



Western News

For and about WMU faculty and staff

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Register now for assessment event

Faculty and staff are invited to the third annual Assessment in Action Day Friday, March 23, in the Fetzer Center. The conference is free, but registration is required by Tuesday, March 20. Write to Karen Stokes Chapo at karen.stokeschapo@wmich.edu to register. Visit wmich.edu/poapa then click Assessment and scroll down to the Assessment Calendar to locate a link to the Assessment in Action Day website.

ROTC event to memorialize alumnus

The ROTC program has established an endowed scholarship in the name of Capt. Drew Russell, a WMU graduate who was killed in Afghanistan. A fallen soldier ceremony for Russell is planned for 2 p.m. Tuesday, March 20, in the Activity Therapy Building, which houses the ROTC program.

The ceremony will include a final roll call and playing of taps. In addition, the recipient of the new endowed scholarship established in Russell's name is expected to be announced.

TIAA-CREF reps to be on campus

TIAA-CREF representatives will be on campus Tuesday through Thursday, April 17-19. To schedule a private consultation for investment or retirement planning, visit tiaa-cref.org and click Consultations and Seminars under Services. Call (800) 732-8353 if you are unable to register online.

Senior citizen prom scheduled

Area senior citizens will celebrate prom night when they gather Thursday, March 22, in the Bernhard Center Ballroom for a free evening of Big Band music and swing and ballroom dancing. Pre-entertainment begins at 5 p.m. and dancing runs from 7 to 10 p.m. Members of the general public are welcome to attend the free, semi-formal event.

WMU participating in RecycleMania

WMU is participating in RecycleMania 2012, a nationwide recycling competition among more than 600 colleges and universities. The eight-week competition runs through March 31, with the goal of increasing awareness of and participation in campus recycling and waste reduction programs. Visit wmich.edu/wmu/news/2012/03/008 for more information.

WMU hosting visiting KPS students

For the third year, WMU is opening its residence halls, classrooms and dining halls to all Kalamazoo Public Schools sixth-graders in March and April so they can get a firsthand look at college life and the opportunities available through a college education.

The goal of the WMU/KPS partnership, called Bronco BUDS—Building Unique Dynamic Students—is to encourage early middle school students to set their sights on college and take advantage of the Kalamazoo Promise tuition scholarship program.

Johnston, Carlson to lead governing board

William D. Johnston of Portage, Mich., and Jeanne Carlson of Novi, Mich., have been elected to serve for 2012 as chair and vice chair, respectively, of the WMU Board of Trustees.

The election took place at the Feb. 29 meeting of the trustees. All officers serve one-year terms. Johnston replaces Trustee Dennis Archer of Detroit, who remains on the governing board.

Johnston, who was appointed to the Board of Trustees by then-Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm, has served as a trustee since 2007. He is president and chairman of Greenleaf Companies, which includes Greenleaf Trust, Greenleaf Holdings, Greenleaf Ventures, Greenleaf Hospitality Group and Greenleaf Capital.

Chairman of Southwest Michigan First, Johnston also serves on several corporate and community boards as well as the WMU Foundation board. He received the WMU Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni



Johnston

Award in 2010 and earned a bachelor's degree and master's degree from WMU.



Carlson

Carlson was appointed to the board by Granholm in 2007, as well.

She retired as president and chief executive officer of Blue Care Network of Michigan in 2010 after a 33-year career that included positions at both Blue Care Network and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

Carlson earned a bachelor's degree from WMU and was a member of the WMU Alumni Association Board of Directors from 1995 to 2001, serving as its president in 2000-01. She has been active in a number of professional and community organizations.

The other individuals elected to one-year terms as officers of the WMU Board of Trustees are all University employees. They, along with their board positions, are: Betty A. Kocher, secretary; Janice Van Der Kley, treasurer and assistant secretary; and Sandra Steinbach, assistant treasurer.

WMU has best campus EV infrastructure in nation

Sixteen charging stations that have just come online make WMU the new national leader for campuses boasting electric vehicle charging resources.

After activating its first four EV charging stations just last year, the University recently installed a fifth station near Welborn Hall and 15 more near Miller Auditorium.

The new stations mean 20 EVs can be charged on campus simultaneously, giving WMU the largest number of charging stations of any college or university campus in the United States.



All-electric Ford Transit Connect service vehicle
(Photo courtesy of Facilities Management)

The infusion of EV charging technology near Miller was funded by a \$700,000 grant in 2011 from the Clean Energy Coalition.

Those 16 stations are located immediately adjacent to the auditorium's parking ramp and behind a massive new 50 kW, grid-tied solar array that will provide a significant portion of the stations' energy demand.

"Electric vehicles and hybrid electric vehicles are still in their infancy, but WMU

is leading the way to support widespread adoption," says Harold Glasser, executive director for campus sustainability and author of the successful coalition grant proposal.

"The current situation is akin to when the density of gas stations was one of the limits to widespread adoption of the automobile. We are thrilled to be partnering with the Clean Energy Coalition to provide clean, green electric vehicle charging infrastructure for the campus community and everyone who visits our campus."

The WMU network of stations has been linked to the Charge Point America system, which is helping to build a much-needed national infrastructure for electric cars by providing some 5,000 networked stations free of charge to organizational and residential applicants in 10 U.S. regions, including Michigan's Lower Peninsula.

Michigan now has more public charging stations than most other states in the Midwest. WMU's 20 charging stations in Kalamazoo represent 20 percent of such stations in West Michigan.

In addition to funding installation of the solar array and new charging stations, the Clean Energy Coalition funding allowed WMU to acquire five all-electric Ford Transit Connect service vehicles as well as a large electric hybrid-hydraulic bucket truck to be used in campus facilities operations.

The new electric vehicles also put WMU among the nation's leaders in the number of such vehicles on a single campus.

Around campus and beyond

WIDR celebrating 60th anniversary

The University's student-run radio station, WIDR 89.1 FM, is celebrating its 60th anniversary with WIDR Week, a series of events over nine days, March 9-17, culminating with a 12-hour St. Patrick's Day dance in downtown Kalamazoo.

As part of the celebration, author, musician, world traveler and punk icon Henry Rollins is coming to town Wednesday, March 21, making Kalamazoo one of just two Midwest stops on his The Long March spoken-word tour. Visit widr.org for more information about all anniversary events.

HHS kicking off another book read

A reception and panel discussion will kick off "book read" activities this month that center on the award-winning book "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" by Rebecca Skloot. The reception will be at 12:15 p.m. Friday, March 16, in the atrium of the Health and Human Services Building. The panel discussion will follow at 1 p.m. in Room 1010. Visit wmich.edu/hhs/book-read for details.

Manufacturing's rebirth is talk topic

Mike Dunlop, CEO and founder of the technology-based quality system company Net-Inspect, will speak at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 20, in Schneider Hall's Brown Auditorium. To make a reservation to attend his talk, titled "The Rebirth of American Manufacturing through Supply Chain Excellence," call (269) 387-5050.

Concerts part of Vocal Jazz Festival

A total of 25 vocal jazz groups representing high schools and colleges across the nation and world will participate in the 32nd annual Gold Company Invitational Vocal Jazz Festival Friday and Saturday, March 23-24. The festival includes performances by Gold Company II on Saturday afternoon and a final concert by Gold Company at 8 p.m. that day. Visit wmugoldcompany.com for details.

Nonprofit Fair set for March 23

More than 300 community partners have been invited to the Nonprofit Fair from 1 to 4 p.m. Friday, March 23, in the Bernhard Center Ballroom. Representatives from participating nonprofits will showcase their work as well as discuss opportunities for students to work with them as service learners, interns and volunteers.

Lecture looks at intelligent design

Darwin will take center stage when Kevin Padian from the University of California, Berkeley, gives this year's Theodosia Hadley Lecture at 3:30 p.m. Friday, March 30, in 1718 Wood Hall. Padian will speak on "What Darwin Said (and Didn't Say): Evolution, Intelligent Design and Education." He will present another public lecture, "The Origin of Birds and Their Flight," at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 29, in Schneider Hall's Kirsch Auditorium.

NSF awards grant to plant biologist

Todd Barkman, biological sciences, has been awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation for a project that will



Barkman

investigate the properties of a synthesized enzyme replicating one that has been extinct for at least 200 million years.

The \$264,000, three-year project began in November and will study the biological ancestors of plant proteins to create an understanding of their evolutionary processes. This research being done by Barkman, a WMU faculty member since 2000, could ultimately allow the resurrection of ancient plants.

Reconstructing ancient plant proteins reveals opportunities to test how they survived, evolved and created defense systems. Knowing what plant ancestors were like and comparing them with present-day specimens may enable scientists to predict changes in plant evolution and their abilities to adapt to alterations in climate or environment.

Talented author earns new accolade

Jaimy Gordon, English, continues to garner the attention of judges in the world's top literary prize competitions for "Lord of Misrule." The novel earned her the 2010 National Book Award and has just made the 20-book longlist for the United Kingdom's Orange Prize for Fiction.



Gordon

The Orange Prize is the United Kingdom's most prestigious annual book award for fiction written by women. It covers English-language books published worldwide. This year's winner will be announced May 30.

Gordon has taught at WMU since 1981 and is a member of the celebrated creative writing faculty. "Lord of Misrule" was published in Great Britain last year and in the United States in 2010. It was named a finalist for the 2011 PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction, the nation's largest peer-juried fiction prize.

Attorney honored for accomplishments

Carol L.J. Hustoles, vice president for legal affairs and general counsel, was among seven area business women honored March 6 for



Hustoles

their professional accomplishments by Inforum, Michigan's business forum for women.

Inforum seeks to strengthen the state's business environment by creating opportunities for women to lead and succeed. Founded in 1962 in Detroit as the Women's Economic Club, it has affiliates in Grand Rapids, Lansing and Kalamazoo.

Hustoles came to the University in 1991. She was named general counsel eight years later and appointed vice president in 2002. She is a past president of the Kalamazoo County Bar Association and the southwest region of the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan.

A 2001 Fulbright award recipient, she has served as a board member of the National Association of College and University Attorneys and on the Michigan Board of Ethics.

University measures avoid \$120 million in energy expenditures

Actions taken during the last 17 years have allowed WMU to avoid \$120 million in energy-related expenditures, members of the WMU Board of Trustees heard at their Feb. 29 meeting.

Peter J. Strazdas, associate vice president for Facilities Management, said labor and management have worked together so WMU could avoid spending \$46 million by producing its own energy, \$44 million by

conserving energy and \$30 million by not having to expand the power plant.

"This story is special. I hope that you understand how special it is," Strazdas said. "We're very proud of what we've done. This is an incredible story that many universities cannot tell today."

Retirement reception

Jack Luderer is resigning from his position as associate dean for research in the WMU School of Medicine and is retiring from the University. Luderer will be honored for his 12 years of service during a retirement reception from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, March 16, in the Fetzer Center. A brief program is scheduled for 5:15 p.m.

Exchange

Wanted—Furnished housing rental for a visiting Fulbright professor during the fall 2012 semester. Could be a great opportunity for a WMU faculty member who will be on sabbatical this fall. Contact Carla Koretsky at carla.koretsky@wmich.edu or (269) 387-5337.

Jobs

Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources Website at 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.



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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Board fills two administrative positions

Two faculty members were appointed to administrative positions by the WMU Board of Trustees during its Feb. 29 meeting.

Jody Brylinsky, human performance and health education, was named associate provost for institutional effectiveness, and Carla M. Koretsky, geosciences, was named associate dean of the Lee Honors College.

Brylinsky, whose appointment is effective April 1, is coordinator and faculty advisor for the Master of Arts in Coaching Sport Performance. She replaces Eileen B. Evans, who has retired. A faculty member since 1991, Brylinsky is nationally known as an expert on coaching young people and



Brylinsky

on coaching education and standards. She has been serving on assessment- and accreditation-related bodies at the national level and at WMU for several years.

Koretsky, whose appointment is effective May 7, came to WMU in 2000 and has been on the environmental studies and the geosciences faculty since 2005. In addition to advising and mentoring numerous students, she received the University's Emerging Scholar Award in 2007, was associate chair of the geosciences department in 2006, and was advisor in 2003-04 for the interdisciplinary geochemistry major that she established at WMU.



Koretsky

'Not Smart' movie theatre videos win advertising gold

"Not Smart," a WMU recruitment video series produced to play in movie theatres around the state, won a regional ADDY Award late last month from the American Advertising Federation of West Michigan.

Known as the industry's version of the Academy Awards, the ADDYs are advertising's largest and most representative competition.



WMU's video series earned a gold medal from the local federation, which honored 2011's best creative work during a Feb. 23 gala in Grand Rapids, Mich. Regional gold medal winners go on to compete at the district level. Winners there are eligible for the national competition.

The award-winning University videos are part of a series of ads featuring incoming freshmen who are very smart. For this recruitment campaign, the freshmen shared something they had done that wasn't quite as smart as their decision to attend WMU.

The ads were produced by the Image Group of Holland, Mich., and are playing in theatres in Detroit; Lansing, Mich.; Grand Rapids; and Kalamazoo.

WESTERN WONDERLAND—Night photos of a snowy WMU campus are turning up in the national press. The photos show Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney departing from a stump speech in the Bernhard Center Ballroom Feb. 24. One such photo was displayed on a two-page spread in the March 12 issue of *Time* under the headline "Romney's Long March." Another appeared Feb. 26 on page 15 of the national *New York Times*. Romney began his speech at WMU by saying his parents, former Michigan Gov. and Mrs. George Romney, once made a campaign stop in the same Bernhard Center Ballroom venue.



Science Olympiad is Saturday

More than 400 middle and high school students from a five-county area will flock to WMU this month for the Region 10 Science Olympiad competition.

The competition will run from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 17, in various campus locations, culminating in an awards ceremony from 4 to 5 p.m. in the Bernhard Center Ballroom.

Competitive events will take place in Wood Hall, Rood Hall, and the Chemistry Building, Dalton Center, Bernhard Center and Student Recreation Center. About 150 WMU students, faculty and staff volunteers will be involved in some aspect of the Olympiad.

Obituaries



Niemi

Leo Niemi, professor emeritus of business information systems, died at home in Kalamazoo March 2. He was 92.

Niemi joined the faculty in 1955 and retired in 1985 after 30 years of service. He was a former

assistant to the business school dean, started computer courses at WMU, and was department chair from 1977 to 1983 as business education and administrative services transitioned into business information systems.

Memorial donations may be made to Hospice Care of Southwest Michigan. Visit langelands.com to make a memorial guestbook entry.

Robert W. Thomas, a retired staff member, died Feb. 11 in Tarpon Springs, Fla. He was 85.

Thomas joined the staff in 1966 and retired in 1986 after 20 years of service. At the time of his retirement, he was manager of trade services in what is now maintenance services.

Brush to be burned at Asylum Lake Preserve

Prescribed burns in WMU's Asylum Lake Preserve are being planned this spring to improve the aesthetics and ecology of the natural area.

The burns may take place this month or in early April, depending on weather conditions. They will be done by Wildtype Ltd., a professional ecological restoration firm.

Cari DeLong, natural areas manager, says WMU hired Wildtype last spring to start removing invasive vegetation in a 15-acre section of the preserve. Since then, numerous brush piles have been lined up around the north and south edges of Asylum Lake.

An experienced Wildtype crew will administer the burns after obtaining the necessary permit. Burnings will take place on weekdays and only when weather conditions are favorable.

"Normally, we'd let the brush decay naturally. We're having Wildtype do a prescribed burn because the sheer size and abundance



Invasive glossy buckthorn

of the brush piles may have unintended consequences on the surrounding habitat," DeLong explains. "Burning is an effective and natural tool for removing the piles from the landscape. Ridding the lake's edge of this biomass will increase the amount of space for native vegetation to colonize, while also opening up more views of the lake."

The brush piles are the remains of once-thriving invasive vegetation that was wreaking havoc on the preserve's ecosystem. They are made up mostly of oriental bittersweet vines and woody shrubs such as Japanese honeysuckle, common buckthorn and glossy buckthorn.

"This is an exciting step in the right direction for Asylum Lake Preserve as well as community members who enjoy this natural area," DeLong says. "The removal of invasive vegetation has not only improved the ecology of the area, but also opened up beautiful views of the lake that were previously screened due to the dense undergrowth surrounding the lake's edge."

Service

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

35 Years—Carol A. Morris-Mier, College of Education and Human Development.

30 Years—Jean E. Bowsky-Verschoof, Bernhard Center, and Vernon Payne, associate vice president for student affairs.

25 Years—Timothy J. Bowers, landscape services; Nancy E. Cretsinger, provost's office; and Camela S. Vossen, public safety.

20 Years—Shelley S. Grant, building custodial and support services, and Beverly J. Houseman, landscape services.

15 Years—Suzanne V. BealsDauchy, development and alumni relations; Lee A. Claussen, political science; Michael F.

DeBlecourt, Fetzer Center; Joyann L. Gosa, WMU Bookstore; Pamela Mottley, English; Rob Pennock, Miller Auditorium; and Kristi L. Schutter, university budgets.

10 Years—Daniel J. Chapo, associate vice president for finance office; Erik Conover, information technology; Patricia Hollahan, Medieval Institute; and Shawna Rane Smith, Haworth College of Business.

Five Years—Steven C. Durian, power plant; Kristin Everett, Mallinson Institute; Nicholas A. Gauthier, College of Arts and Sciences advising; Daniel Kelsh, maintenance services; Bruce Allen Kirkendall, maintenance services; Mark W. St. Martin, Sindecuse Health Center; and Joseph A. Wilson, Grand Rapids regional location.

On Campus with David Evans



ANYTHING BUT CAMERA SHY
(Photo by Deanne Puca)

When David Evans isn't producing and directing videos for WMU, he's making Christian-based videos for his side video business, KTF Productions.

Evans, video producer and director for media services, is one of three to hold that title in the University's Office of Information Technology.

"My job is to work on a project from start to finish with a client," he says. "Requests come primarily from campus clients to meet video production needs, whether educational, promotional, in sports or whatever."

Evans is a WMU alumnus who earned a bachelor's degree in communication and a master's degree in telecommunication.

He has spent most of his telecommunication career at the University, initially working part time in the Office of Information Technology during his undergraduate days. Then he worked for WWMT-TV in Kalamazoo and the Portage (Mich.) Public Schools for about three years each before landing his current job 14 years ago.

His busiest times are during the beginning and end of each semester.

"In the beginning, everyone has a lot of great ideas for a project," he says. "At the end of the semester, there's a lot that needs to be done while students are still on campus."

Evans adds that changes in technology with video and sound equipment have kept the job exciting and challenging over the years. He says video recording has moved to digital, and the final product is now frequently posted straight to the Internet instead of to videotape or even DVD.

Some of his first work involved videotaping classes for professors to distribute to students off site. Now, Evans notes that lectures can be directly streamed from the Web.

A native of Detroit, he came to Kalamazoo as a student at WMU. He is married to Jeannene, a controller for WWMT-TV, who also helps with KTF Productions. The couple enjoys traveling, missionary work and filming Christian documentaries in such places as Haiti, Africa and Israel.

St. Patrick's Day plunge to benefit Special Olympics

The WMU community is invited to plunge into the icy waters of a makeshift glacial pool in Lawson Ice Arena on St. Patrick's Day Saturday, March 17, to raise funds and awareness for Special Olympics Michigan.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run Polar Plunge benefits Special Olympics Michigan, which provides year-round sports training and athletic competition for more than 20,600 children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

This will be the fifth Polar Plunge held at WMU. Members of the University and Kalamazoo communities have been securing donations to participate in the event. WMU President John M. Dunn also is expected to participate.

Last year's event raised \$16,000 for Special Olympics, and this year's goal is \$20,000.

The schedule of events for this year includes registration starting at 10 a.m., a parade of costumes and plunging starting at 11:15 a.m., an award ceremony at 12:15 p.m., and lunch at 12:30 p.m.

Visit somi.org to pre-register, make a donation or obtain more information.

Trustees sign off on four retirements, other personnel items

The retirements of four faculty members were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees at its Feb. 29 meeting.

Trustees also signed off on one resignation, two professional leaves and one change in department affiliation.

All of the faculty members who are retiring are doing so with emeritus status. Their names, units, years of continuous service and effective dates of retirement are: James Daniels, theatre, 25 years, effective April 30; Martin Grant, aviation sciences, 13 years, effective Aug. 19; Jaimy Gordon (change in retirement date only), English, 30 years, effective April 30; and Mary Lu Light, Center for English Language and Culture for International Students, 27 years, effective Dec. 31, 2011.

The staff member resigning is Scott Garrison, University Libraries, effective April 30.

The faculty members granted professional

leaves are: Jue Guo, comparative religion, effective Aug. 20, 2012, through Aug. 20, 2013, and Christopher Korth, finance and commercial law, effective Jan. 9 through April 3, 2012.

The change in department affiliation is for Ann Miles. Currently a faculty member in anthropology, Miles will be affiliated with sociology, effective fall 2012.

Kalamazoo Marathon is topic of next Keystone breakfast talk

"The Making of a Kalamazoo Marathon" will be the featured topic at this month's Keystone Community Bank Breakfast.

Blaine Lam, the marathon's race director, will discuss the business and economic impact of bringing a marathon to Kalamazoo when he speaks Friday, March 30. He also will share his insights on improving the quality of life in the Kalamazoo community.

The free, public talk begins with breakfast

Student employer, employee of year feted at reception

The winners of the 2012 student and supervisor of the year awards were honored during a Feb. 23 reception in the Bernhard Center.

Lt. Jeffrey Lillard, an officer in public safety's police division, received the Supervisor of the Year award. Sydney Small, a senior working in University Libraries, received the Gary L. Belleville Student Employee of the Year award.

Sixty-two student employees and 25 supervisors were nominated for the two campuswide awards this year. The awards are bestowed in conjunction with the annual Student Employee Appreciation Week, which is sponsored by Career and Student Employment Services.



Lillard



Small



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