Accreditation efforts appreciated
A Universitywide thank-you celebration is scheduled for 3:30 to 5 p.m. today in the Bernhard Center’s North Ballroom to honor the campus community’s two-year-long efforts associated with the Higher Learning Commission’s 10-year accreditation review of WMU. There will be brief remarks to those assembled at 4 p.m.

President John M. Dunn asks supervisors to ensure that employees will be able to attend the celebration at some point. The review process culminated earlier this week with a visit from the commission’s site-review team. The visit lasted three days and included open meetings, one-on-one interviews, facility tours and an in-depth examination of the University.

Funds available for tech development
Technology Development Funds of up to $20,000 are available to help faculty prepare their inventions for commercialization. Applications are due Nov. 17. Proposed projects must be based on technology or intellectual property disclosed to the research office. The funds are intended to bridge the gap that often exists between research-stage technologies and technologies that are ready to be licensed by existing companies. For details, visit www.wmich.edu/research/ip-technology/tech-dev-fund.html or contact Michael Shuerer at (269) 387-8218.

Program to address humanities study
Friday, Oct. 22, is the deadline to register for a program on the university in the 21st century and the place of the humanities in professional and vocational education. WMU President John M. Dunn and Vice Chancellor Janet Beer from Oxford Brookes University will lead the discussion. The event is set for noon to 2 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 28, in the President’s Dining Room of the Bernhard Center. Lunch will be provided by the WMU Center for the Humanities. Visit wmich.edu/humanities/event-rsvp.html to make a reservation.

Internationalization awards offered
Faculty are invited to apply by Nov. 15 for funding to support projects that improve international education at WMU. The awards are available through the International Education Faculty Development Fund, a joint program of the Office of the Provost and Haenicke Institute. The maximum award is $1,200 and cannot exceed 50 percent of the total project budget. Application deadlines for each academic year are Nov. 15 and April 1 for travel and projects that occur within the following 12 months. Award announcements are made about two weeks after each deadline. For guidelines and an application, visit www.wmich.edu/international or contact Michelle Metro-Roland at michael.metro-roland@wmich.edu or (269) 387-5890.

Meeting set to explain valuable new fellowship
WMU is offering a new option for people to become part of a national effort to re-form the way math and science are taught in the United States—the W.K. Kellogg Foundation’s Woodrow Wilson Michigan Teaching Fellowship Program.

The University is one of six Michigan universities now accepting applications for entry into the program, which is open to career changers who already hold undergraduate degrees in the arts and sciences as well as recent alumni and students who will graduate this year.

Foundation officials will be on campus for an information session about the program at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 16, in 1040 Fetzer Center. Fellows will receive a $30,000 stipend and a chance to spend a transformative year earning a master’s degree and teaching in a high-need middle or high school classroom. Applications for the two final rounds of consideration for 2011 are due Dec. 1 and Jan. 12, respectively.

The fellowship program is aimed at those with bachelor’s degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics—known as STEM programs. The Michigan fellowships were unveiled early this year by President Barack Obama during a Washington, D.C., news conference.

The program, which already exists in Indiana, begins next year in both Michigan and Ohio. In Michigan, it will be funded by a $16.7 million grant from the Kellogg Foundation.

In Michigan, the fellowship will prepare 240 teachers for two years beginning in summer 2011. Through the program, some 90,000 students will receive high-quality instruction in the critical STEM subject areas from teaching fellows in their first three years in the classroom.

Fellows will attend an enriched, school-based master’s-level teacher education program. Throughout the program, their coursework will be blended with teaching experiences completed alongside a master teacher in a high-need middle or high school classroom.

WMU seeking proposals for East Campus development
Efforts to revitalize the historic East Campus have moved to a new phase, with WMU seeking proposals from private firms to find new uses for the area that is the University’s birthplace.

WMU is accepting letters of interest from firms that want additional details about the area’s potential and a tour before submitting redevelopment proposals. The action follows a two-year effort by a campus and community task force charged with finding a way to revitalize the 35-acre tract and five buildings that were built in the early 20th century. To be included in the selection process, questions must be posed in writing and letters of interest submitted by 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 7.

A pre-proposal conference will be held Thursday, Jan. 20, allowing qualified potential developers who have submitted letters of interest to tour and examine the site and take an in-depth look at the infrastructure that exists. A second round of written questions will be accepted through Friday, Feb. 4, and proposals for development will be due at WMU by 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 25. All proposals will be held in confidence until contract awards have been made.

“The eventual use of these buildings does not have to be University related, but it cannot run counter to the mission of WMU,” says Bob Miller, associate vice president for community outreach, who co-chaired the task force with David Dakin, director of campus planning. “The architectural integrity of any building selected for redevelopment must be preserved, but it cannot be something that would stand in the way of any economically viable ideas.”

Development calls for the University to retain ownership of the land itself, but ownership of the buildings can be transferred to allow developers to take advantage of the full range of tax incentives and development tools that are available for private developers but not available to WMU because it is a public institution that is not assessed taxes.

Contact Don Penskar, director of logistical services, at donald.penskar@wmich.edu for more information or to ask for a copy of the request for proposal, submit a letter of interest or pose questions in writing.
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Battery and hybrid electric vehicle drive testing in West Michigan took a significant leap forward Oct. 7, when Eaton Corp. and WMU formally opened a laboratory that is part of the University’s celebrated Center for Advanced Vehicle Design and Simulation, or CAViDS.

The new CAViDS Hybrid Electric Applied Research—CLEAR—Lab in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences was announced last December. This unique lab is designed to be one of Michigan’s premier battery and hybrid electric vehicle drive testing facilities.

The cost for the lab’s development and first year of operation comes in at just over $1 million, with most of that support coming from Eaton. The lab will provide a location where the hybrid electric drive business group at Eaton and WMU’s engineering college can collaborate to promote innovative ideas and research solutions for challenges associated with commercial and military hybrid drives. The focus of the lab will be on systems integration.

WMU well represented in art chosen for governor’s residence

The work of four artists with current or former WMU ties has been selected for display in the Michigan Governor’s Mansion for one year that will end in August 2011.

Oil paintings by Ellen L. Armstrong, academic advisor for the Frostic School of Art, and acrylic and mixed media work by part-time art instructor Brenda Snipe are on display, as well as photographs by student George Crow. In addition, former WMU part-time art instructor Brenda Snipe has her work exhibited.

Their creations are among the work of 37 Michigan artists whose art was chosen. Selected artists passed an initial screening process, with the final choices of artwork made by Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm and First Gentleman Daniel G. Mulhern. During the one-year exhibition, the artwork on display will be available for sale.

Trauma center gets $1 million to reduce impact of violence

WMU’s Southwest Michigan Children’s Trauma Assessment Center has been awarded a $1 million, four-year grant through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention’s Safe Start Promising Approaches Initiative.

The grant, awarded in partnership with New Genesis, the Kalamazoo Hispanic Council and several other community agencies, will fund Project Partnering to Effectively Reduce the Impact of Violence to Children in Kalamazoo. Partners in the project will first identify children exposed to violence in Kalamazoo County. They will then use a tiered-intervention approach to reduce the impact of that violence on the children’s neurodevelopmental, relational and emotional progress.

James Henry, social work, directs the Children’s Trauma Assessment Center, which is a program of the College of Health and Human Services and the college’s affiliated United Clinics. The center assesses the impact that traumatic events and suspected fetal alcohol exposure have on children.

Obituaries

Virginia D. Lytle, a former utility food worker for Burnham Dining Services, died Oct. 6 in Kalamazoo. She was 62. Lytle retired in 2006 after 14 years with the University. Memorial contributions may be made to the Susan B. Komen Center for Breast Cancer Research in Kalamazoo or Hospice Care of Southwest Michigan.

Betty Jane McNees, a former WMU Dining Services employee, died Oct. 4 in Elkhart, Ind. She was 83. McNees retired in 1990 after 28 years with the University. Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer’s Association.

Betsy E. McGuire, a retired secretary who worked in the Office of Instructional Development for 12 years, died Oct. 12 in Kalamazoo. She was 84.

Visitations will be from 4 to 8 p.m. today at the Life Story Funeral Home, Battle-Central-Kalamazoo. A burial Mass will be held at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 22, in St. Augustine Cathedral in Kalamazoo. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Augustine Elementary School, Hackett Catholic Central High School or a charity of choice.

Jean Overton, a retired audio visual clerk for Media Services, died Sept. 12 in Lincolnwood, Ill. She was 88.

Overton worked almost 20 years at the University, retiring in 1984. She was married to the late Harvey Overton, a humanities faculty member.

The award and the 3-D virtual lab will allow the University to play a significant role in the HP Catalyst “New Learner” consortium, which the company calls “an elite cohort that will be exploring what the future of STEM+ learning and teaching can be.”
On Campus with Bill Emmert

Bill Emmert has described himself as a “tinkerer” for as long as he can remember. A WMU mechanic for almost 10 years, he recalls standing in his parents’ driveway when he was as young as six years old watching his father fix equipment and handling tools.

“My mom and dad would keep stuff around for me to tinker with. I love to fix cars, motorcycles. I usually buy a project and fix it up for myself. Buying something more current helps me stay fresh with the new technology that I’m not used to,” he says, admitting he has two pickup trucks and a Volkswagen Beetle in his garage right now that he’s fixing. Emmert and fellow mechanic Michael Walenga maintain more than 300 pieces of equipment for the University, including all vehicles and about two dozen servicing generators on campus. About the only equipment they aren’t responsible for at WMU is small lawn equipment, which is handled by landscape services.

Their jobs are overseen by garage supervisor Jeffrey Alexander and coordinated by office associate Carolyn Lynn.

“I like working with the people on campus and for the people on campus. It’s a team effort,” Emmert says. “When something breaks, we’re called to fix it.”

His busiest time is the fall when the University purchases new vehicles and older models have to be fixed for re-sale. During this time of the year, all of the University’s generators are checked and updated and its snowplows are inspected and readied for the winter.

“Plus, we have to take care of the day-to-day maintenance,” Emmert adds. He was a mechanic prior to coming to WMU and also worked for construction and landscaping businesses.

“When time allows, he enjoys fishing and camping and taking day trips with his wife, Nancy, who is a bus driver for Mattawan Consolidated Schools. The couple lives in Mattawan and has two grown children and a 19-month-old grandson.

“Family is a big part of our lives, and we try to make time to be together,” Emmert says.

WMUK emphasizes members during fall campaign

The University’s public radio station is trying something new during this year’s fall campaign. Instead of setting a dollar amount for fall donations, WMUK has set a goal of having 2,000 people become new or renewing members. The station made the change to further reduce on-air pledge time, with the expectation that donations from 2,000 members would provide enough support to keep WMUK going until its next spring campaign.

The on-air portion of this year’s “quiet” campaign began Oct. 16 and will end Friday, Oct. 22. As of 8:30 a.m. yesterday, 823 people were needed for the station to achieve its membership goal. The 1,175 new and renewing members had given or pledged $116,484 of the $180,000 in gifts WMUK hopes to raise this fall.

Pre-drive mail-in contributions and online gifts kicked off the campaign. During the on-air portion of the drive, station hosts have focused on reporting the number of members who have called in rather than on the amount of money raised.

Go to www.wmuk.org to update your membership status and make a gift or to review the Fund Drive Ticker, which shows how well the station is doing so far in the 2010 fall campaign.

Meeting set to explain valuable new fellowship

“This is an amazing career opportunity for alumni and community members who are interested in changing careers and also for students graduating this year in STEM fields,” says Marcia Fetter, teaching, learning, and educational studies, who co-directs the fellowship program at WMU with Tabitha Mingus, mathematics.

“Fellows are trained in an intense mentoring experience with master teachers. When they complete the program, they will become part of an elite national network of Woodrow Wilson Fellows who are thought leaders and advocates for reform.”

At WMU, the program focuses on preparing teachers for work in urban settings and will lead to initial certification in mathematics, chemistry and physics. Certification will be earned in the first year of the fellowship program, and the program will ultimately lead to a master’s degree. The University has partnered with two large school districts— Benton Harbor Area Schools and Kalamazoo Public Schools—to ensure fellows have a wealth of classroom experience.

The first round of fellowship awards will be announced in April. Fellows will begin their studies in May 2011. A three-year commitment to teaching in one of Michigan’s high-need districts is part of the program.

The first cohort of fellows will seek teaching positions for fall 2012 employment around the state. Through the fellowship program and during their first three years of teaching, they will receive intensive support and mentoring to encourage them to continue their professional development and work with Michigan youth.

Visit www.wmich.edu/education/fellowships for more information. Visit www.wttfeagel.org to apply or obtain complete details.

Elaborate art open house set

The Frostic School of Art will hold its third annual open house from 5 to 9 p.m. Friday, Oct. 22, to reintroduce its programs, facilities, students and faculty to the community and area high school students.

There will be demonstrations, presentations, activities and student exhibitions throughout the Richmond Center for Visual Arts and South Kohrman. The school’s new director, Patricia Villalobos Echeverria, will be in attendance greeting visitors and participating in some of the activities.

Otherspecific “can’t-miss” events include a bronze pour by sculpture faculty, the firing of a wood kiln by ceramics faculty and learning-style explorations by art education faculty.

Attendees also will be able to tour the Richmond Center’s art galleries and enjoy music by the Kalamazoo Laptop Orchestra as well as complimentary refreshments.

In addition, attendees will be able to buy and make art as part of a variety of special activities slated to raise funds for the Frostic School of Art. Visit www.wmich.edu/art/home.php for complete details.

Woodworking tools for sale

WMU Surplus Sales has several pieces of woodworking equipment, tools and many miscellaneous items available for sale on a special sealed-bid basis.

Items will be on view in the old Upholstery Shop on Oakland Drive, across the street from the Seelye Center, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 23; 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 26; and 9 a.m. to noon Friday, Oct. 29.

For details, visit www.obf.wmich.edu/logistical-services/stores/surplus.html or call Surplus Sales at (269) 387-8829.

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