WMU president to be inaugurated Sept. 15

An annual celebration of the long-standing partnership between Kalamazoo and WMU this year will include the inauguration of WMU’s ninth president.

Edward B. Montgomery, who will become president of WMU Aug. 1, will be formally inaugurated Friday, Sept. 15, during an 11 a.m. ceremony in Miller Auditorium. The formal ceremony will be part of the annual CommUniverCity weekend.

Members of the campus and wider Kalamazoo communities are invited to the event, which will mark the start of the next chapter in the community/university partnership.

In addition to the presidential inauguration, weekend CommUniverCity events will include a Saturday, Sept. 16, evening of tailgating and football under the lights vs. the University of Idaho. This will be the 26th consecutive year for the popular fall celebration designed to focus on community/university partnerships. Tailgate and game times are still to be set.

Friday’s formal inauguration will take place in Miller Auditorium and is expected to attract members of the Kalamazoo and campus communities, members of the Montgomery family, and academic leaders from around the state.

Law school frees man unjustly jailed for 42 years

A Detroit man, Ledura Watkins, was freed June 15 after serving 42 years in prison for a robbery and murder he did not commit, thanks to the efforts of the WMU Cooley Law School Innocence Project.

The trial of Exonerations, Watkins is the longest-serving person in the United States to be determined innocent. The WMU Cooley Innocence Project filed a motion for a new trial Jan. 19. The project is staffed by WMU Cooley Law School students and WMU undergraduates, who work under the supervision of project attorneys. Staff Attorney Eric Schroeder and Legal Intern Wisam Mikho served as lead counsel in this case.

In reaching its decision, the prosecutor’s office agreed that hair comparison evidence

Digital system set to streamline faculty activity reports, CV updates

A new digital reporting system for professional activities will be piloted on campus in August and is expected to be ready for full faculty participation in the fall.

The new Faculty Activity Reporting System—FARS—is designed to provide an online process for faculty members to submit Professional Activity Reports in a single location and, through that tool, automatically generate updated curricula vitae or biographical material for personal and professional use.

With the click of a trackpad, faculty members will be able to create different forms of their bio or vitae,” says Associate Dean Keith Hearit, College of Arts and Sciences, who has been co-coordinating the initiative with Fen Yu, institutional research.

How part of the FARS website will look

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Archaeological activities at Fort St. Joseph enthral young, old

The Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project, sponsored by WMU and the city of Niles, Michigan, is hosting a summer lecture series and open house.

The lecture series is an opportunity for the public to engage in several interactive and educational programs that focus on this year’s theme, “Community Partnerships: Building Meaningful Connections Through Archaeology.” The annual four-part series begins at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 12, in the Niles District Library, 620 E. Main St. in Niles. It continues on Wednesdays through Aug. 2 at the same location.

The topics to be covered are: July 12, “Conversations and Collaborations; Objectives, and Obligations: Building and Sustaining Meaningful University-Community Partnerships in Context”; July 19, “Braiding Knowledge: Community-based Archaeology With Turkish and Native American Communities”; July 26, “Negotiating Multiple Communities Surrounding (Literally and Figuratively) the Stone Street Recovery and Reinterpretation Project in Downtown Flint, Michigan”; and Aug. 2, “Archaeology and Communities, Past and Present.”

The Fort St. Joseph project also will host a free open house from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 5, and Sunday, Aug. 6, at the corner of Fort and Bond streets in Niles.

Attendees can meet WMU archaeologists working at the archaeological site, observe period demonstrations at the Living History Village, view recently uncovered artifacts, explore the active site and learn more about the importance of the St. Joseph River, past and present.

The event also will include activities and crafts for children, and opportunities for attendees to hear period music and participate in period dance.

For more information, visit wmich.edu/fortstjoseph.

BTR Park set to host 12th annual cycling criterium

Registration is open for the annual CyclingLawyer.com Criterium, set for Saturday, July 8, on the Parkview Campus.

The day of competition—which attracts 250-300 cyclists from the Midwest and awards more than $6,000 in cash and other prizes—begins at 8 a.m. and features a 1.1-mile circuit around the college’s Floyd Hall. The circuit has three 90-degree turns and multiple sweeping turns that excite spectators as well as racers.

This is the 12th year WMU and its BTR Park will host a criterium—a series of timed races lasting 45 to 90 minutes across several categories for men, women and juniors.

For 2017, there will be a free kids’ bike race for youth ages 12 and under and at about noon, with no registration required. Smoked Down BBQ is the official food vendor, and will be on site from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. offering food and beverages.

The night of Friday, July 7, on-bike cycling clinics for men, women and children will be staged on the race circuit. Pre-registration is free, or $10 the day of the clinic, space permitting.

For more criterium details, visit wmich.edu/tracetoregister. To register, visit usacycling.org/events and type BTR Park Criterium in the event search box.

Receptions

Katharine Cummings, Barbara Harris and Jerry Pillsbury, teaching, learning and educational studies, will be recognized for their WMU service during a retirement reception from 2 to 4 p.m. Friday, June 23, in Sangren Hall’s second-floor Wegenke Plaza.

Kai Chapman, development and alumni relations, will be recognized for his 47 years of WMU service during a retirement reception from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 27, in the Heritage Hall Cafe.

Ray Kezenius, Facilities Management, will be recognized for his 27 years of WMU service during a retirement reception from 3 to 5 p.m. Thursday, June 29, at the Oaklands. Light refreshments will be served.

Editor’s note: The following retirements are based on when the Board of Trustees approved them. Some retirements have yet to take effect. For specific retirement dates, visit wmich.edu/trustees/agendas-minutes, select a meeting month and click the Personnel Report link.

March 2017—Staff retirements: James Brown, maintenance services; Fawn Cal- len, information technology; John Disbro, landscape services; Darleunt Grant, building custodial and support services; Timothy Kellogg, business services; Lynn Lee, field placements; Conn Macomber, construction; Laurie Miley, building custodial and support services; Joyce Parsons, Facilities Management; and Matthew Tomczak, information technology.

Staff retirements

Daniel Litynski will be recognized for his WMU service as vice president for research during a reception from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Friday, June 30, in the Gilmore Theatre Complex atrium.
WMU's 2017 Fall Convocation is set for Friday, Oct. 6, on the second floor of the Bernhard Center.

An annual tradition, the convocation features each year's State of the University Address, preceded by the presentation of campuswide awards that the University bestows on its faculty and staff.

This year, the award presentation begins at 11 a.m. for recipients of three Distinguished Faculty Scholar Awards, three Distinguished Teaching Awards, two Distinguished Service Awards, one Emerging Scholar Award and four Make a Difference Awards.

Following the award presentations, new WMU President Edward B. Montgomery will give his first State of the University Address. Following the address, a reception will be held for Montgomery, who will be inaugurated Friday, Sept. 15, as WMU's ninth president.

Convocation day starts with a morning program that includes presentations by the 2016 Distinguished Teaching Award winners as well as speakers representing WMU's Teaching With Technology Symposium and Assessment in Action Subcommittee.

To register for a morning program event, visit wapps.wmich.edu/workshops. Direct questions to Susan Daniels at susan.daniels@wmich.edu or (269) 387-2383.

Hockey team thanks supporters

The hockey Broncos will thank their supporters during a Friends and Alumni Weekend Friday and Saturday, July 28-29.

Friday, participants will be treated to an alumni hockey game at Lawson Ice Arena followed by a reception at the Fetzer Center. The reception will provide an opportunity to socialize, have something to eat and drink, and participate in a silent and live auction.

Saturday events are a lunch followed by the Bronco Hockey Ring of Honor induction, a 18-hole best-ball scramble for the Friends and Alumni Cup, and a catered dinner, all at the Moon Golf Club in Portage, Michigan.

Elwell earned Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Fine Arts degrees in industrial design from the universities of Notre Dame and Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, respectively. With his extensive education and experience in the industrial design field, he is expected to provide insight and direction as the Richmond Institute of Product Design and Innovation takes shape.

“My goal is to create a contemporary program that is responsive to today’s design landscape, one that encourages students to deeply consider the interactions between people and products,” Elwell says.

Director named to lead product design institute

A practiced product designer and industrial design educator will soon take the reins of the Richmond Institute of Product Design and Innovation, an interdisciplinary unit currently being developed.

Michael Elwell, assistant professor of industrial design at the University of Notre Dame, will serve as director of the Richmond Institute as well as join the Gwen Frostic School of Art as an associate professor of art.

He will officially begin that leadership role in August, just prior to the fall semester, the arrival of the program’s first cohort of students and the beginning of construction on Kohrman Hall, which is being renovated as the institute’s future home.

Elwell worked as an industrial design professional for companies including Coachmen Recreational Vehicles, Radio Flyer and Process3, a design firm near Cleveland, Ohio.

He has worked on products in industries ranging from automotive to housewares, and he holds a patent for his award-winning prescription pill container opener and label magnifier, the “Magnifying Medli-Grip,” which is now licensed to Jokari Inc.

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WMU president to be inaugurated Sept. 15

the state and nation. It will be followed by
additional celebratory events that are still in
the planning stages. Details about the Miller
ceremony and other inaugural activities Sept.
15 will be announced later this summer, but
those interested in attending should plan to
save the date.

Montgomery's appointment as WMU presi
dent was announced April 12. He comes to
the University from Georgetown University,
where he serves as dean and professor of
economics at the McCourt School of Public
Policy. He succeeds John M. Dunn, who is
retiring after a decade of service as president.

Collegiate presidential inaugurations in the
United States originated with the
nation's nine colonial colleges in the 17th
century and established the custom of for
mally acknowledging a change in leadership
tially at a school's highest level.

Today, an inaugural ceremony is regarded
as a public opportunity to celebrate a uni
versity's past and traditions as it transitions
into the future.

Covering a lot of ground

Digital system set to streamline faculty
activity reports, CV updates

Banner records will prepopulate some of the
data into the system that faculty previously
had to enter, and an August pilot testing by
interested faculty on campus will help
prepare for a full launch at the beginning of
the fall semester. Academic deans have just
completed the process of approving their
respective updated PAR formats.

A major benefit of the system is that data
can be automatically imported from exist
ing information covering courses
taught, enrollment and credit hour data.
Faculty also will have the option of importing
their scholarly activity information directly
from professional or personal databases such
as Google Scholar, ERSCo, MEDLINE/
PubMed, Zotero, Endnote, Web of Science
and others, using BibTex or RIS formats.

As a result, Hearit says people will not
have to complete multiple requests for the
same data and WMU and its various units
will be able to collect more meaningful
data to use in important campus objectives.
Training will be available for faculty when
the system is rolled out this fall.

On Campus with Michael Taylor

Even when temperatures are soaring, Michael Taylor knows some of the best places around
campus to keep cool. Recently, the master gardener and group leader for landscape services/
South Region was communicating with his staff via radio from one of the new wooden benches
they built and installed under a sprawling oak tree by Heritage Hall's Grand Lawn.
The venerable oak, dubbed Waldo, is just one of the countless trees, lawns and plants that
Taylor and his team tend in their region, which stretches south and north along Oakland Drive
from Howard Street to Stadium Drive and includes Lowell and Davis street property, plus the
WMU president's house, Gilmore House, Stadium Drive Apartments and entire Parkview Campus.

"It's a lot of work, but we work as a team," Taylor says about his crew of five fulltime garden
ers and groundskeepers, three-to-five student employees, and, in summer, two loaned Dining
Services staffs. "My main job is to make sure they use their time wisely. I set priorities, hand
out work assignments, do the training for my group, troubleshoot and try to teach. If I can be of
help and they can be successful, that's a good day for me."

He says he fell into landscape work when the love of his life, Patti, moved to Texas after
graduating from WMU. Taylor followed her there, found a grounds job at a church, and by the
time they moved back to Michigan a year later, he was hooked. Taylor started studying and
sharing himself landscaping and horticulture. He landed a job with a management company,
then was hired by the Upjohn Co.'s Brook lodge near Augusta, Michigan, later becoming
grounds manager. He held that post through the facility's gifting to Michigan State University
but when the Great Recession closed the lodge in 2009, Taylor jumped on an opening at WMU.

"It really enjoy being here. It's a unique culture, and I've been able to continue to learn because
my position requires me to be certified in a relevant field," he says, adding that he has spent
30 hours of continuing education every three years to maintain his arborist certification.
"I didn't anticipate it, but what I like most is working with the student employees. They just energize
them in, and anything is possible. I've stayed connected to several of them. I really like that."

Taylor and Patti live in Portage, Michigan, and have two grown sons, Joel, a WMU gradu
ate, and Brett. He is a past union steward and now an alternate steward at WMU as well as
active with the Michigan Career Technical Institute in Plainwell as an advisory board member.
He enjoys spending time with Patti, especially while fishing, bicycle riding and snowshoeing.

"After 31 years of marriage," he says, "she still likes to hang out with me."

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Law school frees man

used against Watkins does not meet today's
scientific and legal standards. In 2013, the
FBI disavowed testimony by FBI-trained
analysts, finding they often overstated
their conclusions. The Detroit lab analysts,
trained by the FBI, tied Watkins to the crime
scene based on a single hair. Earlier, a witness
testifying against Watkins recanted his story.

"Hair comparison is not based on sci
ence; it is simply a lab analyst's subjective
opinion and has no place in our criminal
justice system," says Marla Mitchell-Cichon,
director of the WMU Cooley Innocence
Project. "This is why a statewide review of
hair comparison cases is critical."

Mitchell-Cichon commended Professor
Kym Worthy and the Wayne County Pro
secutor's Office for working with her office
to resolve the case. The prosecutor's office
agreed that the new scientific standards are
"newly discovered" evidence.

Mitchell-Cichon also noted that over the
years, Watkins never stopped fighting for his
freedom. He never gave up on the belief that
the truth would come out. His loved ones
also got their wish; he will attend a family
reunion in August.

After screening 5,500 cases, the WMU Cooley effort has led to four exonerations. It
is part of the Innocence Network, which has
been credited with the release of more than
350 wrongfully accused prisoners through
the use of DNA testing.