Academic program cited as top in nation

The minor in nonprofit leadership and administration has been named the single U.S. program that exemplifies overall best practices in nonprofit career preparation and growth.

Offered by the School of Public Affairs and Administration, the program won this year’s Sprint Program Excellence Award from the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance, which announced the accolade during a conference Jan. 7. The alliance is a national organization of more than 40 collaborating universities and nonprofit organizations.

Applications for the 2015 award were by invitation only and required creation of a video (available at nlawmwu.org) and PowerPoint document and a live online presentation. Nonprofit Leadership Student Association members focused their application on recruitment, service learning, internships, the rigor of WMU’s program and community involvement.

“The students did a great job with their video, presentation and responses to the questions from the award committee,” noted Janice Maatman, campus director for the nonprofit leadership minor.

Among best practices championed by the WMU program, Maatman says, is the opportunity for students to actually award grants to meet community needs. During the 2013-14 academic year, the School of Public Affairs and Administration allocated $18,000 and the students raised an additional $2,200 to re-grant $20,200 to local nonprofits.

Students studied community needs, set priorities, issued requests for proposals, analyzed 23 applications for the 2013 Sprint award and completed site visits and held a Nonprofit Celebration. For this year, they have another $13,000 from the school and have raised an additional $2,200 so they can award $15,000 to community organizations in spring 2015.

University of Alabama prof to lead engineering college

Houssam A. Toutanji, professor and chair of civil and environmental engineering at the University of Alabama-Huntsville, will become the new dean of the College of Engineer ing and Applied Sciences. The veteran academic leader and researcher will take on the mantle of dean at the start of the 2015-16 academic year July 1.

An Alabama-Huntsville faculty member since 1997, Toutanji has been chair of his department since 2008 and has served since 2013 as associate dean for graduate education and research.

Council names WMU among America’s 10 best green schools

WMU is one of just 10 schools and individuals nationwide honored Dec. 17 by the U.S. Green Building Council’s Center for Green Schools, which named the top innovators in school sustainability at all educational levels.

The University was named the 2014 Best of Green Schools recipient in USGBC’s higher education category. The annual awards program is designed to recognize the best environmental efforts in schools across the country. In making the announcement, the council’s leadership lauded more than 20 years of WMU sustainability accomplishments in energy conservation efforts, recycling and waste reduction programs, and support of cooperative research into green manufacturing practices.

“One every of the honorees is a leader, taking risks, setting an example for others, innovating and diligently pursuing a world in which every student attends a green school within the next generation,” Rachel Gutter, director of the Center for Green Schools, said in announcing the 10 winners. “The WMU community lives out sustainable values in a unique and powerful way; they are an ideal example of how colleges and universities can set national standards for excellence.”
Area events slated to honor King
Activities on and off campus to honor Martin Luther King Jr. began today and will continue through April. Recently added to the celebration is a presentation from 4 to 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 26, on “Social Justice and the Emerging New Age: A 21st Century Look at Martin Luther King’s WMU Speech” in 159 Bernhard Hall. Visit wmich.edu/mlk/events for more events.

Registration underway for classes
Registration is underway for spring semester enrichment classes that are open to the public and begin this month. The Other Lifelong Learning Institute is offering 44 low-cost courses and seven trips for mature adults. Institute nonmembers may register beginning Monday, Jan. 19. More details are available at wmich.edu/oll or (269) 387-4200.

The Confucius Institute is accepting registrations for spring Chinese culture courses that begin the week of Monday, Jan. 26. Tuition discounts are available for some WMU employees. More details are available at wmuconfucius.org or (269) 387-3784.

Entrepreneur to make presentation
Daniel Bowen, founder of Dempsey Ventures, will speak at 8 a.m. Friday, Jan. 16, in 2150 Schneider Hall. Dempsey is an active holding company with a focus on medical products. The event is free and begins with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Reservations are required and can be made at wmich.edu/business/e-evsp or by calling (269) 387-6059.

New speaker series beginning
Anita Hill, who captivated the nation with her testimony of sexual harassment directed at then-U.S. Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas, will launch the “Raise Your Voice” speaker series with a talk on gendered violence in society and law and on college campuses at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 3, in Kalamazoo’s Cherry Auditorium. Also, the documentary, “Anita: Speaking Truth to Power,” will be shown Thursday, Jan. 29, in the Alamo Drafthouse. For details, visit wmich.edu/honors/events/raise-your-voice.

Staffer named optometry fellow
Matthew Johnson, Unified Clinics, has achieved the prestigious fellowship accreditation “FAAO” recognizing him as a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry. The designation signifies that Johnson has met rigorous qualifications involving presenting written and oral case studies, being evaluated through interviews and clinical assessments, and meeting the highest educational and licensure standards. He instructs graduate students in blindness and low vision as well as provides comprehensive low-vision optometric care through the Vision Clinic in WMU’s Unified Clinics and was recognized in 2011 as Young Optometrist of the Year.

National organization recognizes prof
Debra K. Lindstrom, occupational therapy, has been chosen to receive the American Occupational Therapy Association’s Rising Star Award. The honor will be presented at the organization’s 2015 Annual Conference and Expo April 18 in Nashville, Tennessee. The Roster of Fellows recognizes AOTA members who, with their knowledge and expertise, have made a significant contribution to continuing the education and professional development of fellow members. In particular, Lindstrom will be recognized for her contributions as a clinical reasoning champion, educator, researcher, mentor and advocate.
Some 1,000 staff members respond to request for job details

By the start of 2015, 1,033 staff members had responded to a Human Resources request by submitting a job content tool that provided detailed information for use in WMU’s ongoing Staff Compensation Project.

The project is a study of the Staff Compensation System that is expected to be finished June 30. To aid in the study, all professional, administrative, clerical and technical employees in the system’s 1,270 positions were invited in November to complete a job content tool outlining their positions’ major responsibilities. More than 81 percent of affected employees responded.

“The response from employees campuswide was tremendous,” says Jan Van Der Kley, vice president for business and finance. “People responded quickly, fully and thoughtfully. The level of input we received will make the final study outcome more valuable and reflective of our campus environment.”

In addition to the employee job content submissions, supervisors submitted comments on 772 positions. On Jan. 5, both sets of information were sent to Aon Hewitt, an external national consulting firm hired by the University to assist with the study. The deadline for supervisory comments to be submitted has been extended to Thursday, Jan. 15, and material received by that date also will be forwarded to the firm.

Tobacco cessation assistance for students, employees extended

After its first successful semester as a tobacco-free campus, WMU is extending its offer of support for students and employees who want to reduce their tobacco use.

WMU will cover the out-of-pocket cost up to $150 of over-the-counter nicotine replacement therapy or FDA-approved tobacco cessation prescriptions purchased at the Sindecuse Health Center Pharmacy for eligible WMU students or employees. The program, which was launched in 2014 in preparation for WMU’s Sept. 1 implementation of tobacco-free status, originally was set to end at the close of 2014. Instead, it has been extended to Dec. 31, 2015.

The number of students and employees who took advantage of the benefit in 2014 was 95. According to the Tobacco-Free Policy implementation committee led by Cari Robertson, Sindecuse Health Center, and Amy Seth, University Recreation, the rate at which people were using the benefit was increasing at the end of the year.

Trustees approve retirements of 13 employees

The retirements of four faculty members and nine staff members were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees during its Dec. 18, 2014, meeting.

Trustees also signed off on six faculty resignations as well as the return of one administrator to the faculty.

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: Carol J. Crumbaugh, teaching, learning and educational studies, 17 years, effective April 30, 2019; Marianne Frauenknecht, human performance and health education, 25 years, effective June 30; Dennis D. Pence, mathematics, 36 years, effective April 30, 2020; and Joseph W. Petro Jr., engineering design, manufacturing and management systems, 22 years, effective Jan. 1, 2016.

The staff members retiring are: Chad H. Avery, landscape services, 22 years, effective Sept. 30, 2014; Brenda L. Boerger, Sindecuse Health Center, 14 years, effective Nov. 17, 2014; Robert J. Brown, public safety, 41 years, effective Jan. 15; Daniel J. Chapa, associate vice president for finance’s office, 12 years, effective Dec. 31, 2014; Nancy J. Johnson, associate vice president for finance’s office, 35 years, effective Dec. 31, 2014; Judy A. Northey, cash operations, 12 years, effective Oct. 31, 2014; Valerie K. Simmons, building custodial and support services, 27 years, effective Aug. 5, 2014; Theodore L. Skartsaris, Burnham Dining Service, 37 years, effective Dec. 31, 2014; and George Wilson, maintenance services, 26 years, effective Oct. 20, 2014.

The faculty members resigning are: George H. Brown, College of Fine Arts and theatre, effective Jan. 2; Laila Cure, industrial and entrepreneurial engineering and engineering management, effective Dec. 21, 2014; Andra Grant-Friedman, sociology, effective Dec. 21, 2014; Nicholas Margelis, Center for English Language and Culture for International Students, effective Dec. 21, 2014; Christopher S. Smith, geography, effective Dec. 21, 2014; and Nathan Venske, the University Recreation, the rate at which people were using the benefit was increasing at the end of the year.

A PDF list of positions for which a job content tool was received is available at http://bit.ly/1xQ1r6h. Positions are listed by position number, job title, department and executive area. Each includes a notation about whether supervisory comments were received. Employees who submitted a job content tool but do not see their position on the list should contact the H.R. compensation team at hrcompensation@wmich.edu.

H.R. also is maintaining a project website at wmich.edu/compensationproject that outlines the Staff Compensation Project’s goals and timelines and includes project updates.

The project marks the first time since 2000 that the University has systematically studied compensation levels for campus positions and benchmarked them against similar positions in the job market.

Now is good time to make use of SRC membership benefit

Those who are not already members of the Student Recreation Center are encouraged to activate their membership now:

Benefits-eligible faculty and non-bargaining staff are eligible to become members and pay nothing more than the taxes on $270. There is no charge for emeriti and retirees.

Memberships run from Jan. 12 through Jan. 11, 2016. The building may be used anytime during its normal Monday through Sunday business hours. To sign up, go to wmich.edu/rec and click the Facility access icon then the membership form for benefits-eligible faculty and staff or emeriti and retirees. Completed forms now may be submitted online.

The SRC is a convenient way to maintain a healthy lifestyle. For more information, to arrange for a presentation in a campus office, or to schedule a tour, contact Cindy VanderWoode at cindy.vanderwoode@wmich.edu or (269) 387-3115.

Obituaries

Editor’s note: Visit wmich.edu/news/obituaries for guestbook and other details.

Marjorie E. (Long) Clum, a former staff member for 17 years in admissions, died Dec. 11 in Livonia. She was 96.

Frank B. Robinson, emeritus in speech pathology and audiology, died Dec. 1 in Kalamazoo. He was 100. Robinson succeeded Charles Van Riper in 1966 as head of the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology and retired in 1982.

Peggy A. Seals, a former staff member in the residence hall system, died Dec. 20. She was 78.

Dawn Southworth, a former staff member and administrator in student financial aid and scholarship services for more than 30 years, died Aug. 9, 2014. She was 70.

Charles E. Woodward, emeritus in industrial and manufacturing engineering, died Dec. 12. He was 81.
NASA scientist to present talk on Rosetta Mission

A member of the science team for the European Space Agency’s successful Rosetta Mission to a comet will speak about the mission from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 16.

Essam Heggy will present “The Rosetta Mission: The Historic Moment in Modern Space Exploration” in the Fetzer Center’s Kirsch Auditorium. A reception will follow.

Heggy, who will be taking a faculty position in WMU’s Department of Geosciences in August, is part of Rosetta’s CONSERT radar experiment team. He works at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory and is a visiting associate in geology at the California Institute of Technology.

Interim campuswide policy on sexual misconduct now in effect

After months of analysis and measuring federal guidelines against current campus practices, WMU has implemented a new interim policy designed to ensure seamless reporting and support for members of the campus community who believe they have been the victims of sexual misconduct.

The WMU Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment and Violence, Intimate Partner Violence, and Stalking Interim Policy and Procedures were formally implemented Jan. 13 and will remain in effect until a final version of the policy is in place for fall 2015. The policy will be finalized following a period of feedback from WMU students and employees. An anonymous external feedback site has been set up to gather such input.

The new sexual misconduct policy streamlines and consolidates the reporting and investigation structure into the Office of Institutional Equity and reaffirms the campus stance of always urging a complainant in a sexual violence case to report that violence to law enforcement officials.

It outlines respondents’ rights and responsibilities, lists carefully defined terms, and tackles the issue of confidentiality and employee responsibility to report wrongdoing.

Visit surveymonkey.com/s/Western-Mich.TitleIX to anonymously comment on the new policy and procedures.

General education events set

WMU will launch a spring series of panel discussions about general education with two expert-led events this month.

The forums are free and open to the public. They will be held from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Bernhard Center.

• “Engaged Learning: Lessons From Our Own Classrooms” is set for Wednesday, Jan. 21, in Room 208. It will be led by Megan Grunnet, chemistry; Denise Keele, political science; Gwen Tarbox, English; and Maarten Vos, biology.

• “Profiles of Future WMU Students” is set for Tuesday, Jan. 27, in Room 204. It will be led by Associate Provosts Dawn Gaymer, Wolfgang Schlör and Christopher Tremblay.

Visit wmich.edu/news/2015/01/20894 for more information.

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Council names WMU

The award means WMU will receive recognition from the council throughout the coming year and have access to a Green Classroom Professional Certificate Program. That program is a tool to help school staff and educators identify what supports or impedes healthy, resource-efficient and environmentally sustainable learning spaces.

Visit centerforgreenschools.org/be-sto2014 for more information.