Faculty scholar nominations sought

Nominations are due Friday, Jan. 30, 2015, for the Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award, the highest honor WMU bestows on its faculty members. The award is based on outstanding professional achievements. It recognizes those whose work is widely known beyond campus and constitutes a significant body of achievement, a substantial amount of which has been accomplished while a WMU faculty member. Wide recognition beyond WMU is essential.

Current, continuing board-appointed full- and part-time employees with faculty rank are eligible if they have at least seven academic years of service to WMU and are not previous recipients. Winners will be honored during the 2015 Academic Convocation and receive a $2,000 honorarium that becomes part of their base salaries, a plaque, and an opportunity to present a campus lecture, exhibition or performance. For more information, visit http://wmich.edu/research/awards.html or contact Ernst A. Breisach, emeritus in history and chair of the Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award Committee, at eabreisach@gmail.com or (269) 344-1734.

Veterans to give reading Nov. 11

Stories From the Barracks to the Front, a reading by WMU military veterans, will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Veterans Day Tuesday, Nov. 11, in the Lee Honors College Building lounge. Refreshments will be available, and the reading will begin at noon. WMU student vets from several nations will read short narratives about their military service at this event, which has been planned to commemorate Veterans Day. It is free and open to the public and being sponsored by the Office of Military and Veteran Affairs, Haenicke Institute for Global Education, Department of English, Kalamazoo Community Foundation, and Lee Honors College.

Finance workshop dates have changed

The dates for one of the free faculty and staff workshops in the PNC banking series have changed. Finance workshop dates have changed from noon to 1 p.m. to 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The last workshop in the series will be held Thursday, Nov. 13, and Wednesday, Nov. 19, from noon to 1 p.m. in the President's Dining Room of the Bernhard Center. Refreshments will be provided. Visit wmich.edu/extended/professional/pncworkshops for more information.

Time to apply for cultural event grants

The University Cultural Events Committee is accepting applications for funding of cultural events for 2014-15. The application is available at wmich.edu/cec/CEC_application_form.pdf. Grants of up to $2,000 are available (up to 50 percent of the total budget). The application deadline is Monday, Nov. 3, for fall funding and Wednesday, Feb. 25, for spring funding. Direct questions to Julie Nemire at julie.nemire@wmich.edu.

New tour shows off WMU’s beautiful gardens

It’s easier than ever to experience the beauty of WMU’s campus.

Just in time for this year’s homecoming, WMU’s landscape services opened a two-mile walking tour of some of the University’s best garden spots. There are 11 points of interest on the Garden Walking Tour of West Campus.

A garden tour map is available online at www.fm.wmich.edu/wp/tour/garden. Red pins show where the 11 selected gardens are located along the tour route. Blue pins show bonus points of interest. They mark 17 extra areas to check out that are not part of the official tour route. These points include many informal garden areas and areas more heavily focused on WMU’s efforts to protect and preserve the environment.

The University’s gardens and garden-like areas feature native grasses and natural, native fauna that are accentuated by annual flowers and bulbs. Continued on page 4

Homecoming just keeps getting bigger, better

Helped by good weather and a 42-21 football win, young, old and everyone in between had a blast during WMU’s 91st homecoming, as this series of photos by Mike Lanka shows.

Many revelers began the day participating in the 16th Campus Classic 5K and 1K run/walk, which drew nearly 1,800 entrants. A complete list of times for those running the 5K is available by visiting wmich.edu/campusclassic.

Then it was on to one of the numerous tailgates being staged around Waldo Stadium. About 1,900 people showed up for the Alumni, Family and Friends Homecoming Tailgate in the Walwood Hall parking lot.

“The tailgate was intended to provide entertainment and activities for all ages, amplify school spirit before the game, and celebrate and showcase many University points of pride,” says Chris Praedel, development and alumni relations director for Walwood Hall.

All ages take part in the Campus Classic.

Continued on page 4

A forced interception leads to more points.

Mark and LaTonya Jackson sign East Hall’s beam.
Annual Turkey Trot 5K race/walk returns for 62nd year

The Turkey Trot 5K run and walk, south-west Michigan’s oldest organized race, will begin at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 22, at the Student Recreation Center.

The race winds through the WMU campus and is open to the public. University recreation, which sponsors the event, notes that in keeping with past practice, a canned food drive is being held in conjunction with this year’s race.

Last year, 402 pounds of food were donated to Loaves and Fishes. This year, donations collected will also be shared with the WMU Invisible Need Project’s food pantry for students in critical need.

The cost to participate is $15 for walkers and $20 for runners—if they register by mail or in person by Monday, Nov. 17, or online by Thursday, Nov. 20.

Event-day registration costs $20 and will take place from 7 to 8 a.m. All packet pickups will occur the morning of the race. Check-in must be completed by 8 a.m.

Visit wmich.edu/hr/jobs for more information and to register.

Reception set for state official

In celebration of Native American Month, WMU will hold a reception in honor of Matt Wesaw, director of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, from 4:30-6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 6, in the President’s Dining Room of the Bernhard Center.

Wesaw will deliver remarks on the presence and history of native people in Michigan. He was appointed to the commission last year by Gov. Rick Snyder in October 2013 and is the first Native American to hold the position. He will also learn about the Native American community holistically while considering worldwide perspectives.

Registration underway for workshops

The Confucius Institute at WMU is accepting registrations for two, one-day Chinese culture workshops in November. The free workshops are Chinese Paper Cutting, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 5, in 3022 Brown Hall and Chinese Calligraphy, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19, 3022 Brown Hall. Register online at wmuconfucius.org/workshops.

IT conference coming up Nov. 7

Business, academic and government leaders will address information security and privacy topics in business, industry, health care, government and education during the 11th Western Michigan IT Forum Friday, Nov. 7. The annual conference begins at 8 a.m. in the Fetter Center, following breakfast and registration at 7:15 a.m. Visit westernmichiganITforum.com or call (269) 387-5411 for more information and to register.

Registration underway for workshops

The Confucius Institute at WMU is accepting registrations for two, one-day Chinese culture workshops in November. The free workshops are Chinese Paper Cutting, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 5, in 3022 Brown Hall and Chinese Calligraphy, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19, 3022 Brown Hall. Register online at wmuconfucius.org/workshops.

IT conference coming up Nov. 7

Business, academic and government leaders will address information security and privacy topics in business, industry, health care, government and education during the 11th Western Michigan IT Forum Friday, Nov. 7. The annual conference begins at 8 a.m. in the Fetter Center, following breakfast and registration at 7:15 a.m. Visit westernmichiganITforum.com or call (269) 387-5411 for more information and to register.

Annual Turkey Trot 5K race/walk returns for 62nd year

The Turkey Trot 5K run and walk, south-west Michigan’s oldest organized race, will begin at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 22, at the Student Recreation Center.

The race winds through the WMU campus and is open to the public. University recreation, which sponsors the event, notes that in keeping with past practice, a canned food drive is being held in conjunction with this year’s race.

Last year, 402 pounds of food were donated to Loaves and Fishes. This year, donations collected will also be shared with the WMU Invisible Need Project’s food pantry for students in critical need.

The cost to participate is $15 for walkers and $20 for runners—if they register by mail or in person by Monday, Nov. 17, or online by Thursday, Nov. 20.

Event-day registration costs $20 and will take place from 7 to 8 a.m. All packet pickups will occur the morning of the race. Check-in must be completed by 8 a.m.

Visit wmich.edu/hr/jobs for more information and to register.

Reception set for state official

In celebration of Native American Month, WMU will hold a reception in honor of Matt Wesaw, director of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, from 4:30-6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 6, in the President’s Dining Room of the Bernhard Center.

Wesaw will deliver remarks on the presence and history of native people in Michigan. He was appointed to the commission last year by Gov. Rick Snyder in October 2013 and is the first Native American to hold the position. He will also learn about the Native American community holistically while considering worldwide perspectives.

Registration underway for workshops

The Confucius Institute at WMU is accepting registrations for two, one-day Chinese culture workshops in November. The free workshops are Chinese Paper Cutting, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 5, in 3022 Brown Hall and Chinese Calligraphy, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19, 3022 Brown Hall. Register online at wmuconfucius.org/workshops.

IT conference coming up Nov. 7

Business, academic and government leaders will address information security and privacy topics in business, industry, health care, government and education during the 11th Western Michigan IT Forum Friday, Nov. 7. The annual conference begins at 8 a.m. in the Fetter Center, following breakfast and registration at 7:15 a.m. Visit westernmichiganITforum.com or call (269) 387-5411 for more information and to register.

Annual Turkey Trot 5K race/walk returns for 62nd year

The Turkey Trot 5K run and walk, south-west Michigan’s oldest organized race, will begin at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 22, at the Student Recreation Center.

The race winds through the WMU campus and is open to the public. University recreation, which sponsors the event, notes that in keeping with past practice, a canned food drive is being held in conjunction with this year’s race.

Last year, 402 pounds of food were donated to Loaves and Fishes. This year, donations collected will also be shared with the WMU Invisible Need Project’s food pantry for students in critical need.

The cost to participate is $15 for walkers and $20 for runners—if they register by mail or in person by Monday, Nov. 17, or online by Thursday, Nov. 20.

Event-day registration costs $20 and will take place from 7 to 8 a.m. All packet pickups will occur the morning of the race. Check-in must be completed by 8 a.m.

Visit wmich.edu/hr/jobs for more information and to register.

Reception set for state official

In celebration of Native American Month, WMU will hold a reception in honor of Matt Wesaw, director of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, from 4:30-6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 6, in the President’s Dining Room of the Bernhard Center.

Wesaw will deliver remarks on the presence and history of native people in Michigan. He was appointed to the commission last year by Gov. Rick Snyder in October 2013 and is the first Native American to hold the position. He will also learn about the Native American community holistically while considering worldwide perspectives.

Registration underway for workshops

The Confucius Institute at WMU is accepting registrations for two, one-day Chinese culture workshops in November. The free workshops are Chinese Paper Cutting, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 5, in 3022 Brown Hall and Chinese Calligraphy, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19, 3022 Brown Hall. Register online at wmuconfucius.org/workshops.

IT conference coming up Nov. 7

Business, academic and government leaders will address information security and privacy topics in business, industry, health care, government and education during the 11th Western Michigan IT Forum Friday, Nov. 7. The annual conference begins at 8 a.m. in the Fetter Center, following breakfast and registration at 7:15 a.m. Visit westernmichiganITforum.com or call (269) 387-5411 for more information and to register.

Annual Turkey Trot 5K race/walk returns for 62nd year

The Turkey Trot 5K run and walk, south-west Michigan’s oldest organized race, will begin at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 22, at the Student Recreation Center.

The race winds through the WMU campus and is open to the public. University recreation, which sponsors the event, notes that in keeping with past practice, a canned food drive is being held in conjunction with this year’s race.

Last year, 402 pounds of food were donated to Loaves and Fishes. This year, donations collected will also be shared with the WMU Invisible Need Project’s food pantry for students in critical need.

The cost to participate is $15 for walkers and $20 for runners—if they register by mail or in person by Monday, Nov. 17, or online by Thursday, Nov. 20.

Event-day registration costs $20 and will take place from 7 to 8 a.m. All packet pickups will occur the morning of the race. Check-in must be completed by 8 a.m.

Visit wmich.edu/hr/jobs for more information and to register.

Reception set for state official

In celebration of Native American Month, WMU will hold a reception in honor of Matt Wesaw, director of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, from 4:30-6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 6, in the President’s Dining Room of the Bernhard Center.

Wesaw will deliver remarks on the presence and history of native people in Michigan. He was appointed to the commission last year by Gov. Rick Snyder in October 2013 and is the first Native American to hold the position. He will also learn about the Native American community holistically while considering worldwide perspectives.

Registration underway for workshops

The Confucius Institute at WMU is accepting registrations for two, one-day Chinese culture workshops in November. The free workshops are Chinese Paper Cutting, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 5, in 3022 Brown Hall and Chinese Calligraphy, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19, 3022 Brown Hall. Register online at wmuconfucius.org/workshops.

IT conference coming up Nov. 7

Business, academic and government leaders will address information security and privacy topics in business, industry, health care, government and education during the 11th Western Michigan IT Forum Friday, Nov. 7. The annual conference begins at 8 a.m. in the Fetter Center, following breakfast and registration at 7:15 a.m. Visit westernmichiganITforum.com or call (269) 387-5411 for more information and to register.
Workshops and discussions on funding and other resources for faculty research at WMU will be featured during the annual Research and Dessert gathering from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. in a new location this year, 157 Bernhard Center.

The event includes a morning workshop with consultant Janet Geever, author of “The Foundation Center’s Guide to Proposal Writing.” The workshop, titled “Funding Success with Foundations and Corporations,” will be from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. in a new location this year, 210 Bernhard Center. Activities continue with content sessions as well as expanded networking opportunities. To register, visit http://wmich-research-and-dessert-2014.questionpro.com.

Research and Dessert gives faculty members a chance to learn about funding opportunities and strategies, connect with University colleagues and share ideas. Resource stations and mini-workshops on a variety of topics offer opportunities to network, learn about others’ scholarship and explore potential collaborations. A Speed Networking experience will run from 3 to 3:45 p.m. It works like speed dating, but the focus is on individuals sharing their work and learning about the discovery activities of their WMU colleagues.

Those planning to participate in Speed Networking must answer a questionnaire and identify focus areas of discovery activities, what expertise they are looking for and what they can offer a research or discovery collaboration. Organizers will award door prizes at 3:45 p.m. Prizes include an iPad Air or trip to visit funding sponsors. Winners must be present at the time of the drawing to receive a prize.

Research and Dessert is sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Research. A reception will follow at 4 p.m. in the South Ballroom of the Bernhard Center.

This year’s 13 content sessions include specific sessions related to partnering with businesses as well as creating a budget. Session descriptions are posted online at the registration website.

For more information, visit wmich.edu/research or call the research office at (269) 387-8298.

Health-related open enrollment period underway

The open enrollment period for health care benefits and flexible spending accounts began Oct. 27 and will continue through 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14.

Open enrollment for health care benefits is available for WMU retirees, benefits-eligible nonbargaining employees, and employees who are members of the American Association of University Professors, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; Michigan State Employees Association; and Police Officers Association.

During open enrollment, employees and retirees have the option of adding eligible dependents to their health care coverage. Employees and retirees who wish to contribute to an FSA in 2015 must enroll or re-enroll during this year’s open-enrollment period. FSAs offer an opportunity to use pre-tax dollars to pay for dependent-care expenses or qualified medical expenses that are not covered by health care benefits. Current as well as new participants must submit an FSA enrollment form to Human Resources by the deadline.

That form is part of the BASIC Flex enrollment booklet and is available online at wmich.edu/hr/openenrollment and in print from the Human Resources office, 1300 Seibert Administration Building.

Some 50 longtime employees to be inducted into 25 Year Club

A total of 53 people will be inducted into the 25 Year Club during a gala honoring longtime employees beginning at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2.

Reservations for the annual event, which will be held in the Bernhard Center’s East Ballroom, are due Friday, Nov. 14.

This year’s inductees are: Joyce A. Alexander, payroll and disbursements; Ronald S. Bell, public safety; Kristina Berns, building custodial and support services; Mary Marie Bininger, Day, Park and University: Call Center; Richard T. Boyd, power plant; Mary J. Carpenter, landscape services; Ray T. Cool, human performance and health education; James C. Cotton, information technology; Gary M. Custer, Lawson Lee Arena; Rex J. Devries, landscape services; Kirk B. Dillery, maintenance services; Jean Douglas, University Libraries; Clifton E. Ealy, mathematics; Nancy Eimers, English; Timothy A. Enders, information technology; Karim Essani, biological sciences; Robert R. Eversole, biological sciences; Sherrie Y. Fall, corporate affairs; Deanna Merenghi; Denise M. Gardiner (calculated start date 1986), landscape services; Richard A. Gerash, communication; Ajay K. Gupta, computer science; Paul Hildbrand, Haworth College of Business; Michelle E. Hruska, provost’s office; Lynn N. Johnson, teaching, learning and educational studies; Rand H. Johnson, world languages and literatures; Paul A. Johnston Jr., English; Judith Jones, admissions; Emanuel Y. Kamber, physics; Robert Landeros, management; Deanna L. Mergen-Henry, West Hills Athletic Club; Anna Lee Miller, sociology; David R. Miller, maintenance services; Carol Mountjoy, student financial aid and scholarships; Joshua Nunn, information technology; Cherie S. Neumann, custodial and support services; John O. Norman, history; Joyce A. Parsons, Facilities Management; Allan C. Poole, information technology; Silvia Roederer, music; John J. Rook, maintenance services; Kandee-Sti-Tor Ross, Human Resources; Susan R. Stapleton, Graduate College; Shara-Cene R. Sutton, building custodial and support services; Ieva M. Sverns (retired), Sincerus Health Center; Alison K. Thor (retired), University Libraries; Scott W. Thompson, music; Carla S. Trupp, building custodial and support services; Kevin L. Villadiez, maintenance services; Jung-Chao Wang, statistics; Laura C. Weber, business services; Carolyn J. Wiley, Valley No. 1 Dining Service; Craig E. Wofford, accounting; and Victor C. Xiong, history.

Four candidates vying for admissions director

Four admissions professionals from around the nation will visit the campus in the coming weeks in their bids to become WMU’s next director of admissions. Each candidate will spend a day meeting with various personnel, and each will make a public presentation to the campus community. All presentations will take place from 1:45 to 2:50 p.m. in the Fetzer Center’s Putney Auditorium. The candidates and their days and dates of their presentations are:

• Clark Bigger, senior associate director of admissions at the University of Michigan, Wednesday, Nov. 12;
• Kelly Western, interim assistant dean of admissions at the University of Arkansas, Monday, Nov. 17;
• Dachea Hill, admissions director at Northeastern Illinois University, Tuesday, Nov. 18; and
• Michele Brown, director of student recruitment and outreach at Illinois’ Oakton Community College, Friday, Nov. 21.

The successful candidate will succeed Penny Bundy who is now the University’s director of graduate admissions.
On Campus with Sue Beougher

This time of year Sue Beougher is running hard to keep up with dozens of details. As coordinator for the Office of University Relations, she’s the key person who organizes the annual Homecoming Campus Classic 5K/5K run and walk.

The event, which just finished its 16th year, has become a mainstay of WMU’s homecoming festivities. With a coordinator of volunteers and university relations staff members, Beougher begins planning the event in the summer and is busy weeks after it concludes wrapping up and literally packing

“As soon as the date for homecoming is set, I line up the timing team, venue, sponsors, food, and tables and chairs. When it gets closer to the race, I input all of the forms that aren’t submitted online, put the tags on the bibs, and send out save-the-date cards,” she says. “About two months out, I start ordering all the other items we need. I work with people across campus to make sure everything is taken care of.”

Beougher also is instrumental in publicizing and promoting the Campus Classic, mailing out 107,000 event brochures and doing radio and TV interviews before and after the event.

But the rest of the year, her job is more traditional. She maintains the office budget along with several mailing lists, pays the bills, serves as photography coordinator, answers the phone, and provides packages of WMU items as giveaways to public school classrooms and at on- and off-campus events. She also is Walwood Hall’s building coordinator.

“There’s not much about my job that I don’t like. I’ve worked here so long I think I’ve got it down. But it can get kind of hectic around race time or when the WMU Magazine is going out and we have to have all the mailing lists updated,” she says. “The best part of my job is the people I work with, and at a university, you meet people who stimulate you and who make you think. I always tell people, ‘No, I’m not going to retire.’ They ask me why and I say, ‘No, 1, what would I do all day and No. 2, who would I talk to’?”

Beougher worked in the private sector before coming to WMU in 1984 as a secretary in educational leadership. She worked full time while earning her bachelor’s degree here, then joined the office that is now university relations. Her daughter, Dawne, and son, Mark, are pursuing graduate degrees at WMU. Beougher, who has six siblings, says, “My job is the people I work with, and at a university, you meet people who stimulate you and who make you think. I always tell people, ‘No, I’m not going to retire.’ They ask me why and I say, ‘No, 1, what would I do all day and No. 2, who would I talk to?’”

The event featured food; a beer garden with craft brews; a Fun Zone for children that included inflatable toys and a scavenger hunt; live bands, including a Bronco pep band; and performances by cheerleaders as well as costumed cast members from University Theatre’s production of “Hair.”

The University’s academic colleges had tents at the tailgate, and they staged activities for the whole family that highlighted various academic disciplines. For instance, those who dropped by could find out how statistics come alive in Las Vegas-style games and take part in a stock market simulation.

Attendees also were invited to sign some of the steel beams that will be going into East Hall as part of its transformation into the Alumni Center. East Hall, which is adjacent to Walwood, is scheduled to reopen as the Alumni Center in time for next year’s homecoming tailgate.