Board of Trustees meeting slated
The next meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees will be held Tuesday, Sept. 30. Starting times and information about the agenda will be released shortly before the meeting. Most board meetings are held in the Bernhard Center.

Diversity-related proposals sought
The campus climate for diversity, equity and inclusion is a top priority for WMU. The Graduate Student Association is seeking proposals from WMU employees, including administrators, by the 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 3, application deadline. Proposals are invited from those who are interested in implementing transformational diversity change initiatives derived from internal assessments and recommendations. Visit wmich.edu/diversity/initiatives for more information.

Expo focuses on employee wellness
WMU Benefits Expo ‘14 will feature more than 30 on- and off-campus vendors that promote a healthy lifestyle. The free event is set for 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 2, in the Bernhard Center Ballroom. In addition to perusing vendor booths, attendees may enroll in Phase 2 of WMU’s wellness program (Holystep screenings); listen to presentations, including one on MFSERS; and take part in gift drawings. Visit http://bit.ly/1wCzTRD for details. Ongoing information about wellness at WMU is available at wmich.edu/wellness.

New resource card being distributed
The Student Concern Resource Card developed by student affairs to assist faculty and staff who notice students exhibiting unusual or troubling behavior has been redone. The new card is being distributed to all WMU faculty and staff this week. Visit wmich.edu/studentaffairs/concern for more information about reporting concerns related to students.

Award applications due Sept. 30
Applications for the Support for Faculty Scholars Award and Undergraduate Research Excellence Award are due Tuesday, Sept. 30. Details and application forms are available by visiting wmich.edu/research and clicking Funding Sources followed by Internal Funding Opportunities.

Grad students share inspiring ideas
The Graduate Student Association’s Grad Talks occur regularly throughout the academic year, giving advanced students the chance to speak for 10 minutes about their research ideas and scholarly or creative projects. During the fall and spring semesters, they take place from 4 to 6 p.m. on the fourth Friday of each month in the Lee Honors College lounge. Student presentations are filmed and published on the GSA’s website for reference or future viewing. All enrolled graduate students can apply to participate.

WMU again garners high national marks
For the 24th consecutive year, WMU appears on U.S. News & World Report’s list of “best national universities” and continues to move up in the group of schools the magazine calls the top tier of colleges and universities in the United States.

In addition, Washington Monthly has again named WMU one of the country’s top 100 national universities and a “Best Bang for the Buck” school.

The 2015 U.S. News ranking of more than 1,500 four-year colleges and universities was released Sept. 9 and is available online at usnews.com. A print edition will appear at newsstands late this month.

WMU is listed in the top tier among 280 national institutions—173 public, 100 private and seven in the for-profit arena. For the second year in a row, the University moved up eight spots in that tier. It is now among the schools tied at No. 173, putting WMU among the top-100 public universities on the annual list. The colleges and universities in the best national universities second tier are listed alphabetically rather than on a numeric list.

The rankings are based on 16 criteria that include academic reputation, retention and graduation rates, student-faculty ratios, class size, faculty resources, student test scores and alumni giving. Last year, the rankings were redone to more heavily weigh “output measures that signal how well a school educates its students.”

Washington Monthly used similar output measures for the rankings it released in late August. WMU was No. 90 on the publication’s list of top national universities and No. 54 in its “best bang for the buck” category. Washington Monthly bases its rankings on what schools are doing for their students and the country.

Three to receive one of two Universitywide awards
WMU will honor three faculty members for their professional accomplishments in two critical educational areas during this year’s Academic Convocation, which is set for 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 10, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall.

Sue Ellen Christian and Autumn Edwards will receive the 2014-15 Distinguished Teaching Award and Fritz Allhoff will receive the 2014-15 Emerging Scholar Award.

Distinguished Teaching Award
This award is the highest honor given by the University to recognize faculty members for their work as educators.

• Christian, who has been a communication faculty member since 2001, is a former Chicago Tribune reporter and teaches journalism. She was praised by her nominators for bringing real-world experience to the classroom and helping her students build the skills they will need to succeed in today’s news world.

• Edwards, who has been a communication faculty member since 2001, focuses on interpersonal communication and communication theory. She was lauded by her nominators for the passion and ability she demonstrates to help students understand cutting-edge theoretical concepts and their use in the research lab as well as their value when applied in an organizational setting.

Emerging Scholar Award
This award acknowledges the accomplishments of WMU faculty members who are among the rising stars in U.S. higher education. It celebrates the contributions of those who are in the first decade of their WMU careers and have achieved national recognition and demonstrated outstanding promise to achieve renown in their continuing work.

• Allhoff, a philosopher, is an ethicist as well as a philosopher whose research has broken new ground in the areas of cyberwarfare, torture and nanotechnology. He was cited for not only the incredible quantity of his research output, but also its quality, breadth and reach. Nominators also praised his boundless energy.
Psychology department holding autism conference

An all-star lineup of autism researchers is on tap for the psychology department’s annual WMU Autism Conference Thursd- and Friday, Sept. 25-26, at the Radisson Plaza Hotel and Suites in Kalamazoo.

The event, for which registration just opened, builds on the success of last year’s plaza Hotel and Suites in Kalamazoo.

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First China Festival offered

An activity-laden China Festival to commemorate the traditional Chinese Moon Festival is set for noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27, in the Student Recreation Center. Visit wmich.edu/news/2014/09/18461 for details.

Final design direction for dining center revealed

The final session to involve the WMU community in the design process for the new Valley Dining Center was held Monday, with representatives from the Detroit firm SmithGroupJJR unveiling the final direction for the center’s placement and design. The direction incorporates comments expressed during the previous public sessions.
Installation project impacts turnaround, prompts temporary bus stop changes

Construction fencing went up Monday in preparation for installation of a new iconic feature on the University’s West Campus that is scheduled for completion in mid-November, weather permitting.

The fencing closes off the turnaround area located at the end of West Michigan Avenue by the Seibert Administration Building and Sangren Hall. It will remain in place while a large symbolic representation of the University seal is installed inside the turnaround.

Although the turnaround was closed to traffic this past weekend, it reopened Monday. Only intermittent closures for specific tasks are expected in the future as work on the project progresses.

However, the Bronco Transit office has decided to avoid using this road area until the construction fencing has been removed. This has resulted in relocation of the bus stops at the Bernhard Center for both the Gold and Brown routes.

Continued from page 1

Three to receive awards

A prolific writer and editor, Allhoff has numerous books and journal articles to his credit. He also has been managing editor for 13 different publication series as well as a reviewer for multiple journals and presses. Allhoff joined the faculty in 2005 and has served as director of graduate studies since 2008. He recently earned a juris doctorate and is taking a professional development leave this semester to serve as a judicial clerk for an Alaska Supreme Court justice.

From her workshop on the third floor of the Gilmore Theatre Complex, costume shop manager Kathleen MacKenzie and her student assistants gather, design, sew and organize hundreds of costume pieces for University Theatre productions.

“My job is to take the students’ two-dimensional drawings and make them into three-dimensional costumes that an actor can function in on stage,” MacKenzie says.

That task involves locating the right pieces, retrofitting existing or creating new costumes, and keeping track of existing inventory. But MacKenzie also teaches a few costume construction classes and requires every student to learn basic sewing as part of their education.

Her commitment is evident in that she has taught herself how to sew with her left hand so she can teach her left-handed students, as well. “It’s a constant learning lab and environment here,” she admits.

MacKenzie’s interest in costume design started when she was cast in “The King and I” in the first grade, and she found herself with other child actors under the character Anna’s hoop skirt during a scene. Later, in the eighth grade, she had the opportunity to interview a costume designer for a school assignment.

“When I was making Barbie dresses, they were making dresses from the 18th century and not modern-day fashion,” MacKenzie says. “It was always something that fascinated me.”

She earned a bachelor’s degree from Eastern Michigan University and a master’s degree in costume design from Wayne State University. Shortly after graduating from WSU, she began working as WMU’s first costumer, a position she’s held for the past 15 years.

Her husband, John, is a producer and director in WMU’s information technology office. The couple live in Kalamazoo with their two dogs, and they enjoy participating in local medieval re-enactments.

In addition, MacKenzie is active with American Tribal Style belly dance, a form of dance that utilizes improvisational choreography by using a common vocabulary of movements with cues allowing dancers from all over the world to dance together. She makes costumes for that activity as well as the couple’s medieval re-enactments and has a particular interest in 16th-century textiles from the former Ottoman Empire, now Turkey.

Fundraising effort being ‘Dunn’ well—Students have begun selling official Dunn Zone T-shirts, featuring the face of WMU President John M. Dunn, for $10. All proceeds go to the Student Emergency Relief Fund. The fund is available to all WMU students facing immediate financial need and part of the Invisible Need Project, which also includes a food pantry for students. The project is being supported by the Consider It Dunn Campaign, a fundraising and student engagement campaign. The Dunn Zone, the new student entrance at Waldo Stadium’s Gate 8, features giveaways and more for students at home football games. The related fundraising T-shirts are being sold through various registered student groups, at athletic events and at the Campus Flagpoles on Western Wednesdays. Visit http://bit.ly/2qTu2of to order a shirt online. (Photo by Mike Lanka)

Campus United Way campaign for 2014 is officially underway

Distribution of pledge cards to all faculty and staff members and retirees has begun for the 2014 campus United Way campaign.

The campaign launched Sept. 16 with a goal of collecting $282,335. That number symbolizes WMU’s commitment to education and represents all certificates and degrees awarded to WMU graduates since 1904, including the anticipated number to be awarded yet this year.

Eligible contributors will be entered into a drawing by the regional United Way for up to $30,000 toward a new vehicle. Visit changeathedory.org, for more regional United Way information andwmich.edu/news/2014/09/18457 for campus campaign details. Contact wmu-united-way@wmich.edu with donation-related questions or to schedule a United Way meeting in your department.

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