Two commencement ceremonies set
WMU will grant degrees to nearly 1,500 students during two commencement cer-
emonies Saturday, June 30, in Miller Audi-
torium. President John M. Dunn will preside over the summer ceremonies. Visit wmich.
edu/commencement for complete details.
A ceremony will be held at 9 a.m. for graduates of the colleges of Education and
Human Development and Engineering and
Applied Sciences, Extended University Pro-
grams, and the Haworth College of Business.
The second ceremony starts at noon and is for graduates of the colleges of Arts and
Sciences, Aviation, Fine Arts, and Health and
Human Services.
Teaching assistants' contract approved
Acting at their June 7 meeting, WMU
trustees approved terms of a new three-year
contract with the University’s Teaching As-
sistants Union that is effective for the
start of the 2012-13 academic year. The contract
elements were ratified by the WMU chapter
of TAU during a May 23 union vote.
They include a 1 percent wage increase
for graduate assistants at both the master’s and
doctoral levels, while doctoral associ-
ates wages remain frozen for the term of the contract; one additional credit hour per semester for graduate assistants during each of
the contract years, taking the levels for
six to nine credits; and an annual health
care premium subsidy of $1,025 for all TAU
members who participate in WMU’s health
care insurance program.
University to offer new programs
Since spring, the WMU Board of trustees
has signed off on the creation of several academic programs.
The Graduate Certificate Program in
Spirituality, Culture and Health is designed
to be delivered online and to help health
care workers understand and work with the
connection between spiritual beliefs and
care outcomes.
The Doctor of Philosophy in Science Edu-
cation now has concentrations in biological sciences, chemistry, geosciences, geography
and physics.
The new Master of Arts in Leadership for
Organizational Learning and Performance,
an enhancement of the former M.A. in
Human Resources Development, is being offered at WMU’s regional location in Grand
Rapids, Mich., as well as on the main campus.
Western News goes on summer hiatus
Today’s issue of Western News is the last issue for the summer. Western News will
resume its regular publication schedule Sept. 6—the first Thursday after the start of
fall semester. During the hiatus, visit the
WMU News website at wmich.edu/wmu/
news to keep up with everything happening
around campus.

Snyder announces new Wilson Fellows cohort
An engineer who holds 55 patents, Richard McCoy, is among 13 highly skilled people
who are pursuing specially designed master’s degrees at WMU to prepare for careers as science and
math teachers in high-need public schools.
Each of the 13 has received one of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation’s Woodrow Wilson Michi-
gan Teaching Fellowships. This statewide initiative aims to improve student achievement
by placing into secondary-school classrooms career changers or recent college graduates who are
particularly talented in math, science or technology.
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder unveiled the 2012 cohort at a press conference in Lansing June 13. This is the second year of the program in Michigan. WMU and five other state universities are each training a class of fellows. The students were selected for this competi-
tive fellowship for their strong backgrounds in what are known as STEM disciplines—science, technology, engineering and mathematics.
“Great teachers and great teaching can make all the difference for our students, their educational growth, future success and quality of life,” said Snyder in announcing the new fellows. “The W.K. Kellogg Foundation’s Woodrow Wilson Michigan Teaching Fellowship is making tremendous strides toward the goal of providing children across Michigan access to highly effective educators in these critical subject areas, and I commend this work and look forward to its continued role and achievements.”
The Wilson fellowship program, which is offered in other states, aims to attract the best candidates to teaching, cut teacher attrition, put talented educators in high-need schools

Solar racers to pass through Kalamazoo, stop at WMU
The University’s famed solar racer, Sunseeker, is getting ready to race this summer in a
cross-country solar competition that will track a course through the heart of Kalamazoo.
The 2012 American Solar Challenge, a biennial collegiate race, begins July 14 in
Rochester, N.Y., and ends eight days later in St. Paul, Minn. Solar race teams from around the
world will cover the more than 1,600 mile course and make mandatory overnight and checkpoint
stops all along the route. Kalamazoo and the Engineering and Applied Sciences Building on WMU’s Parkview
Campus will serve as a mid-day
checkpoint Tuesday, July 17.
Solar race entries, which travel
the roads alongside normal traffic,
will come through downtown
Kalamazoo on Kalamazoo Avenue, then take Westnedge Avenue to Lovell Street before traveling along
Stadium Drive to Drake Road. They will then follow Drake south to the Parkview
Campus. Teams are expected to begin arriving at the engineering college around
noon and must stay there for at least an hour before departing on the next leg of
the race, giving the public an opportunity to talk with teams and check out their
cars while they are in town. The activities will take place within the circle drive
at the main entrance to the college. Parking for the public is available in both the
East and West parking ramps behind the building. Leaving the checkpoint, the
racing teams will take Parkview Avenue to Oakland Drive and Oakland to Shaver
Road and then follow US-131 south. The racers’ only other Michigan stop will be
in Ann Arbor. Visit wmich.edu/sunseeker for details about the Sunseeker and
americansolarchallenge.org for details about the solar challenge and race route.
Annual competitive cycling event scheduled

Cyclists are gearing up for WMU’s seventh annual competitive cycling day set for 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, July 14, at the Parkview Campus.

The 2012 Miller Energy Criterium is being organized by WMU and the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club. It will include 11 separate races throughout the day for participants of every age and ability level.

Online registration ends at 11:59 p.m. Thursday, July 11. Race-day registration will open at 6:30 a.m. on site in the Southwest Michigan Innovation Center and close 30 minutes prior to each race. Registration for the kid’s race is free. The entry fee for all other races ranges from $10 to $30.

Racing will begin with the Men’s Elite 4 race at 8 a.m. and conclude with the Junior ages-10-to-14 event at 5 p.m. A race for kids of all ages will be held at 1:15 p.m., with free helmets given out to participants while supplies last. A total of $6,000 in prize money will be awarded during the 2012 criterium.

Rain or shine, competitors will race around a 1.1-mile course that features smooth pavement with three 90-degree turns and multiple sweeping turns.

The criterium is the most popular form of bike racing in the United States. It is the cycling equivalent of the Indy 500—full of high speed and intense action. Cyclists race on a closed-circuit track, completing each lap in about one minute while traveling at speeds in excess of 30 mph so that they race to be the first to cross the finish line without being passed.

A short, closed course makes criterium cycling an ideal spectator sport. For WMU’s event, spectators may park at the University’s soccer field off Parkview Avenue east of Drake Road, then watch the fast, aggressive action free of charge. Food and beverages will be available for purchase, and vendors will be on hand offering cycling gear and accessories.

The Miller Energy Criterium is part of the area’s Race Weekend activities that also include a Foundation at 8 a.m. Sunday, July 15, in Lawton, Mich.

Promotions approved for 37 faculty members

The WMU Board of Trustees approved the promotions of 37 faculty members at its June 7 meeting. All of the promotions are effective with the beginning of the 2012-13 academic year.

Promoted to professor were: Todd J. Barkman, biological sciences; Jonathan Bush, English; Kuan-Chin Chen, business information systems; Kieran J. Fogarty, occupational therapy; Barbara J. Frazier, family and consumer sciences; Terrell L. Hodge, mathematics; Yvette D. Hyer, speech pathology and audiology; Fainir Katerattakanakul, business information systems; Steve Kehler, biological sciences; Yrung Mo, chemistry; Annegret Paul, mathematics; Stephanie M. Peterson, psychology; Eric M. Sauer, counselor education and counseling psychology; Bilinda Straight, anthropology; Jeffrey Strom, mathematics; Judith Swisher, finance and commercial law; and Devrim Yaman, finance and commercial law.

Promoted to associate professor were: Sheila Bair, University Libraries; Manuel A. Bautista, physics; William J. Charland, art; Christian L. Coryn, educational leadership, research and technology; Scott Cowan, music; Edward Eckel, University Libraries; Susan Freeman, gender and women’s studies; Chien-juh Gu, sociology; Melinda Koellinger, mathematics; D. Steven Mackey, mathematics; Thiše E. Nissen, English; Glinda Rawls, Counseling Services; and Mark W. St. Martin, Counseling Services.

Promoted to master faculty specialist were: Jan M. Gabel-Goos, business information systems; Aghsar Kayani, physics; Glen P. Langworthy, aviation sciences; David W. Montgomery, music; Susan Nelson, nursing; Mary E. B. Stahl, nursing; and Gay S. Walker, physician assistant and Integrative Holistic Health and Wellness Program.

Tenure granted to 19

The WMU Board of Trustees approved the tenure of 19 faculty members at its June 7 meeting, effective with the beginning of the 2012-13 academic year.

The names of those granted tenure, along with their units or program affiliations, are: Sheila Bair, University Libraries; Manuel A. Bautista, physics; William Charland, art; Christian L. Coryn, educational leadership, research and technology; Scott Cowan, music; Edward Eckel, University Libraries; Mervyn J. Elliott, aviation sciences; Julie A. Evans, music; Susan Freeman, Gender and Women’s Studies Program; Chien-juh Gu, sociology; Aghsar Kayani, physics; Melinda Koellinger, mathematics; D. Steven Mackey, mathematics; Susan K. Nelson, nursing; Thiše Nissen, English; Glinda J. Rawls, Counseling Services; and Mark W. St. Martin, Counseling Services; Mary Stahl, nursing; and Gay S. Walker, physician assistant and Integrative Holistic Health and Wellness Program.

Anthropology sets public open house

The annual Fort St. Joseph Archaeology Open House will be held Aug. 11 and 12 at the fort, which is near Niles, Mich. This free event typically features displays, viewing of excavations and informational talks.
Legislators OK state budget, $750,000 for foster youth program

The new Michigan budget approved by the Legislature June 5 includes $750,000 in the Department of Human Services appropriation to support WMU’s renowned program that helps former foster care youth earn college degrees.

The item in the DHS appropriation is part of an overall state budget increase to include a 2.31 percent increase in annual state appropriations to WMU.

The DHS funding is for the Foster Youth and Higher Education initiative, a 4-year-old effort known most commonly as the Seita Scholars program. The program provides a support network for students who have aged out of foster care and are pursuing college degrees. The initiative has already seen its first graduates and has attracted state and national attention as a comprehensive model for supporting the college aspirations of former foster-care youth.

DHS has been involved in supporting the program in the past by providing two state employees at WMU to work with Seita Scholars and serve both as caseworkers and two of the program’s five campus coaches. DHS also promotes the Seita program model at conferences around the state.

The WMU program offers a full-tuition scholarship to qualified former foster youth and includes a commitment of year-round housing, which is critical for students without a family home to return to during semester breaks and holiday recesses. This fall, the program is scheduled to welcome its fifth incoming class to campus. The influx of 45 new students will bring the total of students to the program to about 160.

“We credit state Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker, Speaker of the House Jase Bolger and Rep. Robert Genetski who all were strong advocates for WMU in the negotiations. We are enormously grateful to them for championing this important work with former foster care youth,” said WMU President John M. Dunn when he outlined the state appropriation process at a June 7 meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees.

The Michigan House and Senate conference committee also settled on budget provisions for higher education appropriations as part of the final budget negotiations, agreeing on a formula that increases the operations budgets for the state’s 15 public universities by an average of 2.25 percent. The exact appropriation amount varies from university to university.

Mentors, donated supplies sought for WMU’s Seita Scholars

Career mentors are being sought to help guide WMU’s incoming Seita Scholars. Forty-five new mentors are needed to help the former foster youth build networks of supportive individuals as they pursue college studies, then transition into the workplace.

The career mentoring service links Seita Scholars to professionals who engage mentees in activities such as job shadowing, networking, information sharing, and discussion about career paths and plans.

Mentors must meet minimum requirements and commit to completing an application and background screening process, attending an orientation session and mentoring for one full school year. The application deadline for this fall’s new mentors has been extended to Friday, June 29, but mentor applications are accepted year-round.

Visit wmich.edu/psy/Giving/volunteering for additional information or call (269) 387-8362.

In addition, many incoming Seita Scholars will arrive on campus without basic items to help make their school year successful. The University is collecting essential living and personal health care products to welcome them to the Seita Scholars Program.

Welcome pack items may be dropped off at Harrison Hall from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, July 9; 5 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 17; 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, July 25; 5 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 2; and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Aug. 10.

Essential items sought range from toothbrushes and toothpaste, body wash, deodorant, and shaving and feminine hygiene products to towels, hypoallergenic pillows, twin-size bedding, laundry baskets, and clock radios with alarms. Dry goods and food and financial contributions also are accepted.

Visit wmich.edu/news/2012/06/741 for a detailed description of needed items or email fyist-info@wmich.edu for more information.

Retirements of three faculty, eight staff members approved

The WMU Board of Trustees June 7 signed off on several retirements and resignations.

Two faculty members are retiring as of Aug. 15:

Lansing, 23 years, effective July 4; Anne C. Hopkins, psychology, 21 years, effective June 30; Michael Ludwiczak, aviation, 13 years, effective June 30; Kay Rafferty, Center for Disability Services, 15 years, effective April 17; Jane L. Tomlin, information technology, 21 years, effective May 31; and Robert E. Taylor Jr., building custodial and support services, 12 years, effective Aug. 19.

The staff members retiring are:

First Light Center grant awarded

Yuan-Kang Wang, sociology, has received the first Timothy Light Center for Chinese Studies Research Grant.

Wang received $3,000 for his project titled “The Art of Domination: Managing Regional Hegemony in Qing China and the United States.” It will result in a book and fill an important gap in international relations literature by providing a comparative, historical perspective on China’s rise and dominance in the international system.

Light Center grants are awarded annually and provide support to WMU faculty for research and creative activities that support the study of Greater China.

Visit wmich.edu/chinesestudicenter for more information.

These Seita Scholars, as well as this fall’s incoming scholars, are benefiting from state support for WMU’s Foster Youth and Higher Education initiative. (Photo by Mike Lanka)
On Campus with Ellen Eberstein

“If you like to walk, come out and look at our planters and gardens, and stroll past our fountains,” urges master gardener Ellen Eberstein. “This campus is a pretty place to walk around.”

Eberstein can’t help but take pride in the role she’s played in WMU’s beautification efforts. She’s been involved in the effort for more than 20 years and now is the lead person taking care of the grounds around the Student Recreation Center, all of East Campus, and the power plant, Seelye Center and police building.

“I love my job, I really do. There’s always something different to do, and I love being outdoors. My boss lets me run with things, like picking plants and doing some designing,” she says. “It’s great seeing the fruits of your labor. I’m proud of myself and my team. When you keep up on things, everything looks nice. You feel good about yourself because you’re doing something for the University.”

Eberstein came to WMU and dining services in 1984 and moved to landscape services seven years later. She learned gardening on the job and now helps train others. Among them is her daughter, Andrea, a WMU student who is one of the student and professional staffers she supervises.

During much of the year, Eberstein’s duties include selecting, planting and watering flowers; mulching; mowing; weed whipping; edging; pruning; and applying pesticides as well as removing trash, sweeping and anything else that spruces up her areas. In winter, she shovels snow and salts steps and sidewalks around her assigned buildings.

The rest of the time is spent pruning, ordering plants and staying abreast of job-related reading. Eberstein likes fishing and canoeing and lives on a 23-acre farm in Vicksburg, Mich., with her husband, Todd, a fellow WMU employee. The recently married couple maintains several flower beds and in addition to dogs and cats, keeps goats, chickens, rabbits, ducks and other small animals. Eberstein has three grown daughters, and with Todd, a total of seven grandchildren. “We enjoy spending time with our family, animals and plants,” she says. “That’s pretty much what we love to do.”

NCAA honors Broncos for academic skill

The University’s men’s basketball and women’s tennis teams are among Division I teams nationwide being honored with Public Recognition Awards from the NCAA for posting Academic Progress Rates in the top 10 percent for their respective sports.

Honorees were announced June 14 by the NCAA. It is the third time in the past four years the men’s basketball team has received a Public Recognition Award from the NCAA, and the second time in the past three years the women’s tennis team has received the award.

Each year, the NCAA tracks the classroom performance of student-athletes on every Division I team through the annual scorecard of academic achievement, known as the Academic Progress Rate—APR. The score measures eligibility and retention each semester or quarter and provides a clear picture of the academic culture in each sport.

WMU is one of eight Mid-American Conference schools to be honored this year and among just five to have multiple programs recognized. The Bronco men’s basketball program was the only such program to post an APR in the top 10 percent. The Bronco women’s tennis program is one of four in the MAC to be recognized.

Construction disrupting localized traffic flow

Summer construction projects are prompting several lane and road closures near Schneider and Rood halls in the coming months, as well as other West Campus areas.

• Rankin Avenue is down to one lane. Flagmen are present, and travel in both directions is now available. Rankin will reopen mid-July.

• Wilbur Avenue is down to one lane. Flagmen are present, and travel in both directions will be available after today. Wilbur will reopen at the beginning of August.

• After today, the section of Wilbur adjacent to the Fetzer Center and Rood Hall will reopen.

• Road, sidewalk and parking lot traffic will continue to be disrupted around the Sangren Hall and pedestrian mall projects.

Visit the Facilities Management website at fm.wmich.edu now and throughout the summer for information about construction projects.

PSSO elects 2012-13 officers, board

The Professional Support Staff Organization has elected its officers for the 2012-13 academic year.

The organization represents WMU’s benefits-eligible non-exempt (hourly paid) non-bargaining employees who are covered under the Staff Compensation System. Membership also is open to University retirees who are former PSSO members.

New or re-elected officers are: president, Terri Culver; accounting, vice president, Carol Morris-Mier; education and human development, secretary, Pat Wilcox; payroll and disbursements, treasurer, Nancy Johnson; associate vice president for finance’s office; and members at large, Kim Feenstra, psychology; Kris Kent, Facilities Management; Rebecca Spanjer, grants and contracts; Jessica Smith, Career and Student Employment Services; and Crystal Stein, Mal-linson Institute.

PSSO members and those eligible for membership may email any board member with WMU-related questions or concerns. Organiza-

tion dues are $8 for one year or $15 for two years.

Visit wmich.edu/psso to learn more about the Professional Support Staff Organization or obtain a membership form.

Snyder announces new Wilson cohort continued from page 1

and also transform university-based teacher education programs. The Kellogg Foundation launched this initiative in Michigan, providing $18 million in funds over three years.

Participants receive a $30,000 fellowship to complete a cutting-edge master’s degree program, commit to teaching for three years and receive ongoing mentoring. Meanwhile, the participating universities agree to redesign their teacher education programs.

This year’s fellowship competition attracted 102,000 inquiries and ultimately 2,017 applications. The selection process included screening at the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, a full-day interview led by STEM teachers and careful admissions review by the universities.

Michigan’s 2012 cohort consists of 64 students who primarily hail from Michigan communities.