Researchers get $3.5 million education grant

Two WMU researchers have been awarded a five-year, $3.5 million grant to work with principals and aspiring principals to improve education in 12 partner high-need school districts in Michigan.

With the help of the U.S. Department of Education grant, Jinping Shen and Van Cooley, both educational leadership, research and technology, will conduct the Learning-Centered Leadership Development Program.

The project pairs 50 practicing and 50 aspiring principals from the same schools in the 12 participating districts. Assessment of the schools and districts involved shows an urgent need for improving leadership of both practicing and aspiring principals. Improving leadership will, ultimately, raise student achievement.

Shen says student achievement has been a major focus of educational policy and practice for the last decade, especially for high-need schools and districts. The new project builds on prior work he and Cooley have undertaken that is being funded by the education department’s first School Leadership Program grant and two subsequent projects funded by the Wallace Foundation.

The goal of the new project is to develop a learning-focused leadership development program demonstrating strong results that continued on page 4

WMU, MCC to offer two joint academic programs

An agreement signed Nov. 11 by the presidents of Muskegon Community College and WMU will mean the two schools will join forces to provide bachelor's degrees in engineering and recreation to Muskegon-area students.

WMU President John M. Dann and MCC President Dale Nesbary formalized the agreement with a signing ceremony at MCC's Stevenson Center just before a celebration marking the Stevenson Center's 15th anniversary.

A second signing ceremony that day included Dunn, Nesbary and two other university presidents, David Eisler of Ferris State University and Thomas Haas of Grand Valley State University, who also have advocated for joint university/community college program opportunities.

The joint programs between WMU and MCC provide students with the best of both worlds by offering them joint admission, efficient and flexible class scheduling and the freedom to move seamlessly from MCC to WMU on their way to earning an associate degree at MCC and then a bachelor's degree at WMU.

Students who opt to participate in a joint program meet admissions criteria for each school and are assigned MCC and WMU advisors who help them develop a Personal Program Plan that identifies the courses needed and their sequence. Students are enrolled at both MCC and WMU and enjoy benefits from both institutions, such as library and computer system use and access to athletic, professional and cultural programming.

Students in the program may begin taking a WMU course during their first year at MCC and may opt to return to MCC for additional courses even after completion of their associate degree requirements. On their way to completion of a bachelor's degree, students take courses at MCC and at WMU-Muskegon and WMU’s main campus in Kalamazoo.

WMU well represented in Kalamazoo Holiday Parade

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WMU well represented in Kalamazoo Holiday Parade

Four WMU-themed floats including one representing the University’s main entry were part of the annual Kalamazoo Holiday Parade Nov. 13. The other entries were organized by the College of Aviation, College of Education and Human Development, and College of Engineering and Applied Sciences. An estimated 200 students, alumni, and faculty and staff members participated. (Photo by Mike Lanka)
Art exhibits set to close Nov. 24

Two free exhibitions in the Richmond Center for Visual Arts will be closing Wednesday, Nov. 24. They are “Yellow Terror: The Collections and Paintings of Roger Shimomura” in the Monroe-Brown Gallery and “Tricia Hennessy: Whisper Scream” in the Netzorg-Kerr Gallery.

Shimomura is a visiting artist who paints and collects stereotype representations of Asian-Americans appropriated from hundreds of objects circulated within popular culture. Hennessy is a WMU art professor. Her exhibition brings together graphic design, conceptual art and the multi-media devices of popular culture.

China’s elderly, migration examined

John Giles, senior labor economist in the World Bank’s Development Research Group, will speak from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 1, on “Rural to Urban Migration and the Well-Being of China’s Rural Elderly” in 2028 Brown. Giles’ talk is part of the Werner Sichel Lecture Series. The theme of this year’s series is “Dragon vs. Eagle: The Chinese Economy and U.S.-China Economic Relations.”

Broadway songstress to perform

University Theatre will close out its fall season with “Late Night Broadway,” an intimate cabaret-style show featuring Broadway star Donna Lynne Champlin and graduating musical theatre students.

Special holiday lunches offered at campus venues

Members of the campus community as well as friends of WMU have three opportunities to dine in style for the holidays.

First up will be a Holiday Spectacular Luncheon in the Bernhard Cafe from 11:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. today. The public cafeteria, which is located on the Bernhard Center’s main level, will be offering holiday meals from $4.99 to $8.99.

Visit www.wmich.edu/dining/2010/holidayoutlet.pdf for a PDF file detailing the full menu and prices.

The Fetzer Center has two holiday dining events scheduled, starting with the popular

Lunch with Santa Sunday, Dec. 5. Santa will be on hand to visit with children during this festive buffet meal. Seating opens at 11 a.m. and ends at 1:30 p.m. The cost is $13.50 or $8 for children age 4 to 11. Children under age 3 eat free.

In addition, the Fetzer Center will be showcasing its food and amenities for large and small gatherings of WMU colleagues and friends between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Wednesday and Friday, Dec. 15 and 17. This lunch costs $14 per person and will include holiday-themed decorations and background music.

Seating is limited for the Dec. 5, 15 and 17 lunches, so get your required reservations in early. Visit www.fetzercenter.com or call (269) 387-3232 to make a reservation or obtain more information.

Service provided—Dog walking by WMU retiree for residents in Kalamazoo and west Kalamazoo areas. Schedule regular 40-minute walks two to three times per week to keep your dog(s) happy this winter. For estimate, contact donna.mearing@wmich.edu or (269) 353-1334.

Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources Web site at www.wmich.edu/hr/careers-at-wmu.html. Please note that applications must be submitted online by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included with each posting.

President named to climate group

John M. Dunn, WMU president, has been elected to the steering committee for the American College & University Presidents’ Climate Commitment. Dunn was elected during the organization’s 2010 Climate Leadership Summit held in Dallas, Oct. 13. After becoming WMU’s eighth president in 2007, Dunn has made sustainability a pillar of his presidency.

The Presidents’ Climate Commitment, launched in 2007, is a network of 675 colleges and universities whose presidents have set climate neutrality as its target, rather than just setting a percent reduction in emissions. It is the first effort by any major sector of society to commit to such a target, and now serves as a role model for national and international initiatives.

Institutions in the network represent all 50 states as well as about one third of the U.S. higher education student population. Visit www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org for details about the initiative.

Stafler to lead national association

Julie Lenczycy, Facilities Management projects and construction, has been elected to a two-year term as president of the Association of University Interior Designers. Lenczycy was elected during the association’s 2010 National Conference held in October.

The association is a non-profit professional group for individuals who work within institutions of higher education. Lenczycy, the association’s first vice president, was elected to interin president last spring after the former president left her job at Cornell University and stepped down from the post.

A WMU interior designer and project manager, she has been active in the design association for 23 years. She has served the group in numerous capacities and has won several of its Design Competition Awards.

Prof heading international society

Andrew Targowski, business information systems, has been elected to a second term as president of the International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations. The society is affiliated with comparative studies programs worldwide and actively fosters internationalism through its annual meetings and publications.

A scholarly association, it was formally established in 1961 and is committed to the notion that complex, civilizational problems need diverse, multidisciplinary analysis. As president of the organization, Targowski is working to develop technological and business approaches to civilization analysis.

A WMU faculty member since 1980, he is a pioneer of business computing and a prolific writer, authoring 22 books and some 60 articles in the areas of information management science and civilization.
The first use of WMU Alert on Oct. 26 due to a tornado warning sent facility, staff and students to building shelters and triggered a surge in new registrations for the campuswide emergency notification system. WMU Alert is part of a Reverse 911 system launched in August. If an extreme emergency is identified, the system’s mass call option is activated, sending voice messages to all numbers registered to receive them. The system is capable of making approximately 4,000 calls per minute.

The number of WMU people registered to receive emergency notifications on their office, home or cell phones now stands at more than 10,000. A surge of nearly 400 new registrants was recorded during the week following the Oct. 26 tornado warning.

Cam Vossen, emergency management, notes that the activation led to several questions from users. She says there are a number of points every registered user must know.

• The system is voice activated. The incoming call will not impart the recorded message unless the recipient answers the phone with a verbal greeting. Some people with caller ID who see the WMU Alert identification simply pick up their phone and listen, expecting to hear a message.

• WMU Alert does not leave voice mail. This allows the maximum number of calls to be placed as quickly as possible and avoids creating confusion if someone checks voice mail later. If the critical incident information has most likely changed.

• All recorded messages give immediate instructions for action. Some messages then urge the recipient to go to the University home page or call (269) 387-1001 for updated information. The latter two options may not be available in the case of an imminent danger to the entire campus, such as the Oct. 26 tornado warning. Web and phone update responsibilities would be expected to take immediate shelter away from their work stations when warning sirens and WMU Alert are activated.

Inaugural use of WMU Alert system sparks registration surge

Dining Services employees have giving spirit

Full-time employees in WMU’s six dining halls banded together last month to help out local residents by holding their third coat drive.

The drive was organized by Valley II staffers, primarily Mark Robinson and Karen Bowling. More than 100 coats were collected, as well as numerous hats, scarves, gloves and blankets.

Participating in the coat drive were, from left: Mark Mondo, Paul Chaker, Louise Ollie, Deb Cronkright, Mark Robinson and Chris Fawley-Zehner. (Photo by Kim Pagan)

This year’s items were distributed to homeless Kalamazoo residents by Cheryl Carr, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services. The previous two drives garnered a similar number of coats, but for the March of Dimes and Kalamazoo Gospel Mission.

“The generosity and hard work of our employees truly shows an outstanding concern for others and a focus on service to our community,” Dining Services director Judy Gipper says.

“Since the first use of WMU Alert for a tornado warning, an imminent and threatening weather situation, the system will not be activated for snow closings or other severe weather incidents. The University has a number of other quickly activated and effective communication tools to announce those events. Weather closings are immediately posted to the WMU home page and noted on the emergency phone line at (269) 387-1001 as soon as closing decisions are made. Closings also are communicated through area radio and television stations.

To register for WMU Alert, members of the campus community should sign in to the GoWMU portal and click the WMU Alert icon found at the top of the main page. The voluntary registration is only for the emergency call system, and phone numbers registered will not be used by the University for any other purpose.

Seven staffers to be honored

Seven WMU staff members have been selected to receive Make a Difference awards for fall 2010-11.

The awards will be presented during a reception at 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 2, in the Bernhard Center’s West Ballroom (208-209). The University community is invited to attend the reception, during which the award recipients each will receive a before-tax prize of $300 and a commemorative certificate.

Obituary

Frank S. Scott, professor emeritus of chemical engineering, died Nov. 5. He was 87.

Scott was an expert in industrial and vocational education who came to WMU in 1956 and retired in 1983. He served as chair of the Department of Engineering and Technology from 1973 to 1976, and worked overseas on consulting assignments with the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Jane L. Tomlin, information technology; Teresa M. Ventimiglia, university relations; and John D. Winchell, University Libraries.

15 Years—Joel Boyd Jr., Center for English Language and Culture for International Students; David Lillard, student financial aid and scholarships; Lois Lemen, paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging; Thomas C. Marks, Center for English Language and Culture for International Students; and Abraham L. Post, mechanical and aeronautical engineering.

10 Years—Loisann A. Bierlein Palmer, educational leadership, research and technology; Valeny N. Bliznyuk, paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging; Almagir Choudhury, industrial and manufacturing engineering; Teresa Crompton, speech pathology and audiology; Nora Faires, history; Ann C. Mathis, mechanical and aeronautical engineering; Jane Perk, WMU Bookstore; Norman C. Risk, Facilities Management-maintenance services; Janice L. Vanderveer, Sindecuse Health Center; Eric Vangnese, physician assistant; and Artem M. White, Sindecuse Health Center.

Five Years—Victoria H. Davis, WMUK; Cari DeLong, Facilities Management-landscaping services; Jeannine M. Depoian, blindness and low vision studies; Linda L. Dillon, College of Aviation; Lori B. Farrer, College of Education and Human Development; Andrew A. Henderson, Center for Disability Services; and Kim W. Ketchum, paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging.

Service

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

30 Years—Eileen B. Evans, institutional effectiveness; Cynthia D. Jackson-Ekelido, Sindecuse Health Center; Arthur R. McGurn, physics; and Peter J. Strazdas, Facilities Management.

25 Years—Pamela J. McFakin, Facilities Management-maintenance services; Ali M. Merawli, finance and commercial law; Mary E. Pratt, Facilities Management-landscape services; and Ralph Tannier, electrical and computer engineering.

20 Years—Patrick A. Benton, College of Aviation; Anne C. Hopkins, psychology; Patricia M. Negrevski, Evaluation Center; Kelly L. Penkot, information technology; and Steven Palmer, residence life.

15 Years—Joel Boyd Jr., Center for English Language and Culture for International Students; David Lillard, student financial aid and scholarships; Lois Lemen, paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging; Thomas C. Marks, Center for English Language and Culture for International Students; and Abraham L. Post, mechanical and aeronautical engineering.

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The great outdoors is Cari DeLong’s office. As the University’s natural areas manager, she does much of her work in places most people visit during their off hours—if at all. DeLong is responsible for the ecological health of the 274-acre Asylum Lake Preserve near the Parkview Campus, the 48-acre Kleinstuck Preserve primarily located in Kalamazoo’s Oaklawn/Winchell Neighborhood, woodlots such as the tree-covered parcel behind the Sincere Health Center, and storm water treatment areas such as Goldsworth Valley Pond.

“I love what I do. I get to work with great people at WMU and in the community on a lot of progressive projects on campus,” DeLong says. “It’s been really interesting because this job has been evolving, and it’s developed into the natural areas manager role. These natural areas are an important asset to the campus and local community.”

DeLong began working at the University as an undergraduate research assistant with the Environmental Institute. After graduating, she was hired through a grant to conduct research at the institute and coordinate the newly formed Asylum Lake Policy and Management Council. The institute and her current employer, Facilities Management’s landscape services department, lobbied to make the coordinator position full time, and DeLong was hired for the job in 2005.

Her duties include doing public relations and educational outreach for campus natural areas, which involves working with researchers, volunteers and community organizations such as the Stewards of Kleinstuck. In addition, DeLong serves as WMU’s storm water management coordinator, obtaining and administering storm water improvement grants.

“A main priority at Asylum Lake is increasing safety and access, but in an ecologically sustainable manner. That’s why we’ve been paving and sloping the new parking lots and installing rain gardens—shallow depressions planted with deep-rooted native plants and grasses,” she says. “Now, runoff from the lots goes to rain gardens, which filter out hydrocarbons and other contaminants. WMU student volunteers helped me plant the vegetation in the Parkview Avenue entrance’s rain garden. It’s a great example of collaboration and ecologically sustainable work.”

DeLong earned a bachelor’s degree in biology and environmental studies in 2004 and a master’s degree in geography focusing on environmental and resource analysis last spring. The Kalamazoo resident likes to read and, not surprisingly, spend time outdoors.

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Education grant continued from page 1

On Campus with Cari DeLong

Time to review University’s snow removal, closure procedures

Winter hours will soon begin for WMU’s snow removal crews.

The crews must plow, shovel, scrape and de-ice more than 23 miles of roads, 100 acres of parking, 39 miles of walks and 200,000 square feet of steps and ramps.

Winter weather rarely results in a decision to close WMU. But when there is a shutdown, news of the decision is posted on the University’s home page at www.wmich.edu and emergency information line at (269) 387-1021. After completing those postings, University employees communicate closure details to local television and radio stations.

Official closure of the main campus means that the University’s branch campuses also are closed. However, closure of a branch campus does not automatically mean that the main campus will shut down as well.

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

As in past years, various steps around the campus that are deemed to be a convenience rather than a necessity will be closed for the winter, allowing crews to concentrate on major access areas.

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 that office. 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.

Construction fence features words of wisdom

Form, function and art combine this month as WMU art students and Sangren construction officials collaborate to provide a construction barrier that both inspires and provides practical solutions to common construction problems.

A mural that will eventually consist of 21 panels is going up around the Sangren site. When it’s completed, the mural will celebrate education through the use of quotes from educators and philosophers. Each monochromatic panel will feature a quote and portrait that gives voice to a unique perspective on education.

The project is the brainchild of Karen Bondarchuk, art. She and a group of 23 art students are working with construction officials from Miller Davis to create and place the panels.