Three commencement ceremonies will be held Saturday, Dec. 13, in Miller Auditorium. The 9 a.m. ceremony is for graduates of the colleges of Fine Arts and Health and Human Services as well as the Haworth College of Business; the 12:30 p.m. ceremony is for graduates of the colleges of Aviation, Education and Human Development, and Engineering and Applied Sciences; and the 4 p.m. ceremony is for graduates of the College of Arts and Sciences and Extended University Programs.

The December meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees, scheduled for Dec. 4, has been postponed and will now take place at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 18. Trustees will meet in formal session in 157-159 Bernhard Center. The agenda will be available closer to the meeting date.

WMU employees are invited to attend a holiday reception from 2 to 4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, in the Bernhard Center Ballroom. The event is being hosted by the Board of Trustees and President and Mrs. John Dunn. Supervisors are asked to arrange schedules so employees who wish to attend may do so.

The special event at the Kalamazoo 10 theatre Nov. 18 by the producer of the film “Pilot Error” has been rescheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8. The event, staged to honor WMU, includes a screening of the film. Visit pilot-errormovie.com for cost and other information.

Sindecuse announces closure hours

The Sindecuse Health Center has posted its holiday recess and winter closure hours at wmich.edu/healthcenter/hours/holiday-hours. Nearly always, Sindecuse will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. if the University is closed due to weather during its normal operating hours. But cancellation and no-show fees will not be charged on the closure days.

Fall commencement ceremonies set

Events staged to honor Martin Luther King

Activities at WMU and across the broader Kalamazoo community to honor slain civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr. include a convocation, march, day of service, and educational programs and presentations.

“Pilot Error” has been rescheduled for Thursday, Dec. 18, in the Bernhard Center Ballroom. The event is being hosted by the Board of Trustees and President and Mrs. John Dunn. Supervisors are asked to arrange schedules so employees who wish to attend may do so.

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Don’t forget end-of-year tax planning

Tax-deferred savings plan enrollment information for 2015 is available on the Human Resources website. To enroll or to change your election as of the first pay date in 2015, complete and submit to Sanford Advisory Services a 2015 salary reduction agreement by Friday, Dec. 12. Visit wmich.edu/hr/taxdeferredSAVINGSENTROL for details.
Stryker School of Medicine. The facility, located at 300 Portage St. on the Upjohn Campus, will be a stop on the city’s monthly Art Hop from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5.

Loaned art will be available for viewing on the first and second floors. The medical school will hold a Community Open House at the same time so visitors can take self-guided tours of the lower level as well as the first and second floors.

Travel grants available to employees

Information sessions have been set for those who want to learn about the employee study abroad trip planned to Quito, Ecuador, May 2 through 16, 2015.

Twelve grants of $1,000 toward expenses are available to qualified WMU staff members taking part in this international professional development opportunity. The sessions will be held at 4-45 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10, in 4030 Brown Hall and noon, Friday, Jan. 30, in 4030 Brown Hall. Visit wmich.edu/studyabroad/employee for more information.

Music school slates concerts

The School of Music is celebrating the holidays with a variety of concerts. They include “A Choral Christmas,” featuring three singing groups Dec. 6, the annual holiday Christmas Card to the Community concert Sunday, Dec. 7, that features more than 150 musicians; and “A Brass Celebration of Christmas” Sunday, Dec. 14. Visit http://wmich.edu/music/events to obtain details and purchase tickets.

Festive events set for holidays

Two campus venues have planned special holiday events.

The Oaklands will host a Polar Express event filled with fun activities for kids of all ages from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6. Details are at wmich.edu/oaklands/believe.

In addition, the Fetzer Center will host a special breakfast with Santa Saturday, Dec. 13, and lunch with Santa Sunday, Dec. 14. Details are at wmich.edu/fetzer/santa.

Around campus and beyond

Ethics Center closes fall season

Two philosophers will take part in the final two presentations of the Center for Studies of Ethics in Society’s fall Lecture Series. Sarah McGrath from Princeton will speak at 5 p.m. today, Dec. 4, in 1121 Moore Hall. Her topic will be “Should We Believe in Moral Experts?”

Lindsay Rettler, a WMU graduate now studying at Ohio State, will speak at 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, in the Multicultural Center of the Trimpe Building. Her topic is “Doxastic Blame and Responsibility.”

Event showcases student innovations

The public can review new product innovations by students from kindergarten through graduate school during Innovation Day from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5, in the engineering college building. The event will showcase work by entrepreneurial Broncos, among other local students.

The event is part of WMU’s “Spark Design Week,” which focuses on professional design developments from some of West Michigan’s leading private sector firms.

Ferguson, Missouri, to be discussed

A discussion on “The Impact of Ferguson,” the Missouri town in the news due to a fatal police shooting, will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5, in 2302 Friedmann Hall. The discussion will be facilitated by College of Arts and Sciences faculty members.

Med school schedules open house

Kalamazoo’s December Art Hop will give area residents another chance to review new product innovations by students from kindergarten through graduate school during Innovation Day from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5, in the engineering college building. The event will showcase work by entrepreneurial Broncos, among other local students.

The event is part of WMU’s “Spark Design Week,” which focuses on professional design developments from some of West Michigan’s leading private sector firms.

WMU employees who are new to enrollment at WMU are invited to a special breakfast Friday, Dec. 5, just before the 9:30 a.m. start of the final Admissions Open House for 2014. The family event in the President’s Dining Room at the Bernhard Center will feature information about the employee discount and applying to WMU before participants join the overall open house crowd.

The session is intended for high school juniors and seniors as well as college students preparing to transfer. To register or pose questions, email scott.hennessy@wmich.edu. Visit wmich.edu/admissions/openhouse for open house details.

Western News

Volume 41 Number 7

EDITOR: Jeannie Baron CONTRIBUTORS: Cora Barnes, Paula M. Daves, Emily Fricarick, Deanne Frazz, Cheryl P. Roland and Mark E. Schwenk GRAPHIC DESIGN: Tammy M. Bondyek DISTRIBUTION AND MAILING: Texas Vengelis

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WMU is an equal opportunity affirmative action employer consistent with applicable state and federal laws.

Instructor wins USA Best Book Award

Hedy S. Habra, Spanish, has two books honored in the 2014 USA Best Book Awards. USABookNews.com, an online magazine featuring mainstream and independent publishing houses, made the announcement Nov. 12.

Habra’s poetry collection titled “Tea in Helipolis” took top honors in the Poetry: General category while her book “Flying Carpets” was named one of five finalists in the Fiction: Short Story category. The two works are the most recent accolades Habra has received for the two works.

“Tea in Helipolis” was recently named one of five finalists for the 2014 International Poetry Book Award. “Flying Carpets” won an honorable mention for the 2013 Arab American National Book Award and was a finalist for the 2014 Eric Hoffer Book Award.

Prof tapped for national office

Nicolas Witschi, English, has been named the executive secretary of the Western Literature Association. Founded in 1965, WLA is a nonprofit, scholarly group that promotes the study of the diverse literature and cultures of the North American West, past and present.

Witschi’s research and teaching interests include American literary realism and naturalism, the American West, culture studies, environmental literature, and film history and criticism. His writings include “Traces of Gold: California’s Natural Resources and the Claim to Realism in Western American Literature,” a Western Writers Studies monograph on Alphonzo “Old Block” Delano, and many journal articles and essays.

Witschi is working on a book-length study of the contributions of autobiographical writings by famous gunfighters to the development of the western as both a literary genre and a cultural phenomenon.

Evaluation experts update book

Daniel L. Stufflebeam and Chris L.S. Coryn, Evaluation Center, have written the second edition of “Evaluation Theory, Methods and Applications,” which was published by Wiley in October.

Called “the benchmark evaluation guide,” it is perfect as a textbook and as a professional evaluation reference. The book starts with an overview of the evaluation field and program evaluation standards, then covers the most widely used evaluation approaches, several of which were not in the first edition.

Stufflebeam, who co-wrote that edition with another author, is an emeritus in educational studies and was founding director of the Evaluation Center. Coryn is director of the University Doctor of Philosophy in evaluation and executive editor of the Journal of MultiDisciplinary Evaluation.
WMU international student enrollment continues to grow

WMU’s continuing growth in international student enrollment reflects national trends reported Nov. 17 in the 2014 edition of the annual Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange. Open Doors reports on international student enrollment across the country this past academic year and compares changes to 2012-13. It found that the number of international students at U.S. colleges and universities rose by 8 percent this past year. WMU’s enrollment in that category also increased substantially, rising by 7.1 percent to 1,688 international students.

Wolfgang Schlör, associate provost for the Haenicke Institute for Global Education, says the campus hosted or employed 162 international scholars in 2013-14, compared to 103 in 2012-13. Although not reflected in the Open Doors Report, WMU’s international student body has continued to grow this fall. A total of 1,854 international students representing 100 countries are now studying on campus—a 9.8 percent increase compared to 2013-14. Schlör says the jump showcases some areas of special focus as well as national trends. For instance, 60 percent more Indian students (271 total) and 44 percent more Brazilian students (95 total) are enrolled on campus this fall. In addition, 49 more students came from Saudi Arabia (456 total). Fulbright students also increased. The campus now hosts 38 Fulbright Fellows in 13 academic programs who represent more than 27 countries. Plus, the Center for English Language and Culture for International Students enrolled 212 full-time, non-degree students this fall and a higher enrollment is anticipated for spring 2015.

The Open Doors Report also includes data on study abroad participation, but those figures cover the 2012-13 academic year. U.S. students engaging in study abroad that year was up 2 percent to a total of 289,408. Meanwhile, WMU saw a slight decrease and sent 558 students abroad.

Unique event touts WMU’s 11th, 12th LEED certifications

New green building honors for two buildings in the Western View II student housing complex were announced Nov. 24 during a simultaneous unveiling of plagues across the campus to mark the University’s commitment to sustainable building practices. Plaques were unveiled recognizing five buildings, including the two in Western View, as having successfully achieved certification this year by Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. In addition to the Western View buildings, LEED plaques were unveiled in Sangren Hall, which has achieved LEED gold certification, and the Lee Legacy Collections Center, both of which have achieved LEED silver certification.

The unveilings were streamed live to Sangren Hall on large monitors from the three other locations gaining LEED honors. Taking part in the unveiling ceremony were WMU President John M. Dunn; Cheri Homan, executive director of the U.S. Green Building Council’s west Michigan chapter; and WMU student Kehrey Pitschel, a mechanical engineering major who has earned LEED Green Associate certification.

The celebratory event marked the first time any college or university in Michigan was able to certify five buildings in a single year. It also marked what is believed to be the first time anywhere that five LEED plaques were simultaneously unveiled.

DUNN TO ANSWER WHITE HOUSE INVITATION—WMU President John M. Dunn will head to Washington, D.C., Thursday, Dec. 4, answering an invitation from the White House to take part in a summit being called a College Opportunity Day of Action. President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama both will speak at the event. Dunn and WMU First Lady Linda Dunn met Obama (pictured below) in 2010 when Obama gave Kalamazoo Central High School’s commencement address in University Arena. The summit is a dangling set of discussions and panel presentations celebrating efforts to expand access to college for low-income and disadvantaged students. Dunn will be a panelist for a session on innovation in Michigan to better prepare high school counselors to help students prepare and apply for college. He will talk specifically about groundbreaking required coursework that WMU has developed and made an integral part of its counselor preparation program. The summit will end with participants at the White House for the annual Christmas tree-lighting ceremony.

Service

The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 40, 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service during December.

45 Years—Umar F. Abdul-Mutallim, Human Resources.
40 Years—Robert J. Dlouhy, Center for English Language and Culture.
35 Years—Tracie L. Sherburn, accounting.
30 Years—Sharon M. Van Dyken, College of Aviation.
25 Years—Ray T. Cool, human performance and health education; James C. Cotton, information technology; Jean R. Douglass, University Libraries; Nancy Emers, English; Timothy A. Ender, information technology; Susan R. Stapleton, Graduate College; and Sharacene R. Sutton, building custodial and support services.
20 Years—Patti J. VanWalleck, vice president for business and finance’s office.
15 Years—Bradley J. Bezuin, electrical and computer engineering; Timothy B. Palmer, management; Kenneth A. Randh, building custodial and support services; Michael P. Smith, public safety; Ineke F. Way, social science; Jennipher Wiebold, blindness and low vision studies; and Li Yang, computer engineering.
10 Years—Gregory A. Flamm, speech pathology and audiology; Beau C. Hartlerode, Miller Auditorium; Mary E. Peterson, speech pathology and audiology; and Helen M. Sharp, speech pathology and audiology.
5 Years—Charles R. Adams, blindness and low vision studies; Robert S. Armbrister, development and alumni relations; Nancy Lynn Bam, vice president for research’s office; Richard Carbonneau, Registrar’s Office; Joseph E. Houseman, maintenance services; Amellie P. McFletcher, building custodial and support services; Jagit S. Saini, accounts; Randall Keith Walker, maintenance services; and Brian Young, chemical and paper engineering.

Unique event touts WMU’s 11th, 12th LEED certifications

New green building honors for two buildings in the Western View II student housing complex were announced Nov. 24 during a simultaneous unveiling of plagues across the campus to mark the University’s commitment to sustainable building practices. Plaques were unveiled recognizing five buildings, including the two in Western View, as having successfully achieved certification this year by Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. In addition to the Western View buildings, LEED plaques were unveiled in Sangren Hall, which has achieved LEED gold certification, and the Lee Legacy Collections Center, both of which have achieved LEED silver certification.

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The celebratory event marked the first time any college or university in Michigan was able to certify five buildings in a single year. It also marked what is believed to be the first time anywhere that five LEED plaques were simultaneously unveiled.

Obituaries

Robert L. Blefko, emeritus in mathematics and statistics, died Nov. 1 at home in Kalamazoo. He was 82. Blefko joined the WMU faculty in 1968 and retired in 1997 after 29 years of service.

William M. Cremin, emeritus in anthropology and a former co-director of the Archaeological Field School, died Sept. 10. He was 72. Cremin joined the faculty in 1975 and retired in 2007 after 32 years of service.

Jean E. Lowrie, emeritus in librarianship and a former director of the School of Librarianship, died Nov. 9 in Florida. She was 96. Lowrie joined the faculty in 1951 and retired in 1981 after 32 years of service.
Campus procedures for removing snow, ice reviewed

Winter hours will soon begin for WMU’s snow removal crews, who must plow, shovel, scrape and de-ice more than 26 miles of roads, more than 120 acres of parking, 39 miles of walks, hundreds of doorways, and 200,000 square feet of steps and ramps.

Plow schedules cover snow and ice removal activities 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Providing there is not a major storm, most areas on the main campus will be clear of snow and ice before the majority of students and employees arrive each day.

Students and faculty and staff members who have special mobility needs should call the landscape services office at (269) 387-8557, as snow and ice removal schedules can be adjusted to accommodate needs. Those making requests regarding weekend or other special activities also should direct their calls to landscape services. Callers are asked to provide as much advance notice as possible. Questions or concerns after normal business hours should be directed to the Department of Public Safety at (269) 387-5555.

Visit wmich.edu/news/2014/11/20248 for information about how to find out if WMU is closed and visit wmich.edu/policies to read the University’s Closure Policy.

Continued from page 1

MLK celebration

The day will conclude with a march to MLK Park that starts at 3:30 p.m. at the Campus Flagpoles by WMU’s Kanley Chapel. Marchers will be at the corner of Thompson and Academy streets by Kalamazoo College at 4 p.m. and arrive at MLK Park at 4:30 p.m.

Other major MLK celebration events, described at wmich.edu/mlk, include:

• Wednesday, Jan. 14—WMU/Kalamazoo Public Schools Social Justice Book Bowl, 5 p.m., Linden Grove Middle School. This is an elimination contest for middle and high school students from area school districts.

• Thursday, Jan. 15—The Legacy of Dr. King 46 Years Later: Where Are We on Affirmative Action? Are We Living the Same Reality?, 11 a.m., 4240, Student Commons Theater, Kalamazoo Valley Community College. The speaker is Budda Hannah, a poet, author and radio commentator for “Talk It Up” on The Touch 95.5 FM in Kalamazoo.

• Friday, Jan. 16—Community Reflection, 11 a.m., Stetson Chapel, Kalamazoo College.

• Saturday, Jan. 17—Public School Students’ Visit, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., East Ballroom, Bernhard Center. This event is open to middle and high school students from surrounding school districts and their parents and guardians.

• Sunday, Jan. 18—The 29th Annual Ministerial Alliance Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, 4 p.m., Galilee Baptist Church, 1216 N. Westnedge Ave. The keynote speaker is Forrest Harris, president of American Baptist College.

L.SAT prep courses being offered in Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids

WMU will offer a preparation course for the Law School Admission Test in both Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids during the 2015 spring semester and summer II session.

The Grand Rapids course will be offered in the University’s downtown Grand Rapids facility at 200 Ionia Ave. S.W., from Tuesday, Jan. 27, to Tuesday, April 21. The Kalamazoo course will be offered in Ellsworth Hall on WMU’s main campus from Wednesday, Jan. 28, to Wednesday, April 22.

Offering nearly 40 hours of live instruction, both courses feature instructor-led, face-to-face meetings where test-taking strategies and techniques are taught. Participants review sample questions, practice taking tests and receive advice from expert instructor Geoffrey Haveman.

The courses cost $699, including books and all the necessary classroom materials. Other comparable test prep courses offer less or no face-to-face instruction and can cost more than twice as much as the WMU courses.

Registration and more information about the courses is available online at wmich.edu/extended/lsat.

Grass isn’t likely to grow under Sandra Kelly’s feet. She stays busy working in the Office of Information Technology as director of enterprise administrative applications and working in the community as a volunteer for her church as well as for a halfway house.

At WMU, she’s involved with three key software applications that keep the University operating: PeopleSoft Financial Management, Kronos’ time and attendance package, and the PeopleSoft Human Resources Management System, which includes the Employee Self Service portion of GoWMU. Kelly is responsible for maintaining, upgrading and enhancing those applications—a never-ending job. For instance, she helps to adapt PeopleSoft for WMU’s specific needs, applies patches whenever taxes and withholding amounts change, and looks ahead to forecast what system changes may be necessary in the future.

“I’m a problem solver. My job is to use technology to translate complex business needs into innovative solutions. Sometimes the software can do what we need it to do, and sometimes we have to make modifications,” she says. “The challenge is to keep my solutions simple but maintain customer satisfaction. Technology is constantly changing and the software must evolve to meet those challenges. We go through upgrades every year, so making sure everything keeps working is a constant struggle.”

Her main goal is effecting efficient solutions. “I need to merge my changes with the vendor’s solutions, and clients may ask for many things,” she notes. “We have a big investment in this software. Limiting and simplifying modifications saves time and money for WMU.”

The Kalamazoo native earned a bachelor’s degree from WMU in 1990, then worked as a computer analyst and engineer for Electronic Data Systems in the Detroit area. Missing family, she returned home in 1997 after landing a post as a member of one of WMU’s two PeopleSoft teams. The teams were later consolidated, and she gradually began to lead the new unit. When it was decided the unit should have a director, Kelly got the job.

She says her main hobby is traveling to warm places. But that doesn’t mean she isn’t busy in her off hours. Kelly spends about 10 hours each week running the business administrative office of Visions of Victory Church. In addition to that volunteer work, she also teaches women’s programs at a halfway house. “I volunteer as a way to encourage, motivate and get them ready to re-enter the community,” she says.

Campus with Sandra Kelly

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