

## East Hall input sessions scheduled

Public sessions have been set for members of the campus and extended communities to comment on the design process for converting East Hall into an alumni center. The sessions are solely to gain design input and will take place at 1 and 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 1, in the Little Theatre.

## Interdisciplinary work group forming

The University Center for the Humanities is organizing an interdisciplinary work group to explore the possibility of establishing a more centralized digital humanities presence on campus. The group was scheduled to meet four times during the fall semester, beginning Sept. 18. Visit [libguides.wmich.edu/dighumworkgroup](http://libguides.wmich.edu/dighumworkgroup) for more information.

## Grant funding deadline approaching

Applications are due by 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 27, to request financial support under the College Discovery and Dissemination Award program for faculty and the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Award program for students. Visit [wmich.edu/arts-sciences/about/awards](http://wmich.edu/arts-sciences/about/awards) for details.

## Volunteer career mentors sought

The Seita Scholars Program is seeking 40 or more volunteer career mentors to work with new and returning Seita Scholars. More information and applications can be found at [wmich.edu/fyit/Giving/volunteering.php](http://wmich.edu/fyit/Giving/volunteering.php). Direct questions to Kirk Reber at [kirk.reber@wmich.edu](mailto:kirk.reber@wmich.edu).

## Free courses offered to some residents

Free, non-credit college-level courses in the humanities are being offered through the Humanities for Everybody program operated by WMU's University Center for the Humanities.

The courses are taught by experienced WMU professors for low- to moderate-income Kalamazoo-area residents. Participants selected receive free books, tuition and supplies and may sign up for any course offered during fall or spring. Details are available at [humanitiesforeverybody.org](http://humanitiesforeverybody.org) or (269) 364-0296.

## Events focus on funding scholarly work

Faculty and staff are invited to a series of professional development workshops on funding support for faculty scholarship. The first workshop is set for Tuesday, Sept. 24. Registration closes the Friday before each session, and space is limited. For details, visit [wmich.edu/research](http://wmich.edu/research) or call (269) 387-8270.

## Staff award nominations due Oct. 31

Nominations for the spring round of WMU's semiannual Make a Difference Award program are due by Thursday, Oct. 31. The award recognizes staff members who provide exceptional service to the University. Visit [wmich.edu/makeadifference](http://wmich.edu/makeadifference) for guidelines and nomination forms.

## Rare potash deposit rediscovered in state

Rediscovery of a long-forgotten mineral deposit located under two West Michigan counties is set to spark a new multibillion-dollar industry in Michigan that will quickly position the state as the nation's leading source for a critical agricultural tool that is in demand internationally.

Potash—potassium chloride—is an essential plant nutrient and critical ingredient in fertilizer mined in only three U.S. locations. Supplies are dwindling and prices skyrocketing.

The discovery was made by using the treasure trove of geologic data that is housed in the Department of Geosciences' Michigan Geological Repository for Research and Education. The result of the rediscovery, say geologists, will be the introduction of a new industry in Michigan worth as much as \$65 billion, easily surpassing the state's historical oil and gas production revenues and triggering explosive job growth in

Osceola and Mecosta counties.

Verification of the quality and amount of the potash in the Borgen Bed, which lies under more than 14,500 acres in the two counties, was done by using geologic core samples provided by WMU geologists under



From left, William Harrison, Pagano and Linda Harrison. (Photo by Mike Lanka).

the direction of William B. Harrison III, emeritus in geosciences and MGRRE director. In 2008, Harrison and his wife, Linda, an MGRRE administrator, obtained core samples collected in the early 1980s by a Canadian company prospecting for potash in Michigan. That

company established a mine and small processing plant but pulled back from fully commercializing the potash deposit.

"This is conceivably one of Michigan's most valuable resources," says Theodore A. Pagano, a potash geologist and general manager of Michigan Potash Co. LLC.

His firm now controls the rediscovered potassium ore reserve. For the past three

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## WMU again on U.S. News' top-tier universities list

WMU is making its 23rd consecutive appearance this year on the *U.S. News & World Report's* annual list of "best national universities."

The publication's 2014 ranking of more than 1,500 four-year colleges and universities was unveiled Sept. 10 at [usnews.com](http://usnews.com) and will be available later this month in a print guidebook on newsstands. WMU is listed as one of the top-tier universities among 281 institutions—173 public, 101 private and seven for-profit—that the magazine singles out as having national standing and being among the nation's best.

WMU's overall numerical rank among the top public and private universities this year is 181—eight slots higher than its 2012 ranking. The University also is one of slightly more than 100 public universities on the list.

## Surge seen in several 2013 enrollment categories

WMU's fall 2013 enrollment figures show a 5.1 percent increase in the number of new freshmen, as well as strong surges in the number of both international students and graduate students seeking doctoral degrees.

The official fall census was taken at the close of the day Sept. 10. As predicted earlier this month, smaller upper-level classes from earlier years' entering classes led to a slight overall enrollment decrease of 1.2 percent over last year's figures. WMU's total enrollment for fall 2013 is 24,294.

The 5.1 percent increase in the number of beginning freshmen is among the largest percentage increases officially announced this fall by any Michigan public university. Despite steep decreases in the number of



Michigan high school graduates over the past five years, WMU had its largest applicant pool in a decade.

"Our enrollment increases are strongly reflected in programs for which Western Michigan University has a growing national and international reputation," President John M. Dunn said in announcing the tally.

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# Around campus and beyond

**Editor's note:** Visit [wmich.edu/news/events](http://wmich.edu/news/events) for details and more event news.

## Energy, climate change is talk focus

Bob Inglis, executive director of the Energy and Enterprise Initiative, will present "The Role of Free Enterprise and Government: A Conservative Republican Talks Substantive and Political Solutions" at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 24, in 1920 Sangren Hall.

## Anthropologist to give public lecture

Michael Nassaney, anthropology, will talk about his discoveries at Fort St. Joseph at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 25, in the Parchment (Mich.) Community Library.

## Ethics center presentation slated

Ron Kramer, sociology, will address the possible criminality of climate change in a Center for the Study of Ethics in Society presentation at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 25, in 105-107 Bernhard Center. His talk is titled "Is Climate Change a Crime? Moral, Legal and Political Perspectives."

## Engineering Expo set for Sept. 26

A range of job opportunities for engineers will be showcased during the Engineering Expo from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 26, in the main lobby of the Engineering and Applied Sciences Building.

## Artist opens humanities center series

Michele Oka Doner, an internationally renowned artist whose works encompass sculpture, furniture, jewelry, public art, functional objects and video, will speak at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 26, in the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park St. Her talk is part of the Center for the Humanities "Changing Climates" series.

## Keystone Bank features hockey coach

Head coach Andy Murry will discuss his experience leading the hockey team when he speaks at 8 a.m. Friday, Sept. 27, in the Dean's Conference Room of Schneider Hall as part of the Keystone Community Bank Breakfast Speaker Series. The free event begins with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Reservations are required by calling (269) 387-5050.

## Service-learning office to host annual Campus and Community Breakfast

The Office of Service-Learning is hosting its annual Campus and Community Breakfast and award gathering from 8 to 9:30 a.m. Friday, Sept. 27, in the Bernhard Center. The free event is intended primarily for WMU's faculty, staff, students and service-learning community partners. Registration is required. Day-of-event registration will be available beginning at 7:45 a.m.

## Open house slated for University's Kleinstuck Preserve

Kalamazoo's 48-acre Kleinstuck Preserve will be celebrated during a public gathering from 5 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 22, at the Kazoo School, 1401 Cherry St.

It is being organized by the Stewards of Kleinstuck to celebrate recent accomplishments and bring the community together on

### Reception

Members of the campus community are invited to a welcome reception for Wolfgang F. Schlör, associate provost for the Haenicke Institute (effective Oct. 1), from 3 to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 8, in the Oaklands.



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**DEADLINE:** Items to be considered for publication should be submitted to the Office of University Relations by 5 p.m. Friday the week preceding publication. Fall publication dates are **Sept. 5 and 19; Oct. 3, 17 and 31; Nov. 14; and Dec. 5.** Items may be submitted to Jeanne Baron via: email, [jeanne.baron@wmich.edu](mailto:jeanne.baron@wmich.edu); mail, Campus Mail Stop 5433; phone, (269) 387-8433; or fax, (269) 387-8422.

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behalf of the natural area, which is one of WMU's two preserves. Attendees will be able to hear a short program, take guided walks and enjoy music as well as refreshments.

### Correction

Newly married Debby Honsberger, Make a Difference Annual Award winner, was incorrectly listed under her previous name of Bitterman in the Sept. 5 *Western News*.

### Exchange

**For sale**—Professor's charming 1,300-square-foot home, plus furniture pieces. Two to three bedrooms, two baths, full library, fireplace, finished walkout basement, two decks, and new roof and chimney. Near Kalamazoo Country Club. \$125,000. Also, a like-new Gov. Winthrop desk, \$450 (originally \$1,600), and a light mahogany Kanabe grand piano, \$800. Call (269) 344-2365.

**For sale**—Four trailers, three vans and two forklifts by WMU Surplus Sales. This is a sealed-bid vehicle sale set for Monday, Sept. 30, through 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 4. Available items will be on view in Parking Lot 95 by the Campus Services Building during that time period. For bid forms and additional information, contact Laura Diamond at (269) 387-8829.

### Jobs

Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources website at [wmich.edu/hr/careers-at-wmu.html](http://wmich.edu/hr/careers-at-wmu.html). Please note that applications must be submitted online by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included with each posting.

## Translation expert teaches in U.K.

Jeffrey Angles, world languages and literatures and director of the Soga Japan Center, was invited to Norwich, England



Angles

this summer to teach in the British Centre for Literary Translation Summer Programme.

Internationally known for his translations, Angles was chosen to lead the Japanese-to-English workshop. The centre offers a unique model for teaching translation. It brings together an accomplished translator, some 10 advanced students from around the world and a famous author.

The translator and students spend a week with the invited author, working on the author's translation and critiquing each other's final results. Those activities often lead to publication of a translated work.

## Prof elected to international board

Yvette D. Hyter, speech pathology and audiology, is serving on the Board of Directors of the International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatrics.



Hyter

Association members from 57 countries elected Hyter to the post during their triennial congress in Torino, Italy, Aug. 25 through 29.

Founded in 1924 in Vienna, Austria, IALP is the oldest international group working from a global perspective on scientific, educational and professional issues affecting people with communication, language, voice, speech, hearing and swallowing disorders.

Hyter also serves as chair of IALP's Child Language Committee and is a member of the Special Interest Group on Global Issues in Communication and Related Disorders of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. At WMU, she chairs the College of Health and Human Services Committee on Diversity and Inclusion and serves on the Faculty Senate International Education Council.

## Psychologist earns national recognition

Ron VanHouten, psychology, has received national recognition for being lead author on a paper titled "Effects of High-Visibility



Van Houten

Enforcement on Driver Compliance to Pedestrian Yield Right-of-Way Laws."

The paper earned the Transportation Research Board Executive Committee's Waller Award as the best 2013 paper in the area of safety and system users, and also was acknowledged by the U.S. secretary of transportation as an important work. His co-writers were WMU faculty member Bradley Huitema, psychology; Sarah Casella, WMU doctoral student; Louis Malenfant, Center for Education and Research in Safety; and Richard Blomberg, Dunlap and Associates.

Van Houten joined the faculty in 2005 and has attracted nearly \$2.5 million for his traffic safety research. His pedestrian safety research has led to a new way to improve pedestrian safety. Many of his discoveries have made their way into the Manual on Traffic Control Devices.

# Five employees earn Universitywide service, teaching awards

One staff member and four faculty members will receive 2012-13 Distinguished Service and Distinguished Teaching awards.

They will be presented during the Academic Convocation at 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 4, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall.

## Distinguished Service Award

This award recognizes one staff member and one faculty member who have built careers that exemplify exceptional service to the University and to the larger community.

• **Alan E. Kehew** is a professor of geosciences and director of the Michigan Geological Survey. Kehew joined the faculty in 1986 and has twice served as chair of the Department of Geosciences. For advancing understanding of Michigan's glacial geology, he was named Outstanding Geologist of the Year by the state section of the American Institute of Professional Geologists.



Kehew

Several of his nominators cited him for that work as well as his environmental work. He also was praised for distinguishing himself and elevating his department through both service and research.

• **Toni Woolfork-Barnes** is director of First-Year Experience. Woolfork-Barnes joined the staff in 1984 and previously served in

administrative positions housed in the Division of Multicultural Affairs and as a science education research associate.

She is known as a tireless advocate and supporter of students who has shaped FYE into the student-centered, well-rounded and effective program it is today. She also was praised for her caring nature, never turning away students in need and her evident desire to help students excel.

## Distinguished Teaching Award

This award is the University's highest teaching honor. It goes to exceptional educators and mentors who demonstrate outstanding dedication.

• **Holly J. Nibert** is an associate professor of Spanish. Nibert joined the faculty in 1999.



Woolfork-Barnes



Nibert

She was lauded by former students and co-workers for her commitment to the department, the Spanish program and the success of her students. She also received praise for being a mentor and role model for teaching assistants as well as a key player in advancing the Spanish program.

• **Paul R. Solomon** is an associate professor of art and director of the Direct Encounter With the Arts Program. Solomon joined the faculty in 1995.



Solomon

He was praised for bringing new art experiences and the latest technology into his classroom, promoting an open and supportive environment, and devoting great attention and dedication to each student's success.

• **Sarah E. Summy** is an associate professor of special education and literacy. Summy joined the faculty in 1998.



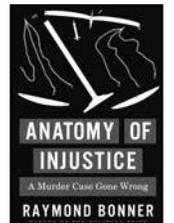
Summy

Former students touted her for having an amazing wealth of knowledge in her area of study, continuously expanding that knowledge base, and always being available and approachable. Colleagues described her as someone who challenges them to think outside the box while collaborating with them to improve departmental programs.

## Fall book-read events planned

Fall events are underway for the common reading of "Anatomy of Injustice: A Murder Case Gone Wrong" by Raymond Bonner.

The public is invited to join Universitywide Common Read 2013-14 by attending two upcoming events being held in the Bernhard Center.



• Tuesday, Sept. 24, features a panel discussion and brown bag lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Faculty Dining Room with panelists Donald Cooney, social work; Ashlyn Kuersten, gender and women's studies; and E. Dorphine Payne, Kalamazoo attorney.

• Monday, Oct. 14, Bonner will make a presentation and sign his book from 7 to 10 p.m. in the North Ballroom.

## School celebrates centennial

The School of Music is celebrating its 100th anniversary by staging several events this semester that showcase its wide variety of faculty and student ensembles.

Large and small vocal and musical ensembles will be highlighted, from the internationally known Gold Company to novelty groups like the Kalamazoo Laptop Orchestra.

Most events are free, including the Centennial gala featuring the Johnny Rodgers Band at 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 27, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall and the All-Steinway Celebration at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 13, in the recital hall.

In addition, the school is organizing a major conference Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 9-10, that will examine the scientific, artistic and clinical thinking around the use of music in therapy, medicine and education.

For more centennial event information, visit [wmich.edu/music/events](http://wmich.edu/music/events) and [wmich.edu/brain/conference2013](http://wmich.edu/brain/conference2013).

## AD CAMPAIGN EVOKES EMOTION

This year has been a transitional one for WMU's recruitment materials, but the basic colors, look and feel of the University's brand remain the same. The prior three years were centered around the successful "Smart Ride" campaign, which featured the best and brightest incoming students from around Michigan. The new "Go West" campaign still emphasizes quality, but it also plays heavily on the desire of students to find a personal place to pursue discovery and invites them to seize control of their futures and explore the possibilities WMU has to offer.



## Service

The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 40, 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service during September.

**40 Years**—Robert J. Brown, public safety.

**35 Years**—Vena D. Brower, maintenance services, and Karen Ferrara, Burnham Dining Service.

**30 Years**—Tanya Bellamy, Walker Institute; Terri L. Hageman, logistical services; Vicky A. Meinema, accounting; and Peninah S. Miller, Mallinson Institute.

**25 Years**—Lori A. Bell, construction; Patrick L. Lem, maintenance services; Steven F. Thomas, information technology; David D. VanHeulen, telecommunications; Minnie White, building custodial and support services; Thomas R. Wolf Jr., information technology; and Ralph N. Yingling, Haworth College of Business.

**20 Years**—Melissa K. Hess, grants and contracts, and Robert D. Purk, landscape services.

**15 Years**—Robert L. Coffman, public safety; Charles F. Ide, biological sciences; Joyce R. Lew, student conduct; Steven D. Miller, Center for Academic Success Programs; Eunice Perez Ruiz, public safety; and Mark E. Schwerin, university relations.

**10 Years**—Scot R. Conant, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences; Jill E. Hamilton, admissions; and Gregory J. Rosine, government affairs.

**Five Years**—Paula S. Bucknell, Extended University Programs; Dalee Camp, admissions; Nicole A. Cook, student financial aid and scholarships; Tracy Lynn Corstange, College of Education and Human Development; Tomika Denise Griffin-Brown, Haworth College of Business; Dustin James Hubbell, public safety; William B. Long II, power plant; Rebecca L. Powers, mathematics; Christine Robinson, Haworth College of Business; Jennifer L. Townsend, Lee Honors College; and Christopher E. Voss, admissions.

## On Campus with Maddy Day



CENTERED ON SUCCESS  
(Photo by Deanne Puca)

During her time working with foster care child placement services, Maddy Day began to appreciate the challenges foster-care youth face.

Her commitment to those young people led her to WMU in 2012, where she is director of outreach and training for the Center for Fostering Success. In this role, she oversees the Fostering Success Michigan initiative, working to increase access and success in post-secondary education for youth and alumni of foster care ages 12 to 25 throughout Michigan.

It's a job that has taken her to Lansing, Mich., and Washington, D.C., advocating for foster care programs. Fostering Success Michigan works with campus-based programs at 10 colleges and universities, including WMU, in Michigan that support students from foster care.

She was drawn to Michigan because of the state's reputation of being progressive in helping youth and alumni of foster care succeed in higher education and, specifically, with WMU's Seita Scholars Program. Her office is relatively new at the University, started in 2012 with a grant from the Kresge Foundation.

"There are a lot of legislative efforts going on. It's exciting to see this movement spread," Day says. "I'm extremely fortunate that I have the support of upper administration at Western that makes this so successful. We can be creative and can offer support for people who are looking for support programs."

Fostering Success Michigan focuses on three strategies: providing resources, networking and support for students from foster care and the professionals who support them.

"If the state is taking a child out of a home, the state should be responsible to make sure that child is successful," Day says. "Education is a huge game-changer in people's lives. We're doing what it takes to get students to succeed in education."

Day has spent most of her life in the Pacific Northwest. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Washington, where she also started a foster care support program.

A dual citizen of the United States and Canada, Day split her time growing up between family in the suburbs of Seattle and Vancouver, British Columbia. She enjoys traveling, reading and cooking, especially with fresh items from local food markets.

### Pockets of concern set agenda for coming initiatives

An overwhelming majority of the campus community views diversity and inclusion as values that are respected and valued at WMU, and a smaller but still sizeable majority view University leaders as supportive of those values.

In addition to overall positive perceptions, the study uncovered areas of concern and a reluctance among some employees and students to report inequitable treatment when it does occur.

Those are the top-line results of an extensive study of WMU's diversity climate conducted during 2012-13.

It was conducted by a campus committee and Roger Worthington, a veteran researcher and consultant from the University of Missouri who has studied diversity climates at schools across the nation.

A series of town hall meetings set for the

first week of October will bring Worthington back to WMU to present his findings and help begin the process of implementing the study's recommendations. The sessions will be held in the Bernhard Center at:

- 6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 2, in 157,
- 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 3, in the East Ballroom, and
- 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 3, in 105-107.

The WMU study, which was the product of a multiyear effort, employed both a survey instrument and focus groups. It was commissioned by the University to take an in-depth look at diversity and inclusion issues on campus and identify those areas where improvement is needed.

Campus officials say they're pleased at the overall views detailed in study results, and gratified that the work uncovered specific issues that need to be addressed and corrected.

### Surge seen in several categories

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Dunn noted freshman and graduate enrollment in the engineering college is particularly good, and strong growth continues for freshman enrollment in the aviation and honors colleges. Also reported:

- International student enrollment, with 1,688 students from 104 nations, grew by 7.2 percent.
- The number of students pursuing a degree in one of WMU's 30 doctoral degree programs increased by 3.7 percent.
- Graduate students comprise 21 percent of WMU's overall enrollment, down a fraction of a percentage point over last year.
- Minority student enrollment now stands at 19.5 percent of the total student body.
- Nearly 88 percent of students come from Michigan, but out-of-state enrollment increased by 2.8 percent this year.

### Rare potash deposit rediscovered in state

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years, it has worked quietly to ensure the reserve could be technically, economically and logistically put into production and compete head to head with the major North American sources of potash—New Mexico and western Canada.

"This is the United States' only shovel-ready potash project," Pagano says. "Michigan is New Mexico untapped. What we're looking at is the introduction of an industry that is critical to the economic health of the state. We'll be producing a Michigan product

for Michigan farmers that would dramatically reduce the expensive transport costs on the more than 300,000 tons of potash consumed in our state annually.

"Without Bill and Linda Harrison, Michigan and the United States would be without the rediscovery of a multibillion-dollar potash deposit," says Pagano, who learned through industry sources that the Harrisons might be able to help him.

Potash is found in just a few areas once covered by inland seas. The seas evaporated

and the potassium and sodium chloride deposits crystallized into potash ore and were covered by successive layers of rock and soil.

The Michigan deposit is the purest and highest-grade potash being produced globally, William Harrison says. It is 600 percent higher than that being produced in New Mexico's vast Permian Basin. It also is twice the grade of deposits found in Canada and Russia, the two nations that control more than 80 percent of the world's potash reserve.



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