South Neighborhood to be redeveloped

WMU’s campus redevelopment work in the coming years will shift to what’s known as the South Neighborhood and will see construction of a student center, new student housing and an eye-catching new presence showcasing the part of campus that runs along Stadium Drive.

“This is all about transforming the student experience on campus—making sure the student center and residential neighborhoods are set up to offer our students a truly transformational environment,” says Diane Anderson, vice president for student affairs.

Anderson points to changing demographics on campus that include strong international enrollment and a growing number of students from other states. She says those changes to the student body coupled with the changing housing preferences of all students make this the time to consider and carefully plan for future housing needs.

“It’s more important than ever that we provide a rich student experience on campus— one that is cutting edge, enriching and engaging,” she notes.

The recent shift in focus will mean the first new student housing in the area will be ready for the new year.

Planning underway for annual MLK celebration

WMU continues its tradition of honoring slain civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr. with events planned in January on campus and across the Kalamazoo community.

They include a convocation, a march, a day of service, educational programs and special presentations. “What is your position in times of challenge and controversy?” is the theme of this year’s celebration.

The first major on-campus event, a poetry reading and competition awards reception featuring Kalamazoo Public Schools students, will be from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11, in the Trimpe Building’s Multi-cultural Center. Next up is a Public School Students’ Visitation at 9 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 13, in the Bernhard Center’s East Ballroom.

The event is open to families from area school districts.

Major communitywide events begin at 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 14, with the Northside Ministerial Alliance’s 32nd annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration in Kalamazoo’s Mt. Zion Baptist Church. This year’s keynote speaker will be Pastor Jonathan Tremaine Thomas of Destiny Church in St. Louis, Missouri.

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A world of good wishes

One of the real joys this holiday season is the opportunity to say thank you and wish you the very best for the new year.

Ed and Kari Montgomery
Center, conference to feature talk
“Liberalism and Racial Justice” will be the topic when the Center for the Study of
Ethics in Society hosts its final presen-
tation of the fall 2017 semester at 4:45
p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12, in the Bernhard
Center.
Charles Mills, Distinguished Professor of
Philosophy at the City University of
New York, will explore the topic dur-
ing a presentation that also is part of
WMU’s 11th annual Graduate Student
Philosophy Conference. The confer-
ce is a gathering that begins today and
ends Saturday, Dec. 9.
In his talk, Mills is expected to examine
liberalism’s record on racial justice that
has been historically problematic and
sometimes complicit with rather than
critical of injustice. The philosopher
will argue that liberalism can be employed to
achieve racial justice. The task, however,
will involve rethinking liberalism’s history
and the way assumptions are normally
framed.
His talk is one of three keynote speeches
being given during the Graduate Student
Philosophy Conference, which is free and
open to the public and takes place in 157
Bernhard Center. For conference details,
visit wmich.edu/philosophy/event.
Deadline nearing to exchange annual, sick leave hours
Eligible members of the Staff Compensa-
tion System and Police Officers’ Association
have until Sunday, Dec. 31, to file their
Sick/Annual Leave Exchange Autoriza-
tion form. Doing so allows them to exchange 40 hours
of accrued sick or annual leave or a combi-
nation of these leaves for a contribution to their 401(k) plan at their hourly pay rate.

Deadline to register for winter seminar
The 11th annual Graduate Student
Philosophy Conference is scheduled
for Jan. 20 to 21 in the Bernhard
Center.
The conference theme is “Racial
Justice.” For more information and
registration details, visit wmich.edu/philosophy/event.

Deadline to apply for Kids’ University
Children and adults interested in
attending Kids’ University, a day camp
for children ages 6 to 12, must submit
their completed application form and
the nonrefundable $50 application fee
by Jan. 4 at 4 p.m.
For more information on Kids’ University,
visit wmich.edu/kidsuniversity.

Deadline to apply for University Attorney’s
Office
The office of the University Attorney is
accepting applications from attorneys
with experience in employment law.
Applicants must be licensed to practice
law in Michigan and must have
at least three years of experience.
For more information and to apply,
visit wmich.edu/hr/forms/retirement.

Deadline to apply for early admission
The deadline to apply for spring 2018
early admission is Dec. 1.
Applicants must be Michigan residents
and must submit their completed
application form by Dec. 1. Additional
information is available at
wmich.edu/earlyadmissions.

Deadline to apply for STEM grant
Applications are due by Nov. 30 for
the STEM Excellence Grant.
Visit wmich.edu/hr/forms/retirement
and click the Sick/Annual Leave Exchange
Authorization form to learn more about
and click the Sick/Annual Leave Exchange
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A new online service has been launched to help WMU faculty and staff stay abreast of potential funding opportunities for their research and creative scholarship projects. The Office of the Vice President for Research has added a “Find Funding” page to its website, connecting users across campus to a comprehensive list of external funding opportunities that is constantly updated. Separate lists are provided for students and for faculty and staff members.

By following various links on the section’s subpages, users may identify date-driven as well as ongoing opportunities, sorted by general subject area. A link to internal funding sources also is within easy reach.

Sherrine Obare, interim vice president for research, says the new FindFunding section is a recent addition to the office’s redesigned website, which was unveiled this summer. It sorts opportunities by four areas: arts/humanities; education/economic and community development; health; and STEM—science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

“We understand that it can be difficult and very time consuming for faculty and staff to locate relevant funding opportunities that they can apply for to support their work,” Obare says. “Our new section consists of funding opportunities obtained from a comprehensive search using various databases,” says Obare, who adds that Karen DeVries in her office has championed this important initiative.

“Our goal is to make the information readily available to all researchers at WMU. Without such a resource, researchers are likely to miss important opportunities that they are eligible for. Furthermore, studies have shown that the more information on funding opportunities there is, the more likely there will be an increase in grant submissions.”

The research office updates its FindFunding list weekly and colors recently added opportunities in red type so users can quickly spot the latest offerings. Also, researchers can sign up to receive convenient notifications of new funding opportunities. They simply click a “Sign up for funding alerts” button to receive monthly email updates of newly added funding sources.

To find current funding opportunities or sign up to receive funding alerts by email, visit wmich.edu/research/funding/faculty.

Soccer players honored

WMU had more student-athletes than any other school named to the Mid-American Conference’s Men’s Soccer Academic All-MAC team, an honor reserved for those who have excelled in academics and athletics.

Broncos made up nine of the 40 students who were recognized from the league’s six men’s soccer institutions. To earn Academic All-MAC honors, a student-athlete must have at least a 3.20 cumulative GPA and have participated in at least 50 percent of the contests for their sport. Freshmen and first-year transfer students are not eligible.

Sophomore business student Anthony Bowie of Grand Rapids was the only All-MAC eligible student-athlete with a 4.0 GPA. All nine Broncos will now be eligible to be voted as Distinguished Scholar-Athletes by the league. Distinguished Scholar-Athletes will be announced later this year.

WMU had the men’s soccer program’s most successful season in 2017, winning its first-ever MAC regular season championship and making an NCAA tournament Sweet 16 appearance. Eight players, including five on the first team, were named All-MAC.

Event set to help campus learn about SRC offerings

The Student Recreation Center will hold its New Year, New You event for WMU students and employees Wednesday, Jan. 10. The daylong event showcases a sampling of the SRC’s numerous classes and activities that can help members of the campus community get a healthy start.

During the event, the SRC will be open from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. Students and employees can—at no cost—show up with their Bronco Card and workout clothes and check out what the facility has to offer.

An employee open house has been slated for 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the SRC’s second-floor main lobby. It will feature tours of the facility and information about its memberships, fitness programs and intramural sports; wellness assessments from Holtny & Associates; and a chance to win prizes. In addition, the campus community may participate in various fitness classes throughout the day and attend a neon glow party from 6 to 10 p.m.

The neon glow party begins with a club sport and vendor open house, photo booth, glow sticks and face painting. It ends with final giveaway drawings starting at 9:30 p.m. During the event, the SRC will be open from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the SRC’s second-floor main lobby. It will feature tours of the facility and information about its memberships, fitness programs and intramural sports; wellness assessments from Holtny & Associates; and a chance to win prizes. In addition, the campus community may participate in various fitness classes throughout the day and attend a neon glow party from 6 to 10 p.m.

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On Campus with Bethany Gauthier

Whether it’s meeting performers who come to campus, traveling to New York City to preview Broadway shows or dressing up as a princess to promote a premiering WMU show, Bethany Gauthier describes her role as senior marketing specialist for Miller Auditorium as “a dream job.”

“In what other job would I get to do those things?” she asks. “It’s amazing to see the performances and the stage transformations up close.

“I love Miller and how much joy it brings to people,” she continues. “Every day is different, and I get to meet many different people.”

Gauthier has spent her entire career in marketing, first as a WMU student, then in e-commerce at Borgess Health. She returned to the University and joined the staff in 2008. In her current role, she coordinates email and digital marketing and all website content for Miller, writes grants, and maintains social media accounts.

The job calls on her to appear on local talk shows and represent Miller at publicity events, such as when she debuted as a princess or she answers questions at Bronco Bash. Plus, Gauthier started Miller’s Facebook page, which now boasts nearly 20,000 followers.

“Technology has changed her job over the years, allowing her to broaden her list of contacts and reach the public more quickly if a schedule or performance changes. But she says her main focus is writing. So, she draws on the two degrees she earned at WMU, a bachelor’s degree in creative writing in 2000 and a master’s degree in drama, specifically playwriting, in 2003. In fact, she taught introductory-level writing classes as a graduate student, and has had her plays published and produced locally and nationally.”

Gauthier grew up a Bronco. Her family includes an impressive number of WMU degree-holders. Both her parents are graduates; she and her two siblings all earned bachelor’s degrees from the University; and her mother, brother and herself also earned master’s degrees here.

In addition, Gauthier’s husband, Nick, a senior academic advisor for WMU’s Frostic School of Art, holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University. They have one daughter, 10-year-old Madeleine, and one son, 6-year-old Oliver.

It is no surprise the couple frequently bring their children to campus, whether for a show at Miller, for art and music classes, or simply to walk the grounds with their dog, Cletus.

Continued from Page 1

South Neighborhood to be redeveloped

for occupancy in 2020, while a new student center is targeted to come online in 2021. Intense long-range planning for the entire South Neighborhood is expected to begin soon and be completed by next October. That neighborhood master plan will guide development through 2023.

The South Neighborhood is highly visible from the adjacent Stadium Drive. That fact offers the University the opportunity to turn the area into a state-of-the-art campus gateway that offers a “wow” factor along what WMU President Edward Montgomery recently noted is “the longest contiguous face of the campus.”

City administrators have signaled interest in future development along Stadium Drive as well, and the Michigan Department of Transportation is looking at development work near the Stadium Drive-Howard Street intersection.

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Planning underway for annual MLK celebration

Federal MLK Day—Monday, Jan. 15—will begin at 8 a.m. with Kalamazoo’s Communitywide Day of Service. Participants should meet at City Hall after checking out the available volunteer opportunities listed at volunteerkalamazoo.org.

The day will continue with a convocation at 10:50 a.m. at Kalamazoo College and a Commemorative Walk starting at 3:30 p.m. at Kanley Chapel that will end at MLK Park in downtown Kalamazoo. Immediately after the walk, at about 6 p.m., Kalamazoo will hold its Community Celebration in the State Theatre.

For more information and a complete list of MLK-related events, visit wmich.edu/mlk.