 9, to allow for project completion and staff move-in. Below right: While kneeling on his proposed paver, Nick Bennett asks fellow alumnus Anna-Marie Krause to marry him. (Photo by Matthew Thaler)

Below, left: Kai M. Chapman, left, development and alumni relations processor operator I and a receptionist in the Graduate College.

“The team also will refine successive versions of the emerging 2015-20 plan, among other duties.

Members of the WMU community can stay involved in the strategic planning process by participating in a campuswide survey that will be launched later this semester, attending one of the public forums that will be held early this spring, joining a strategic planning group and regularly checking the strategic plan website at wmich.edu/strategic for news and announcements.

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Team discovers way to ‘tune’ elements for semiconductor use

In a world concerned about the dwindling supply and skyrocketing prices of rare elements used to make semiconductors, an international team of scientists and engineers has demonstrated that a new material made from abundant elements can be “tuned” to take their place for solar cell applications. The team’s findings are featured in a paper titled “Bund Gap Dependence on Cation Disorder in ZnSnN2 Solar Absorber” that appears in the November edition of the journal Advanced Energy Materials. Its work is funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation and the U.K. Engineering and Physical Science Research Council.

Members include WMU’s Steve Durbin, electrical and computer engineering, and researchers from the University of Liverpool, University College London and Binghamton University.

They have zeroed in on the compound ZnSnN2—zinc tin nitride—and discovered an innovative tuning process that makes it a possible replacement for currently used materials. Members of the team say ZnSnN2 has been recently synthesized by groups around the world, relying on zinc and tin, metals which are readily available by tapping mature recycling facilities, instead of expensive and rare metals such as gallium and indium.

Read more at http://bit.ly/1Oa9Qup.

Event set to commemorate gift

The Haworth College of Business has received a major naming gift for the college’s Career Center and will hold a public ribbon cutting ceremony and reception at 1 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 18, at the center to commemorate the donation.

The gift is from alumni Charles and Lynn Zhang, owners of Zhang Financial. The couple also were major donors to the project to build a home for WMU’s Archives and Regional History collections, which now reside in the Zhang Legacy Collections Center.

The Career Center is a dedicated space on Schneider Hall’s third floor that offers one-stop, career-related shop for both students and employers.

To make a reservation to attend the ribbon cutting and reception, contact Cyntia Dawson at cyntia.dawson@wmich.edu or (269) 387-5269.

Most staff members probably don’t know Teresa Ventimiglia by sight, but a great many work with her year in and year out.

That’s because Ventimiglia, the public information specialist for the Office of University Relations, oversees the editorial portion of two campuswide print projects: the annual WMU directory and the commencement program, which comes out three times a year.

“The commencement program is my biggest project because I have to contact so many people to make sure the honor society and recognition listings are accurate,” she says. “But I like doing it. I get to communicate with a lot of people all over campus. You build a good rapport with them. They may not know what you look like, but they know you.”

Ventimiglia just finished the 2015 WMU Directory. While modifications may come down the road, she hopes to be able to keep producing the online, abridged version of the directory—the PDF file named Office Directory found at wmich.edu/directories—and continue updating it on a near-monthly basis.

Her other key duties are to write the Classnotes section of the quarterly WMU Magazine, send out WMU’s official news to the media, answer media inquiries and maintain essential office files, including the voluminous records about WMU people, units and activities that university relations keeps on hand for public information as well as research purposes.

A Detroit native, Ventimiglia has been employed at WMU since 1990 and will be inducted into the 25 Year Club in December. She came to Kalamazoo in the 1970s to attend the University, then worked locally for two companies before joining WMU as a temp worker. Within four months, she was hired full time in the Registrar’s Office, where she rose to graduation auditor. Ventimiglia moved to university relations in 1996 and was elevated to public information specialist in 2014.

“WMU has been a great place to work. I like the campus community,” she says. “It’s nice because you’ve been around so many people for so long that it feels like a family. You don’t get that in the private sector.”

Ventimiglia lives in Vicksburg and enjoys antiquing, gardening, photography and traveling.