Nearly peaking U-M Peony Garden colors, scents, delight onlookers

By Kevin Brown
The University Record

In brown corduroys rolled from the bottom, a matching striped top and her feet in brown flats planted on a dirt trail, Tina Kessel of Grand Rapids uses both hands to train a digital camera on a French peony.

Her husband James Kessel joins her. They are among 20 on hand this weekday to view the historic University of Michigan Peony Garden.

Nearly all share an unscripted activity — smiling.

The great impressionist artist Renoir painted them. The Chinese 3,000 years ago planted them in imperial gardens. Others cultivated them for...

See Peonies, Page 12

In engaged-learning course, students imagine campus of future

By Laurel Thomas Gnagey
Michigan News

If you want to transform the campus learning experience to suit the needs of today’s students, who better to ask what that should look like than the people who will benefit from the changes?

This is the premise behind a course called Campus of the Future, co-taught by Joanna Mirecki Millunchick, professor of materials science and engineering, and Mika LaVaque-Manty, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of Political Science.

“We professors don’t always remember what it’s like to be an undergraduate. We have our own ideas about what a classroom should look like and what engaged learning should look like as well,” Millunchick said. “I think listening to the student voice is really important.”

The course and its professors challenged students to think about what reinvention of higher education would require in terms of pedagogy and physical transformation.

“What caught my eye is that we got to be actually involved in the process of trying to make the university more engaged-learning experiences instead of physical spaces.

“It became obvious that students are just craving these kinds of engaged-learning opportunities,” Millunchick said.

LaVaque-Manty said they gave students a free hand.

“They get that they actually have no limitations they produced some really interesting ideas.”

The proposals include an enhanced orientation that particularly addresses first-generation students, a required meaningful experience (service or hands-on learning), and a multidisciplinary project that gives students the opportunity to solve problems for clients.

While they all dreamed big, students were realistic about their solutions. In a recent class Rachel Jaffe,...

In engaged-learning course, students imagine campus of future

See Future, Page 12
A procedural error resulted in the publication of incorrect values in the 3-, 5- and 10-Year Average Annualized Return % values in the U-M Investment Funds Update in the May 25 issue of the Record. The corrected report is available online at record.umich.edu/sites/default/files/150526_investmentsweb_final.pdf.

In a March 25 article titled “LSA and Engineering announce Goldwater and Beinecke scholarship winners” the photos of two scholar-ship recipients were transposed. The correct images for Jonathan Haefner and Karl Winsor appear hereafter.

By Bernie DeGroat
Michigan Nears

A New York minute may be an instant, but for workers in the Big Apple, their commute is anything but. A new study by Michael Sivak, research professor at the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute, found that New Yorkers have the longest commutes — about 40 minutes — among workers in the 30 largest U.S. cities, whether it’s by car, train, bus, ferry, bike or foot.

In addition to the longest travel time to work, New Yorkers also have the highest percentages who use public transportation (57 percent) and who don’t have a vehicle (46 percent), and the lowest percentages of driving to work alone (21 percent) and carpooling (5 percent).

Sivak’s study provides a broad overview of commuting by workers in America’s biggest cities: who, how, when and how time consuming. It uses 2013 data from the American Community Survey, an ongoing annual survey by the U.S. Census Bureau.

In addition to New York, other cities with long commute times include Chicago (34 minutes), Philadelphia (32 minutes), San Francisco (32 minutes), Baltimore (31 minutes), Los Angeles (30 minutes), Washington, D.C. (30 minutes) and Boston (30 minutes). The average commute in the United States is about 26 minutes.

Cities with the quickest commutes include Oklahoma City (21 minutes), Columbus, Ohio (21 minutes), Louisville, Kentucky (22 minutes), Memphis, Tennessee (22 minutes) and El Paso, Texas (22 minutes).

While public transportation is far and away the most utilized in New York, large percentages of commuters in Washington, D.C. (59 percent), Boston (33 percent), San Francisco (33 percent), Chicago (28 percent), Philadelphia (27 percent), Seattle (21 percent) and Baltimore (19 percent) also use trains, buses and ferries to get to work.

On the other hand, less than 3 percent of workers in Oklahoma City, Fort Worth, Texas; Jacksonville, Florida; El Paso; Nashville, Tennessee; Memphis; Indianapolis and Louisville commute via public transit.

Not surprisingly, cities with the highest percentages of public transportation use also have the lowest percentages of commuters who drive to work alone (less than half): New York, Washington, D.C.; San Francisco, Boston, Chicago and Philadelphia.

The national average for solo drivers commuting to work is about 76 percent. Cities such as Oklahoma City, Jacksonville, Indianapolis, Nashville and Fort Worth all exceed 80 percent.

Carpooling is most popular in Memphis, Houston, Phoenix, Las Vegas, Detroit, Dallas and San Jose, Calif. (all at about 12 percent of commuters) and least so in New York, Boston and Washington, D.C. (about 5 percent).

Sivak’s study also found that walking to work is most prevalent in Boston (15 percent), Washington, D.C. (14 percent), San Francisco (11 percent), New York (10 percent) and Seattle (9 percent) and least common in Fort Worth, Oklahoma City, Jacksonville, El Paso, San Antonio, San Jose, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Indianapolis and Dallas (all less than 2 percent).

About 6 percent of commuters in Portland, Oregon, ride a bike to work, while in Maine, which has the greatest number of cyclists, 5 percent in Washington, D.C., and 4 percent in San Francisco and Seattle — a rare activity in large cities in the South and Southwest.

The study also showed that the percentage of workers with no commute — because they work at home — is highest in Portland, Denver, San Francisco and Austin, Texas (all at about 7 percent).

RESEARCH
Getting to work: Cities with longest commutes

By Bernie DeGroat
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By Tamma Talldge-Anderson

Stephen M. Ross School of Business

The University of Michigan is expanding its biggest international partnership, launching a new program for engineering students in China who want to earn a Master of Management degree at the Stephen M. Ross School of Business.

The U-M partnership is with Shanghai Jiao Tong University and the University of Michigan-SJTU Joint Institute. The expansion also will create new opportunities for faculty research and student exchange between Ross and the SJTU Antai College of Economics and Management.

SJTU is one of China’s leading universities. In 2006, U-M partnered with it to create the Joint Institute, where more than 1,800 undergraduate students study computer, mechanical and electrical engineering. All courses are taught in English by more than 20 full-time faculty members.

Last year, the joint venture became the first U.S.-China collaboration to win the Heiskell Award — one of the highest honors in international higher education — in the partnership category.

Ross Dean Alison Davis-Blake and SJTU representatives took part in a special event on May 22 in Shanghai to launch the new collaboration.

“As a global business school, partnerships such as this are key to providing a world-class business education and giving our students direct experience in the global economy,” Davis-Blake said.

“This new partnership will benefit Michigan Ross and SJTU by broadening international engagement for our students and faculty and providing a truly unique, cross-disciplinary educational experience for the JI students to leverage their engineering experience with business fundamentals.”

The new Master of Management program for the Joint Institute’s engineering students will begin in July. Students will study accounting, finance, marketing, management and technology. SJTU faculty will teach courses in Chinese.

“Many of our students have a strong background in science and engineering disciplines, but they lack knowledge in areas such as marketing and accounting,” said Peisen Huang and M.S. Krishnan, Ross associate dean for global initiatives.

“China is becoming a world-class business education center in its own right,” said Toyama, an associate professor at the U-M School of Information, who explores the limits of technological solutions through videos. Digital Green was one of the projects that came out of his work at Research India in Bangalore. He was involved in more than 50 projects focused on finding technological solutions to poverty, illiteracy, poor health and unemployment. Near the end of his stint in Bangalore, he concluded that technology was not the answer.

Toyama argues that to help people with technology, it’s far better to teach them to become technology producers — engineers, entrepreneurs and corporate professionals — than to treat them as consumers.

“When you buy an iPhone, you may get some pleasure, but it’s Apple employees and shareholders who get rich,” he said.

People need computers to learn things like programming, Toyama said, but that’s very different from believing that every child should have a laptop.

“Anyone can be a Facebook user, but to be an engineer at Facebook takes a lot more. To be a good computer scientist, it’s essential to have a good math education, and that hardly requires a computer to teach,” he said.

“Technology has to be applied within a broader context that works to improve the communities’ ability to make the best use of it, he said. In poor communities, people are often overlooked in favor of technology to bring about social change, when in fact, it is the human forces that are the key to causing real social change.

Toyama said that when technology does work, it has a big impact. Digital Green was one of the projects that came out of his work at Microsoft. It’s an innovative platform that lets farmers learn new agricultural methods through videos. Digital Green is now a nonprofit organization with a $5 million annual budget that works in more than 5,000 villages in eight Indian states and several African countries, such as Ethiopia, Ghana and Tanzania.

“Nothing beats knowledgeable, caring adult guidance for a good education. Technology can augment pedagogical strengths, but it exacerbates weaknesses.”

By Mandira Banerjee

University of Michigan professor Kentaro Toyama was in India leading a team studying how to make computers work better in the classroom when he noticed that students far outnumbered computers at the underfunded government schools.

So, Toyama and colleagues devised a potential solution: software that multiple mice could be plugged into one PC, and each had its own cursor on the screen.

The researchers discovered that five children at one computer could each learn as much as one child with a computer all to herself. But when the experiment was replicated in surrounding schools, it was a failure.

The lesson Toyama learned was that technology alone can’t solve problems — it’s most effective when paired with capable underlying human forces.

“At the school where (the software) worked, we had the support of the principal, and the teacher was engaged in learning. But in other schools, that support system was missing. As a result, the technology didn’t work,” said Toyama, an associate professor at the U-M School of Information, who explores the limits of technological solutions through videos. Digital Green was one of the projects that came out of his work at Research India in Bangalore. He was involved in more than 50 projects focused on finding technological solutions to poverty, illiteracy, poor health and unemployment. Near the end of his stint in Bangalore, he concluded that technology was not the answer.

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“What makes Digital Green work is that a person who has the farmers’ trust mediates their interaction with the videos,” he said. “It’s the combination of trusted human agents and digital video that has the impact. Without its partners, there would be no Digital Green.”

After returning to the United States, Toyama spent time tutoring kids at Lakeside School in Seattle, which counts Bill Gates as an alumnus. The school has ample technology and educates the children of many tech industry executives. Yet, they know that it’s not technology but adult supervision that’s critical for kids’ learning, he said.

“These students had round-the-clock Internet access and computer watch as many Khan Academy videos as they wanted. Yet, when they needed a boost, their parents insisted on paying for extra human supervision,” he said.

“Nothing beats knowledgeable, caring adult guidance for a good education. Technology can augment pedagogical strengths, but it exacerbates weaknesses.”
Changes at Rackham help boost doctoral degree completion rate

By Kim Broekhuizen
Public Affairs

Doctoral students at the University of Michigan are completing their degrees at a higher rate than in the past, following changes implemented by the Rackham Graduate School. Graduate school data indicate more Ph.D. students are receiving their degrees than in the past. Of the Ph.D. students admitted between 2006 and 2010, 79 percent have earned their doctoral degrees or are on track to do so in the next few years.

This compares with a 69 percent completion rate at U-M a few years ago, and with a national completion rate of lower than 60 percent.

“These positive results follow sustained efforts to improve doctoral education, which include more careful review of doctoral programs, more predictable student financial support, better feedback and mentoring, and the adoption of a continuous-enrollment policy,” says Janet Weiss, dean of the Rackham Graduate School.

“The campuswide efforts to improve degree completion have had impressive results over the past 10 years,” Weiss adds. “While good comparative data are hard to find, the current success of U-M students seems to be outstanding compared to peer institutions of the scale and scope of U-M.”

Doctoral students also are more likely to complete their degrees in a reasonable period of time.

Since 2005, the number of students who took 10 years or more to complete their degrees has dropped from 7 percent to 2 percent. The median time to complete a doctorate at U-M also has dropped during that time frame from 6 to 5.4 years.

One of the Rackham changes was the continuous-enrollment policy, which went into effect in the fall of 2010. Under the policy, Ph.D. students register each fall and winter semester until they complete their degrees, unless they are on an approved leave of absence.

This change, Weiss says, helps the faculty and graduate program leaders to keep better track of their students and their academic progress, and to provide help to keep students moving forward.

“Throughout the implementation of continuous enrollment, we worked really hard to make sure there were no unintended downsides for students or for the quality of their scholarly work,” Weiss says.

“Rackham took seriously worries about the policy that were expressed by some faculty and students, and monitored the process closely. As a result, none of the expected fears was realized.

“We continue to see strong applications, stable enrollment and narrowing gaps in success for students who had been struggling under the earlier system.”

The dean notes that, as a result, 96 percent of new Ph.D. graduates have obtained professional employment after completing their degrees.

As the nation’s second-largest producer of Ph.D. graduates (after University of California, Berkeley), U-M awarded 874 Ph.D. degrees during the 2014-15 academic year in more than 100 different fields including the humanities, arts, social sciences, engineering, physical sciences, and biological and health sciences.

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STATE UNIVERSITIES
Alumni donate $1.5 million to FSU’s College of Pharmacy
Ferris State University’s College of Pharmacy received a $1.5 million gift from alumni Jeff and Annette Rowe. $1 million of the donation will be used for funding the renovation of the Hagerman Pharmacy Building, while the remaining $500,000 will establish the Jeff and Annette Rowe Joint Pharm.D./MBA Annual Scholarship to help ease financial burden for students admitted to the Pharm.D./Master of Business Administration Program. This donation follows a $5 million gift from Phil and Jocelyn Hageman to the College of Pharmacy this February.

EMU debuts future space for Orthotics and Prosthetics Program
Eastern Michigan University has unveiled the areas under renovation in the historic Rackham Building that will house the Orthotics and Prosthetics program, a part of the College of Health and Human Services. The renovation will update the building to include classroom and laboratory space, as well as the Lucille and Otto Becker Clinical Suite, which will feature five patient care rooms. Launched in 2003, EMU’s Orthotics and Prosthetics program is one of only a few accredited master’s degree programs of its kind in the country. and the only one in the state.

PARTNERSHIP donates to MSU for financial education
Michigan State University has received a donation of $250,000 from the MSU Federal Credit Union, in partnership with Visa Inc., as funding for the next eight years to underwrite the Financial Peer Education Program. The MSU Federal Credit Union will develop the program’s curriculum, which will focus on budgeting, understanding credit and identity theft, and will provide peer educators to help students establish their budgets. The program will be available to students beginning in fall 2015.

PEER INSTITUTIONS
Harvard’s Radcliffe Institute raises $44M in capital campaign
The Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University has now raised $44 million as part of its capital campaign, which is 63 percent of the campaign’s fundraising goal. The campaign began in October 2013 and has set a goal of raising $70 million. Funds raised through the campaign will go toward supporting many of the institute’s programs, including its Fellows program, as well as Radcliffe Research Partners, an undergraduate research program.

University of Minnesota receives $17 million alumni gift
University of Minnesota alumni John and Nancy Lindahl recently announced a $17 million bequest commitment to the university. The gift will go towards funding the new Athletics Village. $12 million will go towards supporting basketball and football facilities and programming, $2 million to the Carlson School of Management, $2 million to the College of Education and Human Development, and $1 million to pediatric cardiology research. The Lindahls serve on the Department of Athletics Leadership Council.

HIGHER ED BRIEFS

OLD SCHOOL: U-M IN HISTORY
Players

Two University of Michigan theatre students act in the 1932 production of the play “Berkley Square.”

This month in history (124 years ago)
June 25, 1891
“My Darling Louise:
“Commencement exercises occurred at 10 this a.m. …One thing that looked strange to me was to see the ladies marching in the procession with the boys and going upon the platform with them. Every class, I think, except the law had one or more ladies. Even the doctors of philosophy of which there were four contained one lady. The medical classes each contained several ladies. In the class of pharmaceutical chemists Miss Greaves was the only lady to 29 boys.”

— From the Enoch Jones Price Collection, Bentley Historical Library, presented in “A Book of Days, 150 Years of Student Life at Michigan”
UMHHC honored for sustainability practices
The University of Michigan Hospitals and Health Centers has been awarded the Greenhealth Emerald Award by Practice Greenhealth. The award recognizes health care facilities with high achievement in mercury elimination, waste reduction, recycling, sustainable food, green purchasing, energy usage and green building design. UMHHC scored well in all of these areas, displaying leadership in the local community and in the health care sector. This is the 12th consecutive year that UMHHC has been recognized.

Regents meeting set for June 18
The Board of Regents will have its monthly meeting at 3 p.m. June 18 in the Anderson Room, Michigan Union. To offer public comment at the meeting, sign up in advance at regents.umich.edu/meetings/pubform.html. Public comments on agenda items will be taken prior to their consideration. Comments on nonagenda items will follow the regular business agenda. People with disabilities who need assistance should contact the Office of the Vice President and Secretary of the University in advance at 734-763-8194. For more about regents meetings, go to regents.umich.edu.

U-M wins virtual schooling study grant
University of Michigan researchers will share in a $1.6 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s Institute of Education Sciences to launch a three-year study of virtual schooling in Florida. The study will explore students’ course progression, academic achievement and teacher effectiveness. The results will help policymakers and school personnel understand how virtual classes affect achievement, which students are likely to benefit and avenues for improvement.

UMS Summer Sings accounces schedule
All singers are invited to the University Musical Society’s Choral Union Summer Sings no-audition, no-performance evenings of music-making. As many as 300 singers from southeast Michigan, northern Ohio and Canada join each session. They sing classic choral repertoire with respected choral conductors and soloists. The first event is June 15, with Mozart’s “Requiem” in Stamps Auditorium. It is followed by a July 6 reading of Francis Poulenc’s “Gloria” in Hill Auditorium, and Carl Orff’s “Carmina Burana” Aug. 3 in Stamps Auditorium. All are at 7:30 p.m. Admission is $5. Scores are available to borrow. Registration for each session begins at 6:30 p.m. For more information, go to tryum.com/Acadgib.

Federal funding extends climate research
Researchers at the University of Michigan and Michigan State University have been awarded $3.65 million from the federal government to continue the study of climate change adaptation and climate variability in the Great Lakes region for another five years. Funding for the Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and Assessments program, a U-M-MSU collaboration, will be provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The program will continue to support physical and social-science research to better understand the regional impacts of climate change, to expand on the usability of climate information, and to increase knowledge about how that information is disseminated.

Donors, volunteers recognized for helping colleagues in times of need
By Wendy Frisch
University Human Resources
The Employee Hardship Program helps employees cope with extreme financial emergencies due to unexpected situations such as natural disaster, family crisis, threat of eviction, unexpected death or other crises.

Since its inception in 2009, the program has made a difference in the lives of approximately 1,500 faculty and staff members facing temporary financial emergencies, family crises or other hardships. The program has helped employees with housing and rent during crises, emergency auto repairs, avoiding heat or utility shut off, travel help for funerals or family emergencies, and one-on-one consultation to connect faculty and staff with community resources.

Higher-ed funding approved as part of state budget process
By Rick Fitzgerald
Public Affairs
Overall higher-education funding for the state’s 15 public universities would increase 1.5 percent to $1.5 billion in fiscal year 2016, under a state spending plan approved by the Legislature June 3.

The budget now goes to Gov. Rick Snyder for his signature.

The increase for the University of Michigan Ann Arbor campus would be 1.4 percent, bringing the total state appropriation to $399.4 million.

The increase for the UM-Dearborn campus would be 1.3 percent for a total of $24 million. UM-Flint’s appropriation would increase 2.0 percent to $21.8 million.

Those full appropriations are subject to in-state undergrad-uate tuition increases of no more than 3.2 percent. The Board of Regents will consider tuition as part of the provost’s budget recommendation at its June 18 meeting in Ann Arbor.
Online survey researchers should be cautious with trick questions

By Jared Wadley

New studies suggest that researchers should be careful with setting “trap” questions for respondents in the sake of accurate research.

Researchers use trap questions (also known as attention checks and instructional manipulation checks) to assess whether participants are paying attention to the instructions. However, most participants see these trick questions and become cautious about their answers, potentially altering a study’s results.

A pair of University of Michigan studies show that these instructional manipulation checks, or IMCs, which are popular measures used by researchers for online surveys, have unforeseen effects.

David Hauser, a U-M doctoral candidate, and colleague Norbert Schwarz of the University of Southern California, found that answering a trap question changes the way people respond with later questions.

“IMCs cause participants to think harder when answering survey questions than they normally would in order to avoid potentially being tricked again,” Hauser said.

IMCs in surveys look like normal questions. However, hidden in a large block of instructions are specific commands that tell participants to ignore the specific question and to submit a non-intuitive response instead. Participants who miss those special instructions and answer the question as normal are considered not being attentive.

In the first U-M study, participants received a trap question and the Cognitive Reflection Test, a math test assessing how the analytical abilities of participants. Half of the participants completed the trap question before the math test, whereas the other half completed the math test first.

Hauser and Schwarz found that completing a trap question first increased participants’ analytical thinking scores on the math test.

For the second study, participants received a trap question and a reasoning task assessing biased thinking. Again, half of the participants completed the trap question before the reasoning task, whereas the other half completed the reasoning task first.

The researchers found that completing the trap question first decreased biased thinking and led to more correct answers. Thus, completing a trap question made participants think more systematically about later questions.

Hauser believes many social scientists have used trick questions in their work, which have possibly affected their results. He says that while sometimes deeper thinking may be desirable for ensuring that participants are paying attention, it also could lead to study results that might not otherwise occur when participants are thinking as they normally would in everyday life.

The findings appear in the latest issue of SAGE Open.

Overconfidence leads to underestimating financial risk

By Terry Kozdrosky

Studying events like the 2008 financial crisis in hindsight leads many to ask, “How could they have gotten it so wrong?”

New research by University of Michigan professor Martin Schmalz finds that overconfidence — underestimating risks — can be a rational response to fear, or “anxiety,” but the balance between the two can fluctuate over time.

“So many CFOs were overconfident before the financial crisis and underestimated risk. That’s quite puzzling,” said Schmalz, assistant professor of finance at the Stephen M. Ross School of Business. “Given they are the experts, why were they still so bad at forecasting?”

His study, Anxiety, Overconfidence, and Excessive Risk Taking, with Thomas Eisenbach of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, indicates that there’s a balance between overconfidence and fear that can get out of whack during times of robust profits or market crashes.

Given the human tendency to be overly afraid of near-term risks, overconfidence is necessary for profits and innovation, Schmalz said. If nobody took chances, few things of value would be created.

People know they will be nervous after making a risky move, he said. So they signal the move to others, which helps prevent them from backtracking or “chickening out.” They also tend to ignore negative opinions or facts about what they’re about to do.

This variation in confidence levels over time can explain why otherwise rational people missed risks that in hindsight looks obvious and amplifies bubbles, and why everyone acts timid after a market crash when the risks are lower, he said.

“A moderate amount of overconfidence is just at the sweet spot counteracting our irrational fears,” Schmalz said. “That’s something that can help economists understand the role human nature plays in the market.”
Winning departments announced for 2015 Ergonomics Awards

By Juanita Day
MHealthy Communications

Four university areas were recognized with MHealthy Ergonomics Awards for implementing ergonomic solutions in their workplace.

Winning areas have decreased risk factors and reduced or prevented employee discomfort by adding or modifying equipment, redesigning work processes or offering educational opportunities.

Both winners in the Silver Level category were recognized for installing height adjustable computer workstations. They are:
- Ross MBA Admissions Processing Team.
- Canton Health Center ORGYN.

Bronze Level winners are:
- Michigan Institute for Clinical & Health Research, which redesigned its office area for a more collaborative and efficient cubical-free environment.
- Accounts Receivable in the Shared Services Center, which offered in-office ergonomic consultations to department staff.

Nominations for department-level Ergonomics Awards are accepted each spring. Silver winners are recognized with a certificate of recognition and bronze winners receive a letter of commendation.

The MHealthy Ergonomics Awareness Team continues to accept nominations for its Individual Ergo Hero Award. This award recognizes faculty and staff members who are independently reducing ergonomic risks for themselves or others by using recommended postures, work strategies or equipment.

Any employee can nominate another employee by submitting a short online form, mhealthy.umich.edu/ergoawards.

The awards recognize faculty and staff members who are independently reducing ergonomic risks for themselves or others by using recommended postures, work strategies or equipment.

Pay attention to improve the University's efficiency.

WiFi upgrade approved for buildings on Ann Arbor campus

By Patty Giorgini
ITS Communications

The university’s executive officers have approved a plan to upgrade WiFi connectivity for faculty, staff and students in 275 academic, administrative and residential buildings on the Ann Arbor campus.

“Meeting the challenge to provide pervasive WiFi connectivity anytime, anywhere is essential to the university’s ability to conduct its mission. We need ubiquitous WiFi to collaborate, offer engaged teaching and learning, and conduct team science. The university continues to step up to this challenge,” said Laura Patterson, associate vice president and chief information officer, in announcing the project.

Wireless connectivity is a passion-ate topic on campus these days, and for good reason. According to a recent Huffington Post article, there were more mobile devices than people on Earth in 2013, with 71 percent of mobile communications flowing over WiFi.

Information technology governance groups representing schools, colleges and units across campus supported the recommended campus WiFi upgrades as the No. 1 IT funding priority on the Ann Arbor campus.

IT representatives from across campus worked to identify and prioritize building projects included in this project, which are to receive upgrades over the next three years. The effort does not include the Duderstadt and Flint campus, Medical School or U-M Health System.

“Our goal is to bring the network to a consistent standard of coverage, capacity and capability,” said Andy Palms, executive director of ITS’s Communication Systems. “The network needs to allow our students, faculty and staff to connect anytime and anywhere in the facilities where they teach, learn, work and live.

“We also need to deliver a consistent positive WiFi experience to prospective students, parents, alumni and guests.”

He added, “WiFi is the preferred technology for an increasingly mobile population. In the past year, most large carriers announced they will provide voice over WiFi, making access to this technology even more important at U-M.”

Students are a driving force behind the effort to improve WiFi capabilities at U-M. Today’s college students are mobile. Regardless of whether they are studying, socializing or working, they are almost always connected.

“Students expect a seamless transition from academic buildings to the residence halls. They do their work everywhere, but especially at home,” said Jeff Wright, director of the Housing Information Technology Office.

“Our expectation to work with ITS to bring Housing’s WiFi service up to the campus standard, to better serve our residents both now and in the future,” said Jeff Wright, director of the Housing Information Technology Office.

“Students are not the only group on campus with a growing need for expanded WiFi coverage.

Wireless network connectivity is an integral part of enabling the work of teaching and research at the university. Having ubiquitous WiFi access is now an expectation of students, faculty and staff — wherever they are on our campuses,” said David Sweetman, director of LSA Information Technology and chair of the Unit IT Steering Committee.

“The campus WiFi capital project helps keep Michigan competitive among peer institutions. This project also positions Michigan with the infrastructure necessary for the continual growth we will see in number and variety of wireless devices brought to campus in the coming years.”

Work on the $24 million, three-year project will kick off immediately. Residence hall upgrades will begin at Bursley Hall and South Quad, and project teams will complete upgrades on as many classrooms as possible before the start of the fall term.

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President’s Staff Innovation Award winners announced

By Wendy Frisch and Matt Snyder
Human Resources Communications

Ashley Harris, research laboratory specialist intermediate in the Translational Oncology Program, and the U-M Crowdfunding Taskforce have been selected as the winning individual and team recipients of the President’s Staff Innovation Award.

President Mark Schlissel presented their awards on June 4 at the Voices of the Staff 10th annual meeting, which took place in the Crisler Center. Harris will receive a $2,000 award; the members of the U-M Crowdfunding Taskforce will share a $3,000 prize.

Harris’ innovation, the One Day Closer initiative, is a community outreach effort on behalf of Comprehensive Cancer Center’s Translational Oncology Program that offers insights into cancer research and serves as an opportunity to enhance community and academic partnership, awareness and pride.

The idea behind One Day Closer was for researchers to donate a Saturday to come to work, for companies to donate supplies to support that work, and to engage the public in this special day of research to see firsthand the important research done at U-M that each day moves scientists one day closer to a cure.

Harris’ proposal culminated in the first One Day Closer event on June 7, 2014, and a second event, expanded from $3,000 to $1 million campaign impressions by midnight to 11:59 p.m. Dec. 2, 2014. New systems, communications platforms and creative approaches were adopted to include science, technology, engineering and math groups from across the university and the local region, on May 9.

The U-M Crowdfunding Taskforce was selected for the team award for Giving Blueday, the university’s first large-scale crowdfunding effort involving schools, colleges, units and student organizations across all three U-M campuses, which took place from midnight to 11:59 p.m. Dec. 2, 2014. New systems, communications platforms and creative approaches were key components of the plan for Giving Blueday, which exceeded its fundrasing goal by 225 percent, yielded the greatest number of first-time donors of any prior annual giving appeal and exceeded its goal of creating more than 2000 percent through innovative use of social media and peer-to-peer sharing.

Members of the taskforce include newsmaker Harris’ proposal culminated in the first One Day Closer event on June 7, 2014, and a second event, expanded from $3,000 to $1 million campaign impressions by midnight to 11:59 p.m. Dec. 2, 2014. New systems, communications platforms and creative approaches were adopted to include science, technology, engineering and math groups from across the university and the local region, on May 9.

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Members of the taskforce include Andi Dunn, David Morris, Denise Cope, Emily Mathews, Helen Harding, Hunter Greenfield, Janice M. Glander, Jillene Kristy Verdier, Karen Scimeca, Katy Widdler, Kelly Lee Roan, Laura Arendsen Rowe, Linda Douglas, Lora K. Laurita Thomas, associate vice president for human resources. “Together we’ve made a difference. And moving forward we will continue to do so by helping prepare U-M for the future of work.”

The President’s Staff Innovation Award was created in 2013 to honor staff members who find creative solutions to improve efficiency, productivity, cost savings, health or culture at the university. Two awards are presented annually and both teams and individuals may be nominated. Finalists for the individual and team awards also were recognized at the award ceremony.

More information

Individual Award Finalists
Andrei Durna
Alex Fischter
Renuy Jacob
Jeffrey Micale

Team Finalists
Lauren Ranalli, Margaret Riley, Jennifer Lane and Vani Patterson for the Adolescent Health Initiative
Daniel Eisenberg, Trish Meyer, William Heningringer and Barbara Hansen for the Athletes Connected Initiative

Learn more

President’s Staff Innovation Award:
hr.umich.edu/award/index.html

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Kirk Cassidy, JAR
Paul Metler, JAR, Psyd

University extends reach to prospective Native American students

By Deborah Meyers Greene

The university’s pipeline to underrepresented prospective students extends its reach recently with the launch of Campus KinoMaage, an on-campus residential experience geared to Native American students. KinoMaage means "to share teachings" in Anishinaabe, the language of the Three Fires People — the Ojibwe, Odawa and Bodéwadmi. In 1817, these tribes made the University of Michigan possible by their gift of substantial acreage, with the expressed wish that their descendants might one day be students at the university. Some of their descendants were among the participants of Campus KinoMaage’s inaugural session May 15-17, sponsored by the Center for Educational Outreach in collaboration with LSA.

"President Schlissel has urged the entire university community to prioritize diversity, inclusion and equity. We know through experience and research that the pipeline to higher education is an effective means of doing so," said CEO Executive Director William Collins.

"To be most effective, the pipeline has to be open before high school. So our initial focus was Camp KinoMaage residential science camp for middle school students at the university’s Biological Station near Pellston, Michigan. Now our new Campus KinoMaage program extends that pipeline into high school.

Campus KinoMaage participants learned about the university and about Anishinaabe culture on campus. They took tours of Central and North campuses and the Natural History Museum, and participated in a science challenge activity at the College of Engineering. CEOs’ Real on College theater troupe presented an interactive performance, and members of U-M’s Native American Students Association joined them for an ice cream social.

"We stay in touch with camp alumni by email, newsletters and social media," said program director Jeanna Fox. "But the on-campus experience provides essential reinforcement." The student participants seemed to agree in their responses to a survey at the program’s end.

Q: What was your biggest “take-away” from Campus KinoMaage?

Respondent A: "When you go to college, you aren’t alone. Even though you are leaving your family, you find a new group of people and those people want to help you."

Respondent B: "The necessity to go to college. Through the lectures, tours and experiences, I learned the importance of lifelong learning."

Q: What was the greatest influence (at Campus KinoMaage) on your thinking about college?

Respondent C: "Just seeing the campus. Just being able to get out of my hometown and being able to breathe in air from a different place. And then being able to walk around and ... that’s a great potential college could have if you just gave it a chance."

Respondent D: "Just the whole weekend. Meeting new people, learning about different things. ... It just gave me a confidence in my own abilities and my own identity and my own body of knowledge."

Camp KinoMaage motto: G’wii kimoaadizomini
(We will teach each other)

The cycle will begin again June 21, when Camp KinoMaage convenes for a fifth year.

Rising sevenths- and eighth-graders from all 12 Michigan tribes will arrive at the Biological Station to conduct water-quality tests, participate in lessons in Anishinaabemowin — the language of the Peoples of the Three Fires, participate in Anishinaabe crafts, and organize and convene their own mini powwow and feast.

Additionally, they will enjoy those staples of the camp experience: s’mores, campfires, swimming and fun. Camp KinoMaage is founded by U-M’s Undergraduate Native American Student Association member Rebecca Lynn will be on hand to provide college access guidance.

Poll shows most Americans support renewable-energy standards

By Greta Guest

Despite recent attempts in many state legislatures to repeal or weaken renewable-energy requirements, a University of Michigan poll finds that a majority of Americans — of every race, income and education level, and religious and political affiliation — support such mandates.

A majority of Americans surveyed as part of the National Surveys on Energy and Environment said they’d be willing to spend an extra $25 per year for more renewable energy — a number that exceeds the average $15 per year cost premium of current programs. However, once the cost rises to $50 per family per year, that support dwindles.

"In particular, there is wide support for the idea of renewable-energy requirements, few Americans know whether or not their state currently has them in place," said Barry Rabe, professor of public policy and director of the Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy.

The survey is a joint effort of CLOSUP at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy and the Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pa.

Renewable portfolio standards are active in 28 states from Washington to Texas. The survey found public support was closely linked to the price premium of a state’s standards, and so it is reasonable to assume that public support for such mandates might wane if the costs increase, Rabe said.

"However, given that very few Americans are knowledgeable about their state’s renewable-energy policies, it is unlikely that current efforts to roll back these statutes are the result of a groundswell of public dissatisfaction or concern over the current costs of renewable-energy requirements," said Christopher Borick, a political science professor and director of the Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion.

Key findings include:

- A strong majority (74 percent) of Americans agree that state governments should require a set portion of all electricity to come from renewable-energy sources such as wind and solar power.

- Support for renewable-energy requirements is highest (87 percent) among those who believe in global warming. Even so, 39 percent of Americans who do not believe the climate is changing support state renewable-energy requirements.

- When asked if their state requires a set portion of electricity to come from renewable sources, most Americans (59 percent) volunteered that they did not know. Among those who did answer, only half answered correctly.

The random telephone survey of 751 American adults was conducted in April. The survey had a margin of error of 5.6 percent.

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focus on noise reduction in the U.S. science. Professor of environmental health activity gains, said Richard Neitzel, associate professor of environmental health. The primary culprits in noise pollution are road traffic and aircraft, along with construction, industrial and recreational activities. In guidelines that are nearly 40 years old, the Environmental Protection Agency recommended a safe noise limit of 55 A-weighted decibels (dBA), but according to an agency study in 1981, nearly 60 percent of Americans were exposed at levels of 58 to 65 dBA. Neitzel said the team used the EPA figures in their study, although he said it likely represents a conservative estimate of the current levels, as expanded urbanization over recent decades undoubtedly has meant increased noise pollution. In fact, a 2013 study estimates that more than 100 million people are exposed to unhealthy levels of noise that put them at risk for hearing loss, sleep disruption, annoyance and cardiovascular disease. In particular, noise represents an environmental stressor that impacts sleep, relaxation and concentration, which can contribute to the two forms of cardiovascular disease, the researchers wrote. “The Environmental Protection Agency has responsibility for reducing noise exposures in America, but their Office of Noise Abatement and Control has not been funded since the early 1980s,” Neitzel said. “Re-funding of that office would be an important first step toward reducing noise, and subsequently reducing hearing loss and cardiovascular disease in America.” Other authors: Tracy Swinburn, research area specialist senior, SPH, and Monica Hammer, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Fellow at the Network for Public Health Law.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Librarian expands video game, comic book collections

By Jordan Swapp
The University Record

Nestled in the basement of the Duderstadt Center is the Computer and Video Game Archive, managed by librarian David Carter. Shelves line the back wall, holding 6,000 different video games. A large screen is in the corner where a student sits, controller in hand, engaged in beating the level. Old and new computers with 60 different gaming systems surround the room. It’s a gaming enthusiast’s dream.

“Come here on a Friday afternoon, this place is packed,” Carter says.

Carter’s position has evolved over time. He came to U-M in 1988 to earn his Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering and to earn his master’s from the School of Information in library science. He worked at the library as a student, first hourly then as a university library associate. Leaving the library system for about seven years, Carter worked for the School of Information on the Internet Public Library project. He returned to the library in 2002 as an engineering librarian, though his position has evolved over time. Today he works at the Art, Architecture and Engineering Library at the Duderstadt Center as a video game archivist, programming librarian and reference librarian. Carter has several major areas of responsibility and he says there is no such thing as a typical day for him. He coordinates reference services for the AAEL, working as part of a library-wide team to answer any questions people may have. He manages three graduate student university library associates. He also teaches a digital research class through LSA. Another large component of Carter’s job is the Computer and Video Game Archive, which he and some colleagues proposed and created. Carter does the collection development and strategic direction for the archives, as well as outreach, instruction and management related to them. He also does collection development for the library, buying the comic books, graphic novels and video games for their collections. Originally managed by the art librarian, the comic collection was handed over to Carter after he helped her decide which books to buy due to his personal interest in comics and graphic novels. He laughs at the idea of being a “comic book expert.”

“I’ve been reading comics forever, so I’ve got a good feel for what’s going to be worth getting for the collection.”

In his role as archivist, programming and reference librarian, Carter works on many special projects and library initiatives. One such project includes an annual pre-conference for the Ann Arbor District Library’s “Kids Read Comics” convention, in which librarians, educators, cartoonists and others come together for a day and explore how to bring comic books into the classroom, use them in teaching, and how to get kids interested in drawing and expressing themselves.

Another project is “Mini-Comics Day,” where students and local cartoonists come together to create mini-comics for a day. In addition, Carter and his colleagues are putting together a symposium on gender and gaming this fall, capitalizing on a popular topic of discussion in the gamer-sphere.

Though his job keeps him busy, Carter finds time to sing bass with the Ann Arbor Civic Chorus for fun. Although, he can’t deny that his job is fun, too. “It’s funny that my job is dealing with comic books and video games,” Carter laughs. “If you would have told 12-year-old me, I would have been like, ‘You can get paid for that?’”

Meet David Carter

- **Title:** Video game archivist, programming and reference librarian.
- **At U-M:** 20 years.
- **On comic books:** “I’ve been reading comics forever, so I’ve got a good feel for what’s going to be worth getting for the collection.”

RESEARCH

Lowering the volume nationwide could reap big savings

By Laurel Thomas Gnagy
Michigan News

Reducing noise pollution in the United States wouldn’t just impact hearing but could save $3.9 billion in health care costs and $1.5 billion in productivity gains, said Richard Neitzel, associate professor of environmental health. The primary culprits in noise pollution are road traffic and aircraft, along with construction, industrial and recreational activities. In guidelines that are nearly 40 years old, the Environmental Protection Agency recommended a safe noise limit of 55 A-weighted decibels (dBA), but according to an agency study in 1981, nearly 60 percent of Americans were exposed at levels of 58 to 65 dBA. Neitzel and the team used the EPA figures in their study, although he said it likely represents a conservative estimate of the current levels, as expanded urbanization over recent decades undoubtedly has meant increased noise pollution. In fact, a 2013 study estimates that more than 100 million people are exposed to unhealthy levels of noise that put them at risk for hearing loss, sleep disruption, annoyance and cardiovascular disease. In particular, noise represents an environmental stressor that impacts sleep, relaxation and concentration, which can contribute to the two forms of cardiovascular disease, the researchers wrote. Neitzel said there are many ways to mitigate noise pollution. “The most important one is increased focus on controlling noise exposures at their source. In other words, designing consumer products, transportation and civil infrastructure, and buildings with the goal of reducing human exposures to noise. This is a long-term effort that will result in improved health and decreased noise annoyance, both of which have substantial benefits to society,” he said.

He said a side benefit could be reductions in other important environmental hazards, such as air pollutants. “The Environmental Protection Agency has responsibility for reducing noise exposures in America, but their Office of Noise Abatement and Control has not been funded since the early 1980s,” Neitzel said. “Re-funding of that office would be an important first step toward reducing noise, and subsequently reducing hearing loss and cardiovascular disease in America.”

Other authors: Tracy Swinburn, research area specialist senior, SPH, and Monica Hammer, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Fellow at the Network for Public Health Law.
medicinal uses. And the U-M Peony Garden, with nearly 800 peonies and up to 10,000 flowers at peak bloom, is nearing its peak.

“Peonies are one of the most fragrant flowers,” Tina Kessel says. U-M in 1927 opened its Peony Garden just inside the west entrance to Nichols Arboretum. Today, the garden is the largest collection of antique and heirloom peonies in North America. “It’s just majestic. There’s definitely a bunch of cool colors,” says Cindy Herrera of Ypsilanti. She views the garden with Mariah McCarty of Belleview, on their day off from Starbucks on Plymouth Road.

The garden presents more than 270 historic cultivated varieties (cultivars) from the 19th and early 20th century representing the best American, Canadian and European peonies of the era. They are arranged in 27 beds. Each contains 30 peonies. “I think it’s pretty awesome that all of this is free,” Tina Kessel says. Dr. W. E. Upjohn, founder of the Upjohn Pharmaceutical Company in Kalamazoo and Michigan alumnus donated peonies to U-M in 1922. The peony garden was designed by former Arboretum director Aubrey Toldt. “It’s a painter’s pallet. What sticks out to me are your pinks and your whites,” says Karen Paul of Commerce Township. She and Kim Lucas-Piko, a U-M surgical nurse, visit the garden after comforting a family member at adjacent University Hospital.

Paul also likes the white peonies with the yellow centers. “One had a little note of lemon, I thought,” Lucas-Piko says. She wonders if visiting the potently fragrant garden can lower blood pressure.

Bob Grese, director of Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum, has been leading a Rejuvenation Plan to rearrange the flower beds to showcase Asian cultivars, different flower forms and varieties of peonies, and important breeders.

More information

- The Peony Garden is near the 1610 Washington Heights (west) entrance to Nichols Arboretum.
- Nichols Arboretum is open sunrise to sunset seven days a week.

See more on the garden and find information on tickets for Shakespeare in the Arb at isa.umich.edu/mbg.

LaVaque-Manty has been a champion of engaged and alternative learning approaches for years, recognized for his work using principles from video games to allow students to choose their own paths to success. He agreed to teach the course with Millunchick beyond his workload to keep the dialogue going on campus. While he admits it sometimes is like swimming upstream to think about offering these experiences within a university structure that has existed for decades, he is energized by the students’ enthusiasm for change.

“LaVaque-Manty told all the students during class. “It’s easy to get depressed. Let’s be realistic but at the same time optimistic.”

Future, from Page 1

dual master’s student in the School of Information and Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, acknowledged that the campus might not be ready for all of their transformational ideas.

“A lot of our projects are going to step on toes,” she said.

Her project, an app called Ether (pronounced Eh-ther), would connect people with common interests. She calls it a Tinder-like program for people with common interests.

With a somewhat similar goal, Adam Levick and Michelle Fiesta want to expand the scope of orientation to reach students before they get to campus and link them according to interests.

Levick, a master’s student in the School of Information, sees future students engaged in activities inside or outside of the classroom that tackle such issues as sustainability, health disparities or educational inequity.

“Around the world we have these really large, complex problems,” he said. “One of the ways we see orientation in the future is creating communities around some of these large problems.”

Part of the student experience in the class involved working with campus leaders in their respective areas.

“It’s always a great idea to get that person involved from the very beginning, from the design period,” Levick said.

LaVaque-Manty has been a champion of engaged and alternative learning approaches for years, recognized for his work using principles from video games to allow students to choose their own paths to success. He agreed to teach the course with Millunchick beyond his workload to keep the dialogue going on campus. While he admits it sometimes is like swimming upstream to think about offering these experiences within a university structure that has existed for decades, he is energized by the students’ enthusiasm for change.

“LaVaque-Manty told all the students during class. “It’s easy to get depressed. Let’s be realistic but at the same time optimistic.”

Fiesta, a School of Information student, was concerned about leaving her orientation project unfinished.

“The biggest risk is that students next semester don’t pick up your project,” she said.

Millunchick said the next class will focus on physical spaces, but she and LaVaque-Manty hope some of this semester’s projects will be carried forth by future students.

Orse wants hers to come to fruition so that she can be one of the alumni to mentor a student through the program she initiated.

“It makes me feel excited, definitely, to know that you made the difference,” she said. “It’s just not about the grade but knowing that you’re helping other students.”
By Jim Erickson

It’s been known for more than 150 years that the tropics are home to far greater numbers of animal and plant species than the planet’s temperate regions. But despite decades of study, the causes of this striking biodiversity pattern remain poorly understood and hotly debated.

One proposed explanation for the so-called latitudinal diversity gradient is that new species form at faster rates in the tropics. University of Michigan evolutionary biologist Daniel Rabosky and two U-M colleagues tested that hypothesis by reconstructing the history of speciation in New World land birds.

They estimated rates of species formation across 2,571 bird species and found no difference between species from tropical and non-tropical regions. Their findings were scheduled for online publication May 27 in Proceedings of the Royal Society B.

“This result rejects a broad class of evolutionary hypotheses that try to explain the latitudinal diversity gradient through faster rates of speciation in the tropics,” said Rabosky, an assistant professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and a curator at the U-M Museum of Zoology.

“We haven’t yet tested some other potential causes of the gradient, but we provide very strong evidence that it doesn’t involve ‘faster evolution in the tropics,’ or anything related to that,” said Rabosky, who studies the evolutionary processes of species formation and extinction to understand why biological diversity varies so dramatically over space and time.

The differences in species numbers among tropical and temperate New World land birds is extreme and has generated decades of study by ecologists and evolutionary biologists.

“It’s noteworthy, for example, that the entire eastern United States has just one species of resident hummingbird — the ruby-throated hummingbird — while Ecuador has nearly 150 of them. Ecuador, which is roughly the same size as Michigan, has at least 1,500 breeding bird species; Michigan has about 250. The U-M team analyzed the relationship between speciation rates and latitude using evolutionary trees from various bird groups and a software program called BAMM, which was developed by Rabosky’s lab to study complex ecological dynamics.

While rates of species formation varied about 30-fold across New World birds, there was no difference when comparing tropical to temperate groups.

“There is no trend in the distribution of speciation rates with respect to latitude, but all latitudes include a mixture of lineages with relatively fast and slow rates of speciation,” Rabosky said.

While “faster evolution” doesn’t cause the gradient, several other explanations are still in the running.

“Tropical forests have been on Earth longer than temperate and northern forests. Perhaps the tropics are more biologically rich simply because the plants and animals that live there have had more time to diversify.

Tropical rainforests also contain an enormous variety of habitats that differ according to rainfall, altitude, topography, soil type and other factors. These diverse habitats led to the evolution of plants and animals specially equipped to live in each of them and to perform specific roles in the community called ecological niches. Perhaps tropical forests are more diverse than temperate forests because they contain more ecological niches.

“It’s clear that there are more ways of making a living in the tropics,” Rabosky said. “The high abundance and diversity of fruits, insects, nectar and other resources possibly allows the tropics to cram more bird species together than the temperate zone.”

Co-authors of the Proceedings of the Royal Society B paper are Pascal O. Title and Huateng Huang of the U-M Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. The research was supported by the National Science Foundation.

How to explain tropical biodiversity? Cross ‘faster evolution’ off the list

“The high abundance and diversity of fruits, insects, nectar and other resources possibly allows the tropics to cram more bird species together than the temperate zone.”

— DANIEL RABOSKY
Two doctoral candidates at the University of Michigan are among those selected as 2015 Charlotte W. Newcombe Fellows.

Four doctoral degree students were recently inducted into the Edward A. Blouget Graduate Honor Society at the Rackham Graduate School to recognize their outstanding scholarly achievement and promote diversity and excellence in doctoral education and the profession. They are Alana M. Neal, educational foundations and policy; Brandon Pitts, industrial and operations engineering; Aurora Kamimura, higher education; and Ishita Das, cellular and molecular biology. Receiving an honorary membership in the society was Rackham Graduate School Dean and Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Janet A. Weiss. Her example of leadership in promoting diversity initiatives in graduate education has been transformational at Rackham.

**ACCOLADES**

**Lu Li**, assistant professor of physics, is one of 36 college and university faculty who have been selected to receive the 2015 Office of Naval Research Young Investigator Prize. Lu won for his Correlated Topological Materials proposal. He aims to acquire fundamental understanding of the physical phenomena arising from interactions of many electrons in topological materials. He will receive a grant with an annual monetary award of $170,000 over a three-year period for his research efforts. They hold promise in advancing naval technology.

**John Troynon**, professor of social work at the School of Social Work, and **Amanda Tilloton**, doctoral student, social work and political science, are the recipients of the Human Service Organizations: Management, Leadership & Governance Mary Parker Follette Award. It is for Early Responders, Lake County Responders, and Non-Responders: The Principal-Agent Problem in Board Oversight of Nonprofit CEOs. The award recognizes outstanding theory-informed research in community benefit organizations. It will be presented at the Network for Social Work Management Conference at Howard University.

**Khaled Mattawa**'s examination of the work of Mahmoud Darwish, arguably Palestine’s most famous poet, has been selected as a finalist for the major poetry criticism prize the Pegasus Award for Criticism. “Mahmoud Darwish: The Poet’s Art and His Nation” by Mattawa, Syracuse University Press, examines Darwish’s struggle to be both a spokesman for his people and a poetic lyrical poet. His insights into Arabic poetry and Palestinian history provide context for understanding Darwish’s work and its importance. Mattawa is an associate professor, English language and literature, LSA.

The clinical research team of Dr. Rodica Pop-Busui has been recognized for excellence in study recruitment for the Preventing Early Renal Function Loss in Type 1 Diabetes Trial by the PERL, Executive Committee and the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive & Kidney Diseases. Team members are Dr. Lynn Ang, endocrinology fellow, Division of Metabolism, Endocrinology & Diabetes; Brittany Plunkett, lead coordinator; Dr. Rodica Pop-Busui, principal investigator, associate professor of internal medicine in the MEND Division and co-director of the Michigan Peripheral Neuropathy Center; Dr. Nazanene Esfandari, assistant professor of Internal Medicine, MEND Division; Brittany Plunkett, research technician associate; and Virginia Leone, lead recruiter and clinical subjects coordinator.

**Melanie Sanford** has been named a finalist for the 2015 Blavatnik National Awards for Young Scientists. She is one of the top 12 candidates in the chemistry category. The annual awards administered by the New York Academy of Sciences recognize and support America’s top young scientific innovators in life sciences, physical sciences and engineering, and chemistry. The three national laureates will be announced in June. Each will receive an unrestricted cash prize of $250,000, the largest prize of its kind for early-career scientists. She is Moses Gomberg Collegiate Professor of Chemistry, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor and professor of chemistry, LSA.

**Patricia Coleman-Burns** has been honored with the U-M Center for Educational Outreach Partner Appreciation Award. Coleman-Burns was chosen for her ongoing outreach work and her partnership across the university and in the community. She was praised for participating in CEO programs such as Wolverine Express and the University Outreach Council, and her position as an advocate of outreach programs such as the GENESIS Project. She is assistant professor and special advisor to the dean on multicultural affairs, School of Nursing, and adjunct assistant professor of Afroamrican and African studies, LSA.

**Larry Gruppen**, professor of learning health sciences, Medical School, has been honored by the National Board of Medical Examiners with the 2015 John F. Hubbard Award. It recognizes individuals for excellence in advancing the field of evaluation in medicine. Gruppen’s research scholarship was described as being of consistent high quality, longevity, breadth and diversity, and that it has illuminated the development and evaluation of expertise in medicine for decades.

The clinical research team of Dr. Rodica Pop-Busui has been recognized for excellence in study recruitment for the Preventing Early Renal Function Loss in Type 1 Diabetes Trial by the PERL, Executive Committee and the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive & Kidney Diseases. The PERL Trial is funded by the NIDDK at the National Institutes of Health. The U-M clinical research team and its affiliate sub sites at Henry Ford Health System was acknowledged for recruiting the largest number of subjects in the study among all the research sites, as well as for exceeding the study quotas by more than double during the first four months of this year. Pop-Busui, associate professor of internal medicine in the Division of Metabolism, Endocrinology & Diabetes and co-director of the Michigan Peripheral Neuropathy Center, is principal investigator for the study at U-M.

**Peter Sparling**, Rudolf Arnheim Distinguished University Professor of Dance, was invited to attend the Cannes Film Festival in May in Cannes, France. His screenplay “The Snowy Owl” was accepted into Short Film Corner, a global competition for independent filmmakers. Created in 2012, “The Snowy Owl” is a danced setting of a surreal poem by former U-M MFA creative writing student Benjamin Landy, from a set of poems inspired by images of famous dancers on film.
URC schools attracting and developing top talent, study shows

Michigan’s leading research universities are magnets for top-notch talent, attracting, developing and retaining highly skilled individuals to propel Michigan’s economy into the future, a new report confirms.

With more than $2.1 billion in research and development annually, the University Research Corridor, which includes the University of Michigan, is one of the nation’s top academic research clusters.

Along with fellow members Michigan State and Wayne State, the URC universities engage 12,000 world-class faculty members and 35,000 graduate students, elevating their undergraduate programs and supporting regional economies.

“Attracting, Fostering, and Inspiring Talent for the Global Economy,” a study released Thursday at the Detroit Regional Chamber’s Mackinac Policy Conference, reports that the URC ranks first in medical degrees, second in advanced degrees in high-tech fields such as engineering and sciences, first in total degree awarded, and first in enrollment, among eight top research university clusters in the US.

“We are at a pivotal moment in higher education,” said Jeff Mason, executive director of the URC. “Why are all of these degrees, especially the advanced and medical degrees, so important? Because they meet employers’ needs, support high-tech entrepreneurship, generate tax dollars and provide access to higher quality health care and enhanced quality of life for all Michigan residents,” said Jeff Mason, executive director of the URC.

The URC universities, which account for 93 percent of all academic R&D in Michigan, boast worldwide networks of more than 1.2 million living alumni, more than half of them living in Michigan and comprising a third of the state bachelor’s degree holders and advanced degree holders age 25 and older.

“For this report, we considered talented individuals as the central focus of the economy of the future, and examined the role Michigan’s research universities play in creating, attracting and nurturing that talent,” said Patrick Anderson of Anderson Economic Group, author of the report.

“Our three Carnegie-classified, highly intensive research institutions are not only retaining world class talent, but actively recruiting skilled individuals from around the globe, putting Michigan on the map for research and innovation,” said MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon. “URC talent embodies a depth and breadth of skills that are essential in our ever-changing global economy.”

Because of the comprehensive nature and diversity of opportunities at URC universities, graduates from the schools attribute broad-based skills desired by employers — including communication, critical thinking, leadership and entrepreneurship — to their university experience.

More than 20 percent of surveyed alumni listed job titles indicating leadership roles, such as owner, partner, CEO, president and director.

“The attainment of a degree from one of our universities proves to be instrumental in preparing Michigan’s talent base for the real world applications in their careers, fostering an impact that extends beyond the walls of our three institutions,” said U-M President Mark Schlissel.

LinkedIn social media data indicates that the Big Three automotive employers — Ford, General Motors and Chrysler — hire thousands of URC graduates, and that the URC universities are ranked in the top three alma mater institutions for Big Three employees.

“URC universities are producing talent that meets the demands of top employers throughout the state and region, inspiring companies to locate near our campuses and hire a great number of our graduates,” said Wayne State University President M. Roy Wilson.

Talent is critical to a healthy economy and Michigan is benefitting from the talent of highly skilled URC graduates.

According to the report, native Michigan college graduates are three times more likely to start their career in Michigan if they graduate from a Michigan college or university. Even during a deep recession, nearly 75 percent of native Michigan URC graduates stayed in the state and 20 percent of out-of-state graduates.

Profiles of examples of URC talent, including alumni making global impacts and staying connected to Michigan, entrepreneurs who remained in Michigan after graduation and researchers and business attracted here by the strength of the URC universities, can be found at the URC website: urcmich.org.

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Rumor-detection software IDs disputed claims on Twitter

By Nicole Casal Moore

Michigan News

A week after the Boston marathon bombing, hackers sent a bogus tweet from the official Twitter handle of the Associated Press. It read: “Breaking: Two Explosions in the White House and Barack Obama is injured.”

Before the AP and White House could correct the record, the stock market responded, dropping more than 140 points in a matter of minutes. Looting occurred in the billions.

The market recovered just as quickly, but analysts said the time-frame could well have been long enough for in-the-know perpetrators to profit through trading.

Rumors and their negative effects can spread rapidly in these hyperconnected times, says Qiaozhu Mei, associate professor of information and of electrical engineering and computer science.

“People can spread this kind of false information or express skepticism. The researchers define a rumor as a controversial statement that can be fact-checked.”

The team presented a paper about the research at the World Wide Web Conference. Paul Resnick, professor of information, is also a co-author.

The work is supported in part by the National Science Foundation and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

Finding natural cancer drug’s true origins brings sustainable production closer

By Ian Demsky

RESEARCH

For decades, scientists have known that ET-743, a compound extracted from a marine invertebrate called a mangrove tunicate, can kill cancer cells. The drug has been approved for use in patients in Europe and is in clinical trials in the United States.

Scientists suspected the mangrove tunicate, also known as trabectedin, were a mystery.

By analyzing the genome of the tunicate along with the microbes that live inside it using advanced sequencing techniques, researchers at the University of Michigan were able to isolate the genetic blueprint of the ET-743 producer — which turns out to be a type of bacteria called Candidatus Endoecteinascidia.

The finding greatly expand understanding of the microbe and of how ET-743 is produced, the researchers reported online May 27 in the journal Environmental Microbiology.

They are optimistic that the insights will help make it possible to culture the bacteria in the laboratory without its host. "These symbiotic microbes have long been thought to be the true sources of many of the natural products that have been isolated from invertebrates in the ocean and on the land. But very little is known about them because we’re not able to get most of them to grow in a laboratory setting,” said study senior author Michael Schofield, one of two first authors on the study and a member of the U-M Life Sciences Institute.

"Currently, many of these compounds can only be harvested in small amounts from host animals, which is unsustainable from an economic and environmental perspective,” said Michael Schofield, one of two first authors on the study and a member of the Sherman lab before she graduated from U-M this spring. “Our hope is that understanding the genomes of these micro-organisms and the chemical reactions that occur inside of them will provide new avenues to economically and sustainably produce new and molecular molecules they make.”

ET-743 is currently made using a complicated, partially synthetic process. "A major challenge of sequencing genomes from samples containing a mixture of different organisms is figuring out which DNA sequences go with which organisms. We used bioinformatic approaches that allowed us to tease that apart,” said Sunit Porat, U-M Life Sciences Institute, and the study's other first author.

Bioinformatics involves the collection, classification, storage and analysis of biochemical and biological information using computers. U-M has filed for patent protection on this discovery.

The research was supported by the International Cooperative Biodiversity Groups initiative at the Fogarty International Center, National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Energy’s Joint Genome Institute.

"Our goal is to detect emerging rumors as quickly as possible,” said Sunit Porat, U-M Life Sciences Institute, and the study's other first author.

"Once it zeroes in on a potential rumor, it looks for more tweets about the topic to gauge how widespread the conversation is. The researchers then rely on humans to fact-check the point of the effort isn’t for a computer to determine whether a claim is true or false, but rather to highlight disputed information before it ends up on popular debunking sites like Snopes.com.

"By the time a rumor gets to Snopes, it’s often too late,” Mei said.

Rumor Lens — the researchers’ own website — is expected to be available in the next couple of months. The team envisions it serving as a Snopes-like online community of social media observers, academics and reporters who have an interest in following and debunking rumors.

The algorithms would highlight potential rumors and the people in the community would do the fact-checking. The research team intends to make a rumor as a controversial statement that can be fact-checked.
Institute for the Humanities names 2015-16 faculty, graduate student fellows

By Doretha Coval
Institute for the Humanities

The Institute for the Humanities has awarded fellowships to nine U-M faculty and nine U-M graduate students to support research projects they will pursue during 2015-16. Fellowship recipients form an intellectual community, spending the year in residence at the institute pursuing their research and participating in a cross-disciplinary, non-public weekly seminar. A center for innovative, collaborative study in the humanities and arts, the Institute for the Humanities provides fellowships for Michigan faculty, graduate students, and visiting scholars. It also offers a wide array of public and scholarly events, including public lectures, conferences, art exhibitions and performances.

Faculty fellows:
Allison Cornwall, professor, Romance languages and literatures; Mary L. and David D. Hunting Family Fellow
“Medieval Remediation”
Andreas Gailus, associate professor, Germanic languages and literatures; Helmut F. Stern Fellow
“Forms of Life”
Phoebe Gloeckner, associate professor, art and design; Richard and Lillian A. Ives Fellow
“The Return of Maldoror”

Graduate student fellows:
Andrea Brock, classical art and archaeology
Michelle Cassidy, history; A. Bartlett Giamatti Scholar
“Both the Honor and the Profit: Anishinaabe Warriors, Soldiers, and Veterans from Pontiac’s War through the Civil War”

Christiane Gruber, associate professor, history of art; Charles P. Brauer Fellow
“Taoist Tales from the African Anthropocene”

Arvind Mandair, associate professor, Asian languages and cultures; Helmut F. Stern Fellow
“Untimely Encounters”

Mireille Roddier, associate professor, architecture, steelcase professor
“Tactical Urbanism: The Politics of Interventionist Practices”

Megan Sweeney, associate professor, English language and literature; Africameric and African studies; John Rich Fellow
“Mending”

Graduate student fellows:
Andrea Brock, classical art and archaeology
Sylva “Duffy” Engle Graduate Student Fellow
“Environment and Urban Development in the Archaic Forum Boarium in Rome, Italy”

Michelle Cassidy, history; A. Bartlett Giamatti Scholar
“Both the Honor and the Profit: Anishinaabe Warriors, Soldiers, and Veterans from Pontiac’s War through the Civil War”

Sandra Roddier, anthropology; Marc and Constance Jacobson Graduate Fellow
“Bucharest Barks: Stray Dogs, Urban Lifestyle Aspirations, and the ‘Non-Civilized City’”

Katherine Lennard, American culture; Mary L. and David D. Hunting Family Fellow
“Made in America: Costume, Violence, and the Ku Klux Klan, 1905-1940”

Shana Melnysyn, anthropology and history; Mary L. and David D. Hunting Family Fellow
“Rum & Revenge: Portuguese-Angolan Trade and the Bailundo Revolt of 1902”

Sarah Suhadolnik, School of Music, Theatre & Dance; Richard and Lillian A. Ives Graduate Fellow
“Navigating Jazz: Music, Place, and New Orleans in the Twentieth Century”

Emily Waples, English language and literature; Mary Fair Grosvenor Graduate Fellow

RESEARCH
Recycling nuclear waste: U-M tests advanced reactor design

By Katherine McAlpine
College of Engineering

An advanced nuclear reactor under development by Hitachi could help solve the nuclear waste problem, and University of Michigan researchers were involved in verifying its safe performance through computer simulations.

The U-M team worked with colleagues at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of California, Berkeley. After more safety analysis, Hitachi plans to move forward with a prototype of the “resource-renewable boiling water reactor” in the next few years.

One of the major technological hurdles for nuclear energy is developing systems to dispose of the waste produced by typical reactors. It must be sealed away for millions of millennia while the radioactivity naturally decreases.

Hitachi’s new design would burn off the longest-lived radioactive materials, called transuranics, shortening that isolation period to a few centuries. This would recycle the nuclear waste to produce yet more energy and reduce the amount that must be stored away.

Because of transuranics, we’re talking about lifetimes for storing fuel that we can’t even fathom,” said Thomas Downar, U-M professor of mechanical engineering and a leading expert in nuclear fission.

“If you get this down to a hundred years, then you’re talking about the ability to engineer a container that you have confidence will last that long.”

In the conventional boiling water reactors that currently produce about 90 percent of the nuclear-generated electricity in the United States, the neutrons that split uranium atoms have been slowed by the boiling water. In contrast, the Hitachi design uses fast neutrons since they are more likely to split, or fission, transuranic atoms. Prototype fast reactors have been running since the 1970s, but they use a sodium coolant. Sodium burns when it comes into contact with air and reacts violently with water. This is one of the reasons why U.S. utilities that operate reactors have been hesitant to consider sodium-cooled designs.

A water-cooled fast reactor, though, could offer safer and more familiar operation. The challenge was designing a water-cooled core that would stop itself if it started overheating and the water turned to steam. In conventional reactors, the water’s slowing action as a failsafe because steam is less effective at decelerating neutrons. Since fewer neutrons are at the right speed to cause fissions, the reaction rate slows down too.

For a boiling water reactor that’s burning transuranics, this scenario is trickier. The faster neutrons could mean a faster fission rate, creating more heat, steam and fast neutrons.

“If something goes wrong and the power increases, you want to have the fission rate decrease,” Downar said.

To create this safety feature in their reactor, Hitachi engineers plan large “blanket” regions in an overheating reactor that can absorb excess neutrons more efficiently. By looking at what happened when the steam bubbles appeared, the team found that the fast neutrons tended to leave the reactive part of the fuel assembly, slowing the reaction rate as planned.

Now, the university teams are about to begin a careful comparison of their methods with the predictions from the Hitachi computer codes to discover any differences in the simulation of the advanced reactor’s performance. Hitachi will fund the teams at U-M, MIT and Berkeley for the next phases of the project.
MIDNIGHT MEETINGS: A Century of the Inexhaustible Inspiration of Orson Welles, 7-9 p.m., U-M Museum of Art, North University Stage. Maverick filmmaker and Inexhaustible Inspiration of Orson Welles, 7-9 p.m., U-M Museum of Art, North University Stage. Maverick filmmaker and

Ann Arbor Summer Festival returns

The Ann Arbor Summer Festival is back, and the entertainment calendar runs deep.

Sunday, June 14

“When Marvin Was There” by Studio Ghilí free screening, noon-2 p.m., Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St. The University of Michigan’s Center for Japanese Studies is partnering with community organizations to bring a week of Japan-related programming to the Ann Arbor area. This screening is in collaboration with the annual Cinetopia International Film Festival.

Mary Jo Akamine Association board meeting, 1-3 p.m., Cottage Inn Pizza, 512 E. William St.

Kellogg Museum of Archaeology Gallery Tours, 2-3 p.m. To learn more about the museum, most of the museum’s gallery entrances on Maynard Street for a docent-led tour of the galleries. Tours are free and open to the public.

Monday, June 15

Gedulo Drummers Japanese Drumming Performance, Ann Arbor Japan Week, 6 p.m., Matthaei Botanical Gardens Courtyard. This performance will be approximately 30 minutes long, and include animating component following the performance. Swing by the nearby Children’s Garden to enjoy the installation of Japanese forest spirits for Ann Arbor Japan Week.

Tuesday, June 16

Human Resource Development Career Conference 2015: Three Paths of Success: A, B, C. Noon, Sheraton Ann Arbor. This is an opportunity for staff to be inspired and motivated to take charge of their careers. There will be a keynote session and career development sessions. Keynotes are Kate White, an industry leader in leadership, work and success, and Jane New York Times bestselling author of “Successful Hills, City of the Year, How to Fly for Money, Share the Promising and Create the Career You Deserve.” For 34 years she was the editor-in-chief of Cosmopolitan.

Japanese Conversation Table, Ann Arbor Japan Week, 12-2 p.m. 203, Stew and Mary Gordon, join. Japanese Language Program students and staff. Sushi and Japanese tea will be available for participants to enjoy as they practice their Japanese language skills.

“The Impacts of Biodiversity Loss on Humanity,” 6 p.m., Matthaei Botanical Gardens, Brady Carleton, School of Natural Resources associate professor, discusses research into the impacts of biodiversity loss on human health and well-being. The lecture is part of the Matthaei’s annual lecture series, “Rethinking Our World.”

“Stop It’s Ok,” 7 p.m., Michigan Theater. This screening is followed by a Q&A with director Brian Konopfeneger. The film chronicles the story of pansexual prodigy and information-technology activist Aaron Swartz, who developed the basic Internet protocol, RSS, co-founded Reddit, and was an open access activist.

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EVENTS

MONDAY, JUNE 8

Farmers Market, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Michigan Union, near U-M Union. Students, faculty, staff and visitors are invited to learn about and purchase local and sustainable products fresh from the farm.

Wellesploitation: A Century Celebration of the Inexhaustible Inspiration of Orson Welles, 7-9 p.m., Fowler Museum of Cultural History. Free and open to the public. The June 13 tour theme is Ancient Writing. Upcoming tours include sustainable entertainment and exhibits from over 25 years. Greg “Super Gee” McKinney, Rhythm & Blues with In Flight, noon-1 p.m., University Hospital Courtyard. In Flight, also known as Super Gee Crew, has been providing musical entertainment for Michiganders for more than 25 years. Greg “Super Gee” McKinney, keyboardist, is retired from the University of Michigan Health System, where he worked in the main operating rooms. He’s now a bass and keyboardist, bassist, and keyboardist who loves to perform. The program includes a discussion about honey bee management, care and production, and work to protect and enhance the local bee population. Free.

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

Rhythm & Blues with In Flight, noon-1 p.m., University Hospital Courtyard. In Flight, also known as Super Gee Crew, has been providing musical entertainment for Michiganders for more than 25 years. Greg “Super Gee” McKinney, keyboardist, is retired from the University of Michigan Health System, where he worked in the main operating rooms. He’s now a bass and keyboardist, bassist, and keyboardist who loves to perform. The program includes a discussion about honey bee management, care and production, and work to protect and enhance the local bee population. Free.

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

Mayor’s 15th Annual Green Fair, 6-9 p.m., Main Street, downtown Ann Arbor. Planet Blue and several U-M departments will have exhibits as part of this event. The fair includes sustainable entertainment and exhibits from over 100 local non-profits and sustainable businesses.

SATURDAY, JUNE 13

Saturday Sampler Tours, 2-3 p.m., Kelsey Museum of Archaeology. Join these thematic tours created by Kelsey Museum Docent Corps. They are free and open to the public.

Sunday, June 14

“The Internet’s Own Boy,” Sundance Film Forward, noon-2 p.m., Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St. The film takes audiences back 50 years to the “Lost Decade” following deregulation and the death of the Japan asset price bubble. The central character degrades her marriage, her clients, and her career for lust, excess and escape. The film won several awards following its world premiere at 2014 Tokyo International Film Festival.

SUNDAY, JUNE 14

“This Life, This Year” screening presented by the Center for Japanese Studies and the Cinetopia International Film Festival. 6-9 p.m., Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St. The University of Michigan’s Center for Japanese Studies is partnering with community organizations to bring a week of Japan-related programming to the Ann Arbor area. This screening is in collaboration with the annual Cinetopia International Film Festival.

Marta Cook Alumni Association board meeting, 1-3 p.m., Cottage Inn Pizza, 512 E. William St.

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THE Ann Arbor Summer Festival returns

The Ann Arbor Summer Festival is back, and the entertainment calendar runs deep.

That’s how festival director Amy Nesbitt sums up the roster. Highlighted by the “Down by the Riverside” show June 27 at the Power Center for the Performing Arts, the lineup featuresBlind Boys of Alabama and the Dirty Dozen Brass Band from New Orleans.

Co-founded by the University of Michigan, the festival features mainstage shows, free public performances and films, kids activities and more. June 12-July 5.

Golden Dragon Acrebats from China returns with fast-paced performances June 20-23 at the Power Center. “Everybody in the audience is just gripping the sides of their seats (and asking) ‘Did they really just do that?’” Nesbitt says.

Free evening Top of the Park performances this year are temporarily relocated to North University Avenue and a portion of South Ingalls Mall on the U-M campus. Performers include Grammy winner Tenille Townes and the Zydeco experience June 30 at the North University Stage, and the United States Army Field Band and Soldier’s Chorus July 5, on the Hill Auditorium Plaza. Pop singer-songwriter Ingrid Michaelson performs June 25 at the Power Center for the Performing Arts.

New attractions this year include the Retreat Series alternative happy hour at 5 p.m. on the Power Center lawn. Attendees can experience yoga, capoeira and dance. For showtimes and more information on festival attractions, go to a2sf.org.

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Dates, times and locations for all markets:
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A partnership between MHealthy, UMHS, MDining, Central Student Government and Planet Blue.

EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

Marriage to a U.S. Citizen: Permanent Residency (Green Card) Process, 10 a.m., Michigan League, Room 4, East Field. This workshop is designed for international students, scholars, faculty and staff who are interested in learning how to obtain permanent residency based on marriage to a U.S. citizen. U.S. citizen fiancés and significant others are also welcome and encouraged to attend this event. Topics covered will include legal requirements, forms, fees, processing times, preparing for the USCIS interview, explanations of conditional permanent residency and how and when to petition USCIS to have conditions removed.

Calligraphy and Origami with the Southeast Michigan Japanese Language Meetup Group, Ann Arbor Japan Week, 3-5 p.m., Mason Hall, Room 420. The group will teach about basic Japanese characters, greetings and phrases, and have brushes and ink available for participants to practice writing Japanese characters.

“Freedom of Information,” Sundance Film Forward, 4-5 p.m., Hatcher Graduate Library Gallery. Film director Brian Knappenberger talks with U-M Library’s Lead Copyright Officer Melissa Levine and U-M Associate General Counsel Jack Bernard.

Origami Folding in the Killicourt Tent at Ann Arbor Summer Festival: Ann Arbor Japan Week, 9-11 a.m., Ann Arbor Summer Festival. Volunteers from the Center for Japanese Studies will help participants learn to fold colorful paper into various shapes, including cranes, boxes, butterflies and more.

“We Are the Giant,” Sundance Film Forward, 7-9 p.m., State Theater. Following Video U and A with director Greg Barker. The film explores the lives of six people who removed. T opics covered will include legal requirements, forms, fees, processing times, preparing for the USCIS interview, explanations of conditional permanent residency and how and when to petition USCIS to have conditions removed.

THURSDAY, JUNE 18


The exhibit “Rocks, Paper, Memory: Wendy Artin’s Watercolor Paintings of Ancient Sculptures,” is presented at the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology through July 26. The exhibit highlights two recent projects by watercolorist Artin. Her work was recently shown at the American Academy in Rome.

Family Art Studio: Ann Arbor Japan Week, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., U-M Museum of Art. Families can explore Japanese art followed by a hands-on workshop. Designed for families with children ages 6-12 to experience art together. Advance registration required. Email umma-program-registration@umich.edu.

UMMA Family Japanese Art Studio: Ann Arbor Japan Week, U-M Museum of Art Multipurpose Room. Email umma-program-registration@umich.edu required for this free event. Email umma-program-registration@umich.edu.

Friday, Jazz & Dance with Salim Fadrosh Philharmonic, noon-1 p.m., University Hospital Courtyard. This concert is part of the WARS Summer Courtyard Concert Series by Gifts of Art. Plan locations: University Hospital Main Lobby.

Japan- themed Board Games: Ann Arbor Japan Week, 6-8 p.m., The Espresso Bar, 204 S. Fourth Ave. Ann Arbor Japan Week, 6-8 p.m., The Espresso Bar, 204 S. Fourth Ave.

“Centuries of Creation: Art and Education” is part of the UMHS Summer Courtyard Concert Series by Gifts of Art. Plan locations: University Hospital Main Lobby.

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To celebrate its 30th anniversary season, Ann Arbor Dance Works presents “A Feast of Dances” featuring new works and revivals by University of Michigan Dance faculty choreographers. They are, from left, Robin Wilson, Bill DeYoung, Sandra Torijano, Peter Sparling, Jessica Fogel, Amy Chavasse and Missy Beck. The free performances are at 7:30 p.m. June 18-19 at the U-M Museum of Art. Tickets are required. They can be reserved through the Michigan Union Ticket Office, in the Michigan Union, (734) 763-8587. Tickets are also online at www.mutotix.com. Remaining tickets will be distributed at the door on the day of the performance, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

“Japanese Forest Spirits in the Gaffield Children’s Garden,” at Ann Arbor Japan Week, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., June 14-20, Matthaei Botanical Gardens.

“The Jewish Tradition of Tsedakah as Exemplified in Pushkes, Charity Donation Boxes,” through Sept. 10, Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, 202 S. Thayer.

“Medicinal Plants and Gardens: Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum” is presented through June 14 at the U-M Museum of Art.


Museum of Natural History exhibits include the most extensive display of prehistoric life in Michigan, in the Ruthven Building at 1109 Geddes Ave.

“Orson Welles: Beyond the Canon and into the Archives,” Hatcher Graduate Library Gallery, marks the centenary of Orson Welles, one of America’s greatest directors of film, theater, radio and television.

“Photo SL: Is Corruption in Russia’s DNA?” is a photography exhibit by Misha Friedman presented through June 20 at Work: Ann Arbor.

“Re-imaging Gender” features the work of 15 promising artists.


“Sophie Calle: North Pole,” through Aug. 9, U-M Museum of Art. Following her mother’s death, French conceptual artist Calle wanted to bury her portrait and jewels on a glacier in the North Pole, a place her mother had always dreamed of seeing. This multifaceted installation, consisting of video, photographs, and a light box, documents moments of Calle’s journey to fulfill her mother’s unfulfilled dream.

“The Stearns Collection at the School of Music, Theatre & Dance” is one of six major collections of musical instruments in North America. The 2,500-piece collection features permanent and occasional displays in the Vesta Mills Gallery and in various exhibition areas throughout the Moore Building.

“Tappan’s Vision” at the Bentley Historical Library provides a comprehensive look at the impact of Henry Tappan on the intellectual life and accomplishments of the university over the past 150 years.

“Tell the Story of Your Life In Detroit,” an online photography exhibit at tinyurl.com/mmsvulz, is curated by Rebekah Modrak and Charlie Michaels. It is sponsored by the Penny W. Stamps School of Art & Design and others.

“Textile Trade Ascendancies” is presented in the Clark Library, second floor, Hatcher Graduate Library.

“Through the Magnifying Glass: A Short History of the Microscope” is of the Hatcher Graduate Library.

“Mine More Coal: War Effort and Americanism in World War I Posters,” U-M Museum of Art. Tickets are required. They can be reserved through the Michigan Union Ticket Office, in the Michigan Union, (734) 763-8587. Tickets are also online at www.mutotix.com. Remaining tickets will be distributed at the door on the day of the performance, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets for all shows at the Museum of Natural History are $5 for adults, seniors and children. For information on shows and times go to lsa.umich.edu/exhibitmuseum.

Museum of Natural History tours and children’s programs Free Dinosaur Tours are available at 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays at the Museum of Natural History. For more information call 734-996-0480.

Planetarium shows Tickets for all shows at the Museum of Natural History are $5 for adults, seniors and children. For information on shows and times go to lsa.umich.edu/exhibitmuseum.

Workshops/support MHealthy’s Alcohol Management Program is designed to help people with mild to moderate alcohol problems. Enjoy life more and drink less or not at all. Call 734-998-2017 or go to mhealthy.umich.edu/alcohol.

The Faculty and Staff Assistance Program offers Brown Bag educational presentations. Go to fasap.umich.edu for more information, or call 734-936-8660.

Go to UofMHealth.org/stroke to watch Joaquin’s story.

“Time Matters with a Stroke.”

From calling 911 to starting treatment, every second counts when you have a stroke. Which is why when time isn’t on your side, our team of experts is. At the University of Michigan, our dedicated stroke specialists treat patients as soon as they come through the door. So when Joaquin had a stroke on Christmas Day, he received treatment in only 21 minutes and was back home celebrating just 2 days later. It’s why we are nationally recognized as a Comprehensive Stroke Center, and another reason why Victories Start Here.