



# Western News

For and about WMU faculty and staff

MARCH 28, 2013  
Volume 39, Number 13

## Nominations due for annual awards

The nomination deadline is Monday, April 1, for some of WMU's most prestigious faculty and staff awards presented during the annual Academic Convocation: the Distinguished Service Award, Distinguished Teaching Award and Emerging Scholar Award. Visit [wmich.edu/provost](http://wmich.edu/provost) and click 2013 Faculty and Staff Awards for eligibility, criteria and nomination guidelines.

## Campus urged to take library survey

All students and employees are encouraged to participate in the 10-minute, online LibQUAL+ survey being conducted by University Libraries through Monday, April 8. Respondents may enter a random drawing to win an iPad4 or one of three \$100 prepaid Visa cards. Visit [wmich.edu/library/libqual](http://wmich.edu/library/libqual) for more information and to take the survey.

## Gilmore Festival discount available

Because WMU is a Gilmore International Keyboard Festival sponsor, all University employees will receive a 15 percent discount on the purchase of tickets for the festival's presentation of one of the world's greatest living pianists, Mitsuko Uchida. Uchida will present a recital at 8 p.m. Saturday, April 13, in Chenery Auditorium, and there will be a pre-concert talk at 7 p.m.

The employee discount is not accessible online. Discounted tickets may be ordered from Miller Auditorium in person or by calling (269) 387-2300 or (800) 228-9858 and providing the discount password, which is "2013." Visit [thegilmore.org/events/mitsuko-uchida](http://thegilmore.org/events/mitsuko-uchida) to learn more about Uchida and her program. Direct questions to Mary McCormick at [mmccormick@thegilmore.org](mailto:mmccormick@thegilmore.org), (269) 342-1166 or (855) 845-1768.

## WMU plans first Lavender Graduation

Nominations are being accepted through Friday, April 5, for campuswide awards that will be presented during the Lavender Graduation ceremony, set for 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 25, in the Fetzer Center in honor of WMU's lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender and ally students. Visit [wmich.edu/diversityandinclusion/lgbt](http://wmich.edu/diversityandinclusion/lgbt) for award guidelines and an online nomination form.

## Part-time faculty contract approved

By unanimous vote during a special conference-call meeting March 20, trustees approved a new three-year contract with the Professional Instructors Organization, a union representing about 650 non-tenure-track part-time instructors. The contract will go into effect Aug. 21 and run through Aug. 20, 2016.

The agreement provides for a minimum per-credit-hour rate of \$800 in year one, \$825 in year two and \$850 in year three of the contract. The compensation base increases 3.16 percent over the contract life. Other contract adjustments include eliminating continuing pay and senior status.

## WMU reveling in its 'All-Steinway' status

The University's celebrated School of Music will hit its 100th anniversary this year as the first and only university in Michigan to be named an All-Steinway Music School.

With 118 of the world-renowned pianos gracing the stages, classrooms and practice studios of the school, WMU officials are already seeing the \$2 million investment by private donors have an impact, as applicants to its highly selective music programs respond positively to the quality commitment the Steinway designation demonstrates.



(Photo courtesy of Steinway)



have an impact, as applicants to its highly selective music programs respond positively to the quality commitment the Steinway designation demonstrates.

"Prospective students note the School of Music's Steinway piano inventory, and the new instruments make quite an impression, especially on those visiting the school for the first time," says David J. Colson, the school's director. "The new

pianos have become a point of pride for many of our current students. They are especially appreciative to have instruments on which to practice and perform that inspire their growth as musicians."

WMU joins more than 150 top international music schools to have earned the All-Steinway designation, which requires that 90 percent of the school's pianos be designed by Steinway & Sons. The world's All-Steinway Schools include Oberlin College Conservatory of Music, Yale School of Music, the Curtis Institute, the University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music, the Cleveland Institute of Music, James Madison University, and Beijing's Central Conservatory of Music, School of Piano.

As an All-Steinway school, WMU is entitled to use the Steinway logo on its website and in recruitment materials and can use Steinway Hall in New York City for an annual event for alumni. Margaret Merrion, College of Fine Arts dean, says fundraising to be an All-Steinway program began five years ago, with the first pianos arriving in late 2008.

The timeline for completion was driven by the School of Music's 100th anniversary celebration. Now in progress, the observance will culminate with a series of special fall concerts, including an Oct. 13 piano concert that will honor the All-Steinway designation. That event is expected to include a formal presentation by representatives of Steinway & Sons.

The funding to achieve the designation came from a variety of donors, Merrion says, but two local foundations—the Dorothy U. Dalton Foundation and the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation—were among early significant donors and provided impetus for the fundraising campaign.

## Cousins, Hearit named to prestigious fellows program

Linwood Cousins, director of the School of Social Work, and Keith M. Hearit, communication, have been named American Council on Education Fellows for 2013-14.

They were among just 50 senior faculty members and administrators from around the nation named to be part of the prestigious program.

Fellows are nominated by their presidents and chancellors and selected in a rigorous application process. The only schools having two of its faculty members selected are WMU, Purdue and Ohio State universities, and the University of Texas at Arlington.

Each ACE Fellow will focus on an issue of concern to his or her home institution while spending the next academic year working with a college or university president and other senior officers at a host institution.

Established in 1965, the ACE Fellows Program strengthens institutions and leadership in American higher education by identifying and preparing promising senior faculty and administrators for responsible positions in

college and university administration.

Cousins is an expert in family and community practice as well as culture and human diversity. He taught social work at WMU from 1994 to 1999. Before returning in 2009, he was an associate professor of anthropology at Kalamazoo College, associate professor and interim chair of social work at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and professor and chair of social work and communication sciences and disorders at Longwood



Cousins



Hearit

University in Virginia.

Hearit, an expert in crisis communication and issue management, has been a faculty member since 1996. He returned to the faculty last summer after serving five years as WMU's vice provost for strategic enrollment management. He was appointed interim dean of the Lee Honors College in 2006, elevated to honors college dean in mid-2007, and held the latter appointment concurrently with the vice provost position until early 2010.

# Around campus and beyond

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

## NPR host part of reading together

Journalist, media analyst and author Brooke Gladstone, host of National Public Radio's "On the Media," will speak at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 2, in 2452 Knauss Hall as part of the Kalamazoo Public Library's Reading Together activities.

Her free presentation complements a theme in 2013's Reading Together selection, Amy Waldman's "The Submission," which has to do with how the media impact the public's decisions, perceptions and, in some cases, people's identities.

Gladstone will speak on "The Influence of the Media." A reception and book signing will follow her talk, and copies of Gladstone's latest release, "The Influencing Machine: Brooke Gladstone on the Media," will be for sale. Visit [kpl.gov/reading-together/2013](http://kpl.gov/reading-together/2013) for details.

## Poet is next Frostic Series presenter

Jean Valentine, New York City poet and winner of the National Book Award and several other high honors, will read from her works at 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 2, in the Little Theatre as part of the Gwen Frostic Reading Series. The poetry reading is free and open to the public.

## Geography whiz kids to invade WMU

About 100 middle-school geography whizzes will gather Friday, April 5, in the Fetzer Center's Kirsch Auditorium for the 2013 Michigan Geographic Bee. Participants will test their knowledge

of the world and possibly win a trip to Washington, D.C., for the championship event May 20-22.

This will be the National Geographic Bee's 25th anniversary and the sixth time WMU has been host of the Michigan Geographic Bee. The competition begins with preliminary rounds at 12:30 p.m., followed by the competition finals at about 2:15 p.m. The public is invited to attend the competition's finals portion only.

## Climate, energy policy is talk topic

Two speakers will be featured in the next Lee Honors College Lyceum Lecture, set for noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 10, in the Lee Honors College lounge.

Mark Schauer, a Democrat and former U.S. Representative for Michigan, will speak on "A Democratic Perspective on the Politics of Clean Energy Policy." Rob Sisson, a Republican and ConservAmerica president, will speak on "A Call for Republican Leadership on Climate: the Conservative Case of Climate Action."

## APA event to honor staff members

The Administrative Professional Association will recognize the 2013 recipients of its annual awards during a Pillars of Support event at 5 p.m. Thursday, April 18, in the Fetzer Center. The event will begin with socializing and appetizers and be followed at 5:30 p.m. by an awards ceremony. Door prizes will be drawn at 6 p.m. To register, send your name, title and department by Thursday, April 11, to [lynda.hunt@wmich.edu](mailto:lynda.hunt@wmich.edu) or via fax to (269) 387-8770.

## Event to benefit honors students studying off campus

Honors students studying abroad or in locations around the nation will benefit from the Scholar Scamper Thursday, April 4.

The event features a 5K run and walk at 6 p.m. and a 1K kids' fun run at 5:30 p.m., all of which will start in front of the Lee Honors College building and follow courses laid out

to showcase the WMU campus.

Intended to be an annual event, the scamper will raise funds for scholarships to help defray costs for students who study abroad or take part in the honors college's Study in the States experience, which takes students on learning excursions to U.S. points of significant historical and cultural interest.

A preregistration deadline of 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 2, allows participants to register at reduced rates. Four-person teams may register by the April 2 early registration deadline only. The 1K fun run is free and open to children ages 10 and under.

For registration forms and more information, visit [signmeup.com/site/online-event-registration/90012](http://signmeup.com/site/online-event-registration/90012).

## Correction

The years of continuous service were incorrectly reported in the March 14 issue of the *Western News* for Darryl Salisbury. He will retire after 38 years of service to the University.

## 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.

## Professor receives Google grant

Pnina Ari-Gur, mechanical and aerospace engineering, has won a grant from Google to teach skills in 3-D computer modeling and game design to high school computer science instructors. Equipped with these new skills, the high school instructors can then teach the computer applications to their own students.



Ari-Gur

The \$13,500 award is from Google's Computer Science for High School program, or CS4HS, an initiative to promote computer science and computational thinking in high school and middle school curricula.

As principal investigator, Ari-Gur will lead a team of three other WMU faculty members. They will offer two- to three-day workshops July 1, 2 and 8 on campus to 25 high school computer science instructors from around the country.

## Choreographer takes top award

Kirsten Harvey, dance, was selected from a field of 16 professional choreographers to receive the top award at the 2014 Choreographic Sponsorship Event in Chicago. The competition was hosted by Inaside Chicago Dance, a professional jazz dance company.



Harvey

Harvey's dance "Black Iris," which debuted last year at WMU's Winter Gala Dance Concert, was named the winner at the three-day event. Her students traveled with her to Chicago to perform the jazz dance. All of the other works performed at the competition were performed by professional dancers.

Harvey, who specializes in jazz dance and musical theatre, is completing her fourth year on WMU's faculty. As part of her award, she will have the chance to choreograph a new work for Inaside's all-female troupe during its 2013-14 season.

## Emeritus invited to national workshop

Philip Micklin, emeritus in geography, was one of six U.S. water management specialists invited by the U.S. National Academy of Sciences to participate in a March 4-9 workshop devoted to water management issues in the United States, Europe and Iran.



Micklin

In addition to the U.S. participants, there were three scientists from France and six water management experts from the Islamic Republic of Iran. The meeting was hosted by the Foundation les Treilles of Paris. Plans are to hold a follow-up meeting in Iran sometime next year.

Workshop participants made presentations on global water management issues as well as water management issues in Iran, the Mediterranean Basin, the U.S. southwest and Central Asia. Micklin gave a talk on the Aral Sea, a formerly very large lake in Central Asia that has been experiencing rapid desiccation since the early 1960s. The lake and water management issues more generally in Central Asia have been major research foci for him since the early 1980s.



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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 **Jan. 10 and 24, Feb. 7 and 21, March 14 and 28, and April 11.** Items may be submitted to Jeanne Baron at [jeanne.baron@wmich.edu](mailto:jeanne.baron@wmich.edu), (269) 387-8422 or Campus Mail Stop 5433.

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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

## Cumming named to lead Registrar's Office

Carrie Cumming has been named to the position of registrar, effective March 11.

Cumming has held the post on an interim basis since late 2010. As head of the Registrar's Office, she is responsible for the accuracy and security of all student records as well as course registration, class and facility scheduling, graduation audits, the preparation of transcripts and oversight of federal student privacy law compliance.



Cumming

Cumming already has been leading efforts to increase the use of new technology in areas that the Registrar's Office oversees. That includes providing mobile technology that allows students to access their schedules, grades and University catalogs on a smartphone; developing a new textbook requisition process; and implementing a new electronic transcript processing system that allows 24/7 online transcript requests and tracking.

She also helped select a new diploma vendor offering more options and reduced costs and helped implement reverse transfer agreements with seven community colleges. She is currently leading the implementation of Degree Works, a Web-based tool that helps students monitor progress toward degree completion. That large project is scheduled to go live in May.

Cumming, who earned her bachelor's degree from WMU in 1994, is currently working on a master's degree. She joined the University as a staff member in the Registrar's Office in 1993 and became a supervisor of academic records in 1996. She was named associate registrar in 2003 and senior associate registrar in 2007.

## Dinosaurs, spaceships part of Children's Place camps

The Children's Place Learning Center is enrolling school-aged children for its 2013 Campus Kids summer theme camp that begins June 3 and continues through Aug.

30. WMU employees who sign up children until Sunday, March 31, will receive 10 percent off summer tuition.

Parents may sign up children by the week, or for the entire summer. Weekly rates are \$188. Enrollment is limited, so those interested are

urged to register early while space is available. Children who have completed kindergarten through age 9 are eligible.

Campus Kids focuses on a different theme each week. During the week, the children work on projects related to that theme.

Summer themes include learning about dinosaurs, blasting off into space, creating a Campus Kids museum and more. Supplemental to the projects are a variety of field trips and activities on campus.



(Photo courtesy of the Children's Place)

Children's Place hours are 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Special childcare arrangements are available before the summer program start date, and regular learning programs are available for children age 18 months to 5 years. Hourly rates are \$5.16 for WMU students, \$6.20 for faculty and staff, and \$6.70 for others. To register or for more information, call (269) 387-2277.

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## Film, discussion focus on sexual assault in military

WMU will host a free screening and panel discussion of "The Invisible War," a documentary about sexual assault in the U.S. military, at 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 15, in the Little Theatre.

It is being spearheaded by WMU Trustee Mary Asmonga-Knapp and Angela Moe, sociology, and is part of the local observance of April as National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

Counselors will be available on site throughout the evening, and informational displays and literature along with complimentary refreshments will be available in the theatre lobby.

WMU's showing of "The Invisible War" will be followed by a short intermission and a panel discussion featuring Asmonga-Knapp, manager of the Family Advocacy Program

for the Department of Defense's Defense Logistics Agency in Battle Creek, Mich.; Joetta Carr, a WMU counselor specializing in sexual assault recovery; and Malcolm Marson, U.S. Air Force Vietnam veteran and retired civilian contractor for the USO.

Kelle Brooks, a YWCA crisis response volunteer and army veteran, will also participate.

## Time fading to respond to Chronicle survey

With the *Chronicle of Higher Education* relying on faculty and staff feedback to determine which of the nation's schools are "America's Great Colleges to Work For," WMU employees who have been invited to weigh in have until April 15 to share their views about the University as a workplace.

An anonymous email survey was sent to a randomly selected number of employees the week of March 16-17. Those invited to participate in the survey have until April 15 to reply. This is the fifth year the University has participated in the survey.

The *Chronicle's* Great Colleges to Work For program recognizes small groups of colleges (based on enrollment size) for specific best practices and policies, such as compensation and benefits, faculty-administration relations, and confidence in senior leadership. The *Chronicle* bases its assessments on the random survey as well as an institutional audit that captured demographics, and workplace policies and practices.

In 2009, the first year the University participated in the *Chronicle* initiative, WMU was named one of the top-10 large colleges in the nation in five separate categories: providing health care benefits, tuition remission, life insurance, disability insurance and post-retirement benefits.

## Graduate, faculty research showcased at daylong event

Graduate students and faculty members who have previously received a Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award will showcase their scholarly work Friday, April 5, in the East Ballroom of the Bernhard Center as part of the seventh annual WMU Research and Creative Activities Poster Day.

The free public event includes poster presentations of research from 9 to 11 a.m. Keynote addresses will follow from 11 a.m. to noon from 2012 Emerging Scholars Award winners Jeffrey Angles, world languages and literatures, and Sherine Obare, chemistry.

Lunch begins at noon with an awards presentation from 12:45 to 1 p.m. Awards recognizing the outstanding graduate student poster presentations will be announced.

For more information, contact [allison.weiner@wmich.edu](mailto:allison.weiner@wmich.edu) or (269) 387-8376.

## Obituaries

**Editor's Note:** Visit [wmich.edu/news/obituaries](http://wmich.edu/news/obituaries) for full obituaries.

**James W. "Bill" Armstrong**, emeritus in education and professional development, died Feb. 23. He was 85. A memorial service will be held Saturday, June 22, in Portage, Mich. Memorial gifts may be made to the memorial garden at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1515 Helen Ave., Portage, MI 49002.

**Windellin S. Ashbrook**, a retired assistant baker in Burnham Dining Services, died Jan. 2. She was 77. Memorial gifts may be made to the Bud Israels Scholarship Fund c/o Portage-Schoolcraft Eagles #3531 and payable to FOE 3531 Scholarship Fund, 11611 Shaver Road, Schoolcraft, MI 49087.

**Ruth M. Davis**, emerita in health, physical education and recreation, died Dec. 16,

2012. She was 89.

**Clyde Gillette**, a retired assistant manager in building custodial and support services, died March 5. He was 81.

**Jerome G. Manis**, emeritus in sociology, died Feb. 23. He was 95. Memorial gifts may be made to the Kokua Council, c/o Harris Methodist Church, 20 S. Vineyard Blvd., Honolulu, HI 96813.

**Jane Nichols**, a retired finance clerk for the WMU Bookstore, died Jan. 8 at age 89. 3



Armstrong



Davis



Manis

## Receptions

**Leonard Ginsberg**, biological sciences, will be honored for his 35 years of service to the University during a retirement reception from 3:30 to 6 p.m. Thursday, April 11, in the Oaklands.

**Darrel Drummond**, information technology, will be honored for his 40 years of service to the University during a retirement reception from 3 to 5 p.m. Friday, April 12, in the Oaklands.

## On Campus with Kathy Gilbert



MAKING A HOME AWAY FROM HOME  
(Photo by Deanne Puca)

There is no typical day for Kathy Gilbert, as she and the staff at the Children's Place Learning Center care for WMU's youngest learners on campus, from toddlers to preschoolers.

Gilbert has been director of the center since day one of its opening in 1996, and she has grown the center from serving just 12 preschool children to now close to 55 families with both preschool and toddler rooms. Family activities include Family Fun nights each semester and frequent parent support group meetings held at the center.

As the center has grown, Gilbert has helped with its expansion to two rooms and accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Services are available to all students, faculty, staff and the greater community, but a large population of Children's Place families are international students, Gilbert says.

"I think about our parents who are raising a child while attending college and have to do an assignment or project, or perhaps also have a job," she says. "I'm proud of the flexibility we offer and the support we give to parents. We nurture student success."

Gilbert joined WMU in 1996, shortly before the center opened. At that time, it was a preschool program with about a dozen children. In 2003, Children's Place added the toddler room for younger children. It is licensed for 38 children but, because many of the slots used are part time, the center can serve more children and at present, has up to 55 families. The center's future vision includes expanding into infant care.

The best part of her job is getting to know a wide variety of people, she says.

"I definitely enjoy creating the relationships and bonds with the children and their families, meeting people from all over the world and all walks of life" she says. "We help prepare children for life-long learning, and also learn about different cultures and ways of life."

Originally from Indiana, Gilbert has a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Indiana University and master's degrees in early childhood education and educational technology from WMU. She taught kindergarten in Indiana, then moved to Michigan and later to Kalamazoo with her family.

She has a daughter, Cassie, who graduated from WMU this past December in anthropology, and the two live in Parchment, Mich. Besides spending time with her daughter, she is planning her wedding for April 2014 that will take place on a cruise ship in New Orleans. The newlyweds will then travel to Mexico.

## Semiannual Make a Difference award recipients to be honored at reception

Twelve staff members will be honored as outstanding employees during a reception at 2 p.m. Monday, April 15, in 157 Bernhard Center.

The University community is invited to attend the event, which recognizes the spring 2013 recipients of WMU's semiannual Make a Difference award. They are:

- Donna DeVries, landscape services
- Jeannine Hamilton, Registrar's Office
- Faizan Haq, University Libraries
- Karen Lamons, Residence Life



lege of Education and Human Development  
• Richard Santman, maintenance services  
• Bryan Sutton, maintenance services

• Amell McFletcher, building custodial and support services

• Gracie Mae, Bernhard Center Dining Service

• Cris Obreiter, military science

• Marcy Peake, Col-

• Alison Thor, University Libraries

• Christopher Voss, University Recreation

The Make a Difference award program is a campuswide peer-to-peer program that recognizes University staff members for their outstanding accomplishments and daily investment of energy and creativity.

### Talent Unveiled event slated

A second program to showcase the work of WMU instructors has been set for 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday, April 9, in the University Center for the Humanities in Knauss Hall.

Talent Unveiled: A Festival of WMU Adjuncts' Creative Work is free and open to the public. It will feature 15 performers presenting literature, drama and music.

Among those making presentations will be Joe Sanders, English, who will direct a performance of his short play "Fly-Over State," and Philip E. Kaldon, physics, who will read his science fiction work, "Your First Real Rocket Ship."

Other participants will read from and autograph their poetry as well as display their musical and multilingual abilities.

More Talent Unveiled events are being planned for fall 2013, with the addition of artwork. Those interested in participating may contact Janet Heller at [janetheller@charter.net](mailto:janetheller@charter.net) or Hedy Habra at [hedy.habra@wmich.edu](mailto:hedy.habra@wmich.edu).

## Trustees OK changes to academic programs, names

Several academic-related actions were taken by the WMU Board of Trustees during its Feb. 27 meeting.

Two new programs were approved. They are a Graduate Certificate Program in Biostatistics and music minor in multimedia arts technology.

Also, six existing programs were deleted. They are: aviation flight science major—option B; computer science major—general; electronic business design major; geography major—environmental analysis and resource management option; geography major—geographic information science option; and technology and design major.

Trustees changed the names of six programs, as well. The changes are: student integrated curriculum major to university

studies major; computer science major—theory and analysis to computer science major; aeronautical engineering major to aerospace engineering major; aviation science and administration major to aviation management and operations major; aviation flight science major—option A to aviation flight science major; and manufacturing technology minor to manufacturing minor.

In addition, three department or program name changes were approved. They are: Department of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering to Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering; Gender and Women's Studies Program to Department of Gender and Women's Studies; and Department of Military Science to Department of Military Science and Leadership.