June commencement scheduled

Two commencement ceremonies will be held Saturday, June 28, in Miller Auditorium. The 9 a.m. event is for graduates of Extended University Programs and the colleges of Education and Human Development, Engineering and Applied Sciences, and Health and Human Services. The 12:30 p.m. event is for graduates of the Haworth College of Business and the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Aviation, and Fine Arts.

University posting negotiation updates

Contract negotiations between WMU and the WMU-AAUP faculty bargaining unit are continuing this summer, and WMU’s bargaining team is providing occasional progress updates at wmich.edu/acb/negotiations. Two updates have been posted thus far.

Board of Trustees meeting slated

The next meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees will be held Wednesday, July 23. Starting times and agenda information will be released closer to the meeting.

Grant applications due July 25

Proposals are being accepted through Friday, July 25, from any employee interested in implementing transformational diversity change initiatives derived from internal division, college or unit assessments and recommendations.

The Campus Climate for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Tactical Action Community is accepting the proposals. Funding is available to award nine implementation grants worth up to $15,000 each. For more information, visit wmich.edu/diversity/initiatives. Direct questions to Tiffany White at tiffany.white@wmich.edu or (269) 387-6327.

New Bronco Cards required by Oct. 1

Faculty and staff members are encouraged to replace their Bronco Cards before the beginning of the 2014-15 fall semester. Cards must be replaced by Oct. 1. In addition, cardholders will need to have a new photo taken. Visit the Bronco Card office on the Bernhard Center’s first floor on days when no orientation sessions are taking place.

Consider taking part in Welcome Week

Faculty and staff are encouraged to get involved during Welcome Week by attending the full Matriculation Ceremony and Buster’s Buffet, signing up for a shift in a hospitality tent, or volunteering at one of several student events. Online registration at wmich.edu/fye/welcome/register is open for all events. Direct questions to adrienne.fraaza@wmich.edu or (269) 387-2132.

Western News now on summer hiatus

This is the last issue of Western News for the summer. Publication will resume Thursday, Sept. 4. Visit wmich.edu/news to keep up with campus news and announcements.

New trustee named to governing board

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder announced the appointment June 13 of retired law enforcement official James Bolger of Whitehall to serve on the WMU Board of Trustees. Bolger, a WMU alumnus, will serve on the eight-member governing body of the University through Dec. 31, 2020. He will fill a vacancy on the board created earlier this month by the resignation of Michelle Crumm of Ann Arbor.

Bolger retired as lieutenant colonel and deputy director of the Michigan State Police in 1999, after a 26-year career with that organization. In that role, he was commanding officer of the Uniform Services Division, providing executive direction and leadership to field operations for the Michigan State Police.

During his tenure in that position, then-Gov. John Engler also appointed him to oversee implementation of the Michigan State Public Safety Communications System—an 800MHz radio system for emergency communications.

Bolger attended WMU as an undergraduate and went on to earn a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Grand Valley State University in 1973. Returning to WMU, he earned a master’s degree in public administration in 1981.

After retiring from the State Police, he worked briefly as a consultant and taught for 10 years in GVUSU’s School of Criminal Justice.

Zhang Center earns certification as ‘green’ building

The Zhang Legacy Collections Center has achieved silver certification under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating system—LEED—the national benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings.

With the Zhang Center’s silver certification for new construction, awarded June 2 by the U.S. Green Building Council, WMU now has eight campus buildings that meet the stringent requirements of this rating system and 13 more in the review process.

A state-of-the-art, climate-controlled facility, the Zhang Center houses the WMU Archives and Regional History Collections. Peter Straadas, associate vice president for facilities management, notes that the facility was built to meet LEED silver certification standards. “WMU is committed to being environmentally responsible and a steward of our natural and financial resources. We make thoughtful, sustainable facility decisions whenever we construct a new building or renovate an existing one,” Straadas says. “The Zhang Center presented a unique opportunity to build sustainability characteristics into a highly special-

Snyder announces Kellogg Foundation’s Woodrow Wilson Fellows

During a June 11 ceremony in Lansing, Gov. Rick Snyder introduced this year’s W.K. Kellogg Foundation’s Woodrow Wilson Michigan Teaching Fellows, including 11 who will attend WMU to become master science teachers in Michigan high-need secondary schools.

A total of 43 outstanding teacher candidates were named at the event. The WMU-bound fellows include an aerospace engineer, a microbiologist, a specialist in equine veterinary medicine, an entomologist and an interpretive naturalist as well as several recent college graduates.

The 2014 Michigan recruits are accomplished career changers and outstanding recent college graduates in science, technology, engineering and mathematics—the STEM fields. They are the fourth class of new teacher candidates since the fellowship was launched in Michigan in 2010. “Michigan needs to develop talent for in-demand jobs so our students are best prepared for long and productive careers,” Snyder said. “The W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation should be commended for working to train people.
Trustees approve retirements of 7 faculty, 12 staff members

The retirements of seven faculty members and 12 staff members as well as three faculty resignations were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees at its June 10 meeting. 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: Mary J. Baukus, nursing, 13 years, effective July 1, 2015; Daniel J. Farrell, management, 39 years, effective April 30, 2019; Robert J. Leneway, educational leadership, research and technology, 18 years, effective May 1, 2016; Elaine L. Phillips, physician assistant and integrative holistic health and wellness, 27 years, effective Dec. 31; Roberta J. Schult, marketing, 15 years, effective Aug. 31; Dennis K. Strasser, University Libraries, 23 years, effective Dec. 31; and Jung-Chao Wang, statistics, 27 years, effective June 30, 2016.

The staff members retiring are: Diane Briggs, Burnham Dining Service, 15 years, effective April 30; Michael J. Brown, building custodial and support services, 12 years, effective June 27; David A. Constange Sr., athletics, 38 years, effective June 30; Carol L. Farrance, Residence Life, 36 years, effective June 30; Marilyn J. Gillette, WMU Bookstore, 39 years, effective May 13; Kathleen M. Keckler, art, 16 years, effective May 31; Nancy King, building custodial and support services, 18 years, effective May 31; John C. Meyer, landscape services, 19 years, effective May 30; Ellen M. Miller, Valley 2 Dining Services, 28 years, effective June 30; Gregory A. Peet, University Libraries, 15 years, effective July 1; Wayne H. Pushie, student affairs, 12 years, effective June 30; and Cynthia L. Trout, intercollegiate athletics, 15 years, effective June 30.

The faculty members resigning are: Melissa Beeson, public affairs and administration, effective April 29; Caroline Gore, art, effective May 15; and Amy M. Gyorkos, human performance and health education, effective Aug. 20.

Tuition rate for 2014-15 OK’d

Tuition action by the WMU Board of Trustees June 10 means that WMU will remain the best value among Michigan’s five research universities in 2014-15.

The annual tuition and required fees for a full-time resident freshman or sophomore will be $10,685—a 3.2 percent increase. Resident graduate students will pay $113.97 per credit hour. For additional tuition and fees information plus a tuition calculator, visit wmich.edu/registrat/tuition.

World premiere of professor’s documentary during Waterfront Film Festival

Jennifer Machiorlatti, communication, and her husband and Hans (Photo courtesy of Jennifer Machiorlatti)

The film’s principals, from left, Wilder, Machiorlatti and Bailey and Bill Reed, of the Forum of Greater Kalamaoo, helped the duo obtain funding from the Fetter Institute to start their organization, create a website and make “Peace During War.”

“The students got really great experience,” says Machiorlatti, adding that several students had completed advanced training in video production and post-production. “Everyone brought wonderful enthusiasm and work ethic to the project.”

Twenty-six faculty members awarded tenure

The WMU Board of Trustees approved the tenure of 26 faculty members at its June 10 meeting, effective with the beginning of the 2014-15 academic year.

Those granted tenure are: Mary L. Anderson, counselor education and counseling psychology; Upul B. Attanayake, civil and construction engineering; Lori J. Brown, aviation sciences; Ann Chapleau, occupational therapy; Kirsty J. Eisenhart, mathematics; Jacqueline Eng, anthropology; Claudia Fajardo, mechanical and aerospace engineering; Sharon Gill, biological sciences; Ramakishna Guda, chemistry; Whitney D. Gunter, sociology; Peter A. Gustafson, mechanical and aerospace engineering; Amy M. Gyorkos, human performance and health education; Robert L. Harrison, marketing; Stephen J. Hasenick, aviation sciences; Denise Keele, political science; Susan E. King-Batty, physician assistant; Carrie C. Leatherman, University Libraries; Adriane Little, art; Dennis P. Metro-Roland, teaching, learning and educational studies; Rajib Paul, statistics; Gaizi Rauscher, aviation sciences; Xiaoxun Shao, civil and construction engineering; Megan Shuyer, dance; Vivian I.P. Steemers, world languages and literature; Andre Venter, chemistry; and Geoffrey R. Whitehurst, aviation sciences.

Students invited to summer leadership conference

WMU students who want to become leaders in their registered student organization are invited to attend the fifth annual Leadership and Involvement Conference. The event is set for Friday and Saturday, Aug. 15-16, at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Kalamazoo. To attend, students must register online at www.wmich.edu by Friday, July 25.

The conference provides WMU students with the environment and tools necessary for their registered organizations to succeed during the 2014-15 academic year and beyond. For more information, visit mywmu.com/loc or contact Kate Bates at katherine.bates@ wmich.edu or (269) 387-2182.

Farewell reception

Bruce Carpenter, chemistry, will be recognized for five years of service to WMU during a farewell reception from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, July 26, in 2401 Chemistry Building.

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.

Retirement receptions

Carol Farrance, Residence Life, will be recognized for 36 years of service to WMU during a retirement reception from 3 to 5 p.m. Thursday, June 26, in the Western View Apartments Community Center.

Wayne Pushie, student affairs, will be recognized for a 28-year affiliation with WMU during a retirement reception from 3 to 5 p.m. Friday, June 27, in Lawon Arena.
University board approves promotions for 54 from faculty ranks

The WMU Board of Trustees approved the promotions of 54 faculty members at its June 10 meeting.

Twenty-one faculty members were promoted to the rank of full professor, 22 to associate professor, four to master faculty specialist and seven to faculty specialist II. All of the promotions are effective with the beginning of the 2014-15 academic year.

Promoted to professor were: Otur Annasalan, finance and commercial law; John A. Asamud, electrical and computer engineering; Andrea L. Beach, educational leadership, research and technology; Christopher C. Cheatham, human performance and health education; Stephen G. Covel, comparative religion; Charles Emerson, geography; Charles R. Henderson, physics; David Huffman, chemistry; Andrew A. Kline, chemical and paper engineering; Barbara S. Liggart, public affairs and administration; June-Lo Lu, mathematics; Jennifer A. Machorlatt, communication; Edwin A. Martini, history; Angela M. Moe, sociology; Sherine O. Obare, chemistry; Robert A. Peters, public affairs and administration; Carl Ratner, music; Bade Shrestha, mechanical and aerospace engineering; Ola M. Smith, accountancy; Karen M. VanDeusen, social work; and LouAnn Wurst, anthropology.

Promoted to associate professor were: Mary L. Anderson, counselor education and counseling psychology; Upul B. Attanayake, civil and construction engineering; Lott J. Brown, aviation sciences; Ann Chapleau, occupational therapy; Jacqueline Eng, anthropology; Claudia Fujardo, mechanical and aerospace engineering; Sharon Gill, biological sciences; Ramakrishna Guda, chemistry; Whitney D. Gunter, sociology; Peter A. Gustafson, mechanical and aerospace engineering; Robert L. Harrison, marketing; Denise Keele, political science; Susan E. King-Barry, physician assistant; and James H. Whittles, aviation sciences.

Promoted to faculty specialist II were: Timothy J. Breda, aviation sciences; Cary K. Cekola, speech pathology and audiology; Jennifer Harrison, social work; Jeremy C. Hierholzer, aviation sciences; Sharon L. Petersen, educational leadership, research and technology; Gail V. Rooscher, aviation sciences; and Brandy A. Skjold, Mallinson Institute.

Crews are making steady progress at the construction site for WMU's new residence hall. (Photo by Joanne Baron)
Seita Scholar donations sought

This fall, WMU will welcome its seventh class of students who have aged out of the foster care system, and many of them will arrive without basic items to help make their school year successful.

These Seita Scholars will need essential living and personal health care products. The Seita Scholars program hopes to collect enough new items to provide more than 40 welcome baskets by Friday, Aug. 8.

The former foster youth who qualify for the program will receive the baskets when they move into the residence halls in late August.

A list of items needed, including personal care, school and residence hall supplies and financial assistance, is at wmich.edu/fosteringsuccess/Giving/volunteering.php.

The drop-off site for donated items is Harrison Hall. Receiving dates and times for donations are: Monday, July 7, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Tuesday, July 15, 5 to 6 p.m.; Wednesday, July 23, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Thursday, July 31, 5 to 6 p.m.; and Friday, Aug. 8, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, email seita-scholars@wmich.edu.

On Campus with Jennifer Halseth

Jennifer Halseth has been part of a flurry of improvements to the University’s accounts payable and travel program since 2012.

Halseth joined the staff just two years ago and manages the University’s procurement card program, travel program and accounts payable program. Despite the short time she’s been in her position as assistant disbursements manager, her efforts were recognized this academic year when she was nominated for a semiannual Make a Difference Award.

“When the help of an outstanding staff, accounts payable ensures the campus community receives the best customer service and answers to their questions pertaining to payments and reimbursements,” she says.

Improvements she’s seen at the University include the new accounts payable direct deposit/Automated Clearing House reimbursement process for employees. Halseth says the process speeds up the turnaround of reimbursements to a week compared to the two to four weeks it took under the previous system.

Other recent changes include helping with the implementation of a new and improved travel policy and procedures guide, and transitioning to a new car-rental vendor. Her latest project includes working on a new online travel authorization program as part of a team. The more user-friendly system is expected to roll out in October.

Halseth previously worked as a controller for Checker Motors in Kalamazoo and a small manufacturing company in Vicksburg. She and her husband, Randy, have three children, twin daughters who just graduated from college and a son who graduated from Vicksburg High School this spring.

She enjoys exercising, especially biking, yard work and spending time with her family.