



# Western News

For and about WMU faculty and staff

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Volume 38, Number 9

## W-2 forms available through GoWMU

W-2 forms are available through Employee Self Service in GoWMU for employees who have opted to receive them electronically. W-2s will be mailed Tuesday, Jan. 31 to the home addresses of those who have not authorized electronic delivery. Visit Employee Self Service to submit or withdraw consent to receive electronic W-2s and make sure home address information is up to date.

## Alumni award nominations solicited

Nominations are due Friday, Feb. 3, for the WMU Alumni Association's 2012 Distinguished Alumni Awards. The awards recognize graduates attaining a high level of success in their fields. Visit [www.wmich.edu/alumni/awards](http://www.wmich.edu/alumni/awards) for criteria, a nomination form and complete list of past recipients.

## Still time to take sustainability survey

The faculty-only survey to help identify and prioritize support structures faculty members believe are necessary to foster the integration of sustainability across the academic enterprise may be taken until 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 31. The survey also is intended to stimulate and support the creation of a universitywide learning community around sustainability-related research and teaching.

## Event slated for international students

International students interested in learning more about U.S. employment regulations may attend an information session from noon to 2:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 3, in the President's Dining Room of the Bernhard Center. Guest speakers include an immigration attorney from Miller Johnson Attorneys and Counselors as well as WMU's immigration officer and employer relations manager. RSVP by Feb. 2 by calling (269) 387-2745.

## Trustees OK center, program changes

The WMU Board of Trustees Dec. 8. approved a center to further educational leadership and policy initiatives. The Center for Educational Leadership and Policy, set to officially open July 1, will be housed in the Department of Educational Leadership, Research and Technology. It will be co-directed by that department's Jianping Shen and Van E. Cooley.

The center will work to strengthen research and development in educational leadership and policy by pursuing federal and non-federal grants and contracts; advance the national ranking of WMU's educational leadership program by facilitating research; and promote outreach and service to constituents, particularly K-12 school partners.

Trustees also signed off on the creation of a major in e-business marketing to replace some of the aspects of the ebiz design major that is being phased out. They also changed the name of the major and minor in practical writing to rhetoric and writing studies, as well as made several other curriculum changes designed to update these programs.

## Gov. Snyder praises WMU's Seita program

In his Jan. 18 State of the State address, Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder singled out WMU's Seita Scholars program for praise, triggering a round of applause in the Michigan House chamber at the state Capitol.

"I want to give special recognition to WMU, which is already providing support for 141 young adults in this age group through the Seita Scholars Program," Snyder said.

Snyder tied his praise to recent moves to extend state support to age 21 for students who have aged out of the foster care system. He signed such a bill late last fall, and one of WMU's Seita Scholars was invited to speak at that ceremony.

The University's Foster Care Youth in Higher Education initiative, or Seita Scholars program as it's commonly called, has become the largest and most comprehensive program of its kind in the nation. The program was founded in fall 2008. Yvonne Unrau, social work, has been serving as director of the program since then, but William C. "Chris" Harris replaced Unrau effective Jan. 6 after a nationwide search.

The program focuses on young people who have aged out of foster care and need the kind of support that families usually provide to be successful in college. It receives support from foundations, individuals and a variety of private sources.

Participants are called Seita Scholars in honor of alumnus John Seita, a former foster care youth who is now a leading U.S. advocate for foster care children. They receive full-tuition scholarships, a year-round campus home, and intense personal and academic support. This year, 141 students are part of the program, and some of the first freshmen who started with the program in 2008 will graduate.

Unrau has taken on the new role of creating a Center for Foster Youth and Higher Education. continued on page 4



Unrau



Harris



Gov. Rick Snyder, left, giving his State of the State address.

## Town hall meeting to focus on East Campus redevelopment

A campus town hall meeting to discuss the status of efforts aimed at redeveloping East Campus has been set for 9 to 10 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1, in the west lobby of Walwood Hall.

The public meeting is being organized by WMU's Office of Community Outreach and the Western Student Association in coordination with Students for East Campus.

On hand to provide the latest information on the redevelopment effort will be Randy Doran, senior vice president at KDC Real Estate Development and Investments, which is the University's private-sector development partner; Jan Van Der Kley, WMU vice president for business and finance; and Bob Miller, WMU associate vice president for community outreach.

During a speech in September, Miller announced the selection of KDC following a process that attracted proposals from firms around the nation. While no firm plans for the 35-acre site and five buildings were announced at that time, a number of possibilities for the adaptive reuse of the property were outlined. They included a boutique hotel, conference center, apartments, condos, offices, parking and a health center. During the announcement, early 2012 was identified as a possible timeframe for revealing more detailed information.

## Cooley named interim education dean, academic searches launched



Cooley

Van E. Cooley, chair of educational leadership, research and technology since 2006, will lead the College of Education and Human Development for the next year, while a national search is launched to find a new dean.

In addition, WMU will launch a national search in the coming weeks for an associate provost to guide the Haenicke Institute for Global Education. The person selected for that newly created position will replace Donald McCloud, dean of the Haenicke Institute, who is finishing his five-year appointment in that position.

Cooley's appointment, made pending approval of the WMU Board of Trustees, is effective Jan. 1 through Dec. 31. He will guide the college while the University searches for a new dean to replace John Wheeler, who resigned last fall to accept a new position at East Tennessee State University. In addition, Katharine E. Cummings, associate dean of the college who had previously announced her return to the faculty, has agreed to stay on for another year in her current post.

# Around campus and beyond

## Student-produced movie debuts

"The Day Job," a film produced entirely by WMU students, will have its world premiere at 9 p.m. today in Miller Auditorium. Admission is \$1 at the door for WMU students and \$2 for all others. Doors open at 8:30 p.m., and free popcorn is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

## Israel-Palestine conflict is talk topic

A well-known author and son of Holocaust survivors is coming to campus to share what he thinks might be a way out of the standoff between Israelis and Palestinians. Norman Finkelstein, who has written six books, will speak about the conflict at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 31, in the North Ballroom of the Bernhard Center.

## Emeriti Council programs continue

The Emeriti Council's next Wednesday II meeting will feature a presentation on "The Stages of My Life" by D. Terry Williams, emeritus in theatre, at 2 p.m. Feb. 8 in Walwood Hall's Heinig Emeriti Lounge. Williams will look at the theatres that influenced the teaching of theatre history as well as choices of a stage director.

## Award-winning authors to visit

Two award-winning authors whose work has been published by WMU's New Issues Poetry and Prose will be featured

in the next installment of the Frostic Reading Series. Kevin Fenton and Rachel Eliza Griffiths will read from their selected works at 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 2, in 157 Bernhard Center.

Fenton wrote the novel "Merit Badges," which won the AWP Prize for the Novel, and Griffiths is the author of "Mule & Pear" as well as "Miracle Arrhythmia" and "The Requited Distance."

## Civil engineer to lead two seminars

Chandrasekhar Putcha from California State University, Fullerton will lead two seminars during a visit through the Visiting Scholars and Artists Program. Putcha will speak on "Basic Principles and Applications of Reliability and Risk Analysis to Civil Engineering" at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9, in D115 Engineering and Applied Sciences Building. He also will speak on "The Mathematical Formulation of the Poverty Index" at 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 10, in 6625 Everett Tower.

## Author to share troops' war letters

Best-selling American author Andrew Carroll will share correspondence from U.S. soldiers from American Wars at 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 10, in Schneider Hall's Brown Auditorium. The talk will be followed by a question-and-answer period, and Carroll will sign books during a reception at 3 p.m. Reservations for the talk can be made by calling (269) 387-5050.

## Some 175 employers expected at 2012 Career Fair

Preparation events will begin soon for WMU's 34th annual Career Fair, set for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16, in the Bernhard Center Ballroom.

Organized by the University's Career and Student Employment Services, the event is expected to attract some 175 employers and 3,000 job seekers. Although open to the public, it is tailored to WMU students and alumni. Visit [www.wmich.edu/career](http://www.wmich.edu/career) and click Calendar for a full list of employers.

Employers are recruiting for interns and

college graduates. Some may conduct first-round interviews with selected candidates Friday, Feb. 17. Many employers will ask qualified candidates to complete an online employment application in lieu of submitting a paper resume.

Prior to the Career Fair, WMU students may visit [www.wmich.edu/career](http://www.wmich.edu/career) to access various preparation events and services, including:

- Every day—Resume critiquing (a schedule is posted under Spring Advising Schedule)
- Feb. 3—Workshop on U.S. Employment Regulations for International Students
- Feb. 10—Practice Interview Day (advance sign-up and BroncoJOBS account required; login to your BroncoJOBS account, then click on Practice Interview Day under One-Click Searches to sign up for an interview time slot).

## Reception

**Bruce Haight**, history, will be honored for his more than 41 years of service during a retirement reception from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 2, in the Oaklands. Visit [www.wmich.edu/history](http://www.wmich.edu/history) to share a reminiscence.

## Jobs

Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources Web site at [www.wmich.edu/hr/careers-at-wmu.html](http://www.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.

## Administrator earns LGBT award

Associate Dean Cathryn Bailey, College of Arts and Sciences, received the Terry Kuseske Education Award from the



Bailey

Kalamazoo Gay Lesbian Resource Center during its Winter Gala Dec. 10. Bailey received the award for her exceptional leadership and advocacy for lesbian, bisexual, gay and transgender people on WMU's campus and

in the broader Kalamazoo community.

The award is named in honor of the late educator Terry Kuseske, Kalamazoo's first openly gay city commissioner.

Bailey also is director of gender and women's studies. Her research interests include the intersection of feminism, pragmatism and Buddhism; issues associated with animal ethics; articles that address the confluence of gender, race, and anthropocentrism; and rediscovering and reinterpreting 19th-century African American theorist and activist Anna Julia Cooper.

## Emeritus pens book on car museum

David O. Lyon, emeritus in psychology, has penned "The Gilmore Car Museum: Miles from the Ordinary." The 156-page



Lyon

coffee-table book traces the history of the Gilmore family from the late 19th century, explores the Gilmore Car Museum complex's development, and describes the evolution of the museum collection and the architectural plan for the 90-acre campus.

The 2010 book uses vintage images and modern color photographs of the automobiles in the collection to illustrate the organization of the collection into five themes.

Lyon joined the faculty in 1963 and retired in 1998 after serving the last 10 years as director of collective bargaining. Since his retirement, he has embarked on a new career as an automotive historian. A Gilmore Car Museum volunteer, he wrote the "Kalamazoo Automobilist" published in 2002.

## Emeritus serves as consultant on film

Ben Wilson, emeritus in Africana Studies, served as historical consultant on an award-winning documentary video that will air at



Wilson

8 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 5, on WGVU and WGVK, the local Public Broadcasting Service stations.

"Up From the Bottoms: The Search for the American Dream" tells the story of the massive migration of

African Americans from the rural south to the prosperous, industrial north during the World War II years and beyond. It features 15 residents of Muskegon, Mich., telling their personal stories.

The production is narrated by actress Cicely Tyson and includes a cameo appearance by activist Dick Gregory. Musical clips feature the artistry of Stevie Wonder and the rapper, Common.

Wilson, former director of the Africana studies program, retired from WMU in 2006 after more than 30 years of service to the University.



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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. Spring publication dates are Jan. 12 and 26, Feb. 9 and 23, March 15 and 29, and April 12. 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

## Late-night bus service tested

A student-government initiative is allowing WMU students to "test drive" late-night bus service between the main campus and several Kalamazoo community locations.

Late night service on four Metro Transit community routes began Jan. 9 and will run Monday through Thursday each week through March 1 to determine if there is sufficient student ridership to continue.



Rides on the four lines will cost \$1.50 in exact change after 10 p.m. The lines

will dramatically extend the hours students can use the bus service to travel back and forth between campus and off-campus sites.

The four routes with expanded hours and the times of their last arrivals on campus are:

- West Michigan #3 Route, 12:55 a.m.
- Lovell Street #16 Route, 11:57 p.m.
- Solon/Kendall #21 Route, 12:30 a.m.
- Lafayette Street #22 Route, 12:12 a.m.

The expanded hours are for Metro Transit lines only and do not include Bronco Transit routes. Visit [www.broncotransit.com/late-night](http://www.broncotransit.com/late-night) for complete schedules.

## New center offers grandparents support

WMU and Georgia State University are collaborating partners in a new center that focuses on informing professionals, decision makers and the general public about the unique challenges, needs and strengths of many custodial grandparent families.

During their Dec. 8 meeting, University trustees approved creation of the center, which will be housed in the College of Education and Human Development. Directors include Linda Dannison, WMU chair of family and consumer sciences; Andrea Smith, WMU professor of teaching, learning and educational studies; and Deborah Whitley, GSU associate professor of social work.

Originally established by GSU in 2001, the National Research Center for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren promotes best practices in the kinship care field by linking researchers and field-based professionals.



Dannison



Smith

WMU has been working with Georgia State since the inception of a center there, but the initiative will now become a collaboration between the two schools.

Some 6.5 million children live in homes maintained by grandparents and relatives other than parents, and this number is increasing.

The partnership between WMU and GSU is a logical collaboration that will combine strengths inherent in programs developed by each university. WMU's Second Time Around program has a strong footing in curriculum development and assessment, and has developed resources to serve custodial grandparents, the children in their care, and professionals working with these family members. GSU's Project Healthy Grandparents has focused on physical and mental health of grandparent care providers.

### Who's Who nominations sought

Faculty and staff members are invited to nominate deserving students for inclusion in Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

Nominations are being accepted through Friday, Feb. 10. Visit [www.rso.wmich.edu](http://www.rso.wmich.edu) to obtain a nomination form.

## University trustees approve retirements of five faculty, 11 staff members

The retirements of five faculty members and 11 staff members were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees at its Dec. 8 meeting. Trustees also signed off on four resignations, one promotion and two changes in departmental affiliations for faculty members.

All of the retiring faculty members have been granted emeritus status. Their names, positions, years of continuous service and effective dates of retirement are: Thomas C. Bailey (change in retirement date only), English, 41 years, effective Dec. 31, 2011; Suzanne Hedstrom (change in retirement date only), counselor education and counseling psychology, 23 years, effective June 30; Charles E. Hines Jr. (change in retirement date only), accountancy, 35 years, effective Aug. 31; Elizabeth A. Hoger, business information systems, 23 years, effective April 30, 2017; and John F. Nielsen, social work, 16 years, effective Dec. 31.

The retiring staff members are: Barbara J. Alexander, teacher certification, 11 years, effective Oct. 15, 2011; John M. Barney, maintenance services, 23 years, effective Sept. 30, 2011; Mary J. Devenney, Unified Clinics, 14 years, effective Dec. 31, 2011; James B. Dexheimer, University Libraries, 19 years, effective Dec. 12, 2011; Pamela J. Emery,

WMU-Grand Rapids, 22 years, effective Dec. 11, 2011; Barbara A. Gustafson, student financial aid and scholarships, 31 years, effective Dec. 31, 2011; Cheryl J. Lay, lifelong learning and education, 18 years, effective Jan. 9; Kanti S. Sandhu, information technology, 37 years, effective Dec. 31, 2011; James L. Schultz, WMU-Grand Rapids, 17 years, effective Jan. 3; James D. Short, building support and custodial services, 15 years, effective Dec. 11, 2011; and Alicia J. Yeagley, College of Arts and Sciences, 33 years, effective Dec. 31, 2011.

The resigning faculty members are: Allison L. Baer, special education and literacy studies, effective Dec. 31, 2011; Daniel W. Briggs, mathematics, effective Dec. 20, 2011; Birong Ho, University Libraries, effective Nov. 4, 2011; and John J. Wheeler, dean of the College of Education and Human Development, effective Dec. 31, 2011.

The promoted staff member is: Stacey R. Fitzsimmons, to assistant professor of management, effective Aug. 22, 2011. The changes in department affiliation are: Mariam K. Deme, from Africana studies to gender and women's studies, effective 2012 spring semester, and Elaine L. Phillips, from family and consumer sciences to physician assistant and holistic health, effective Dec. 26, 2011.

### Obituaries

More complete obituaries are available for these WMU employees by visiting [www.wmich.edu/news](http://www.wmich.edu/news) and clicking Obituaries.

**James B. Dexheimer**, of Kalamazoo, died at home Jan. 2. He was 60. Dexheimer joined the staff in 1992 and retired in December as coordinator of fast cataloging in University Libraries after 19 years of service to WMU.

A memorial service will be held in WMU's Kanley Chapel at a later date. Donations may be made to the Friends of the University Libraries, c/o the WMU Foundation; West Michigan Cancer Center; or Hospice Care of Southwest Michigan.

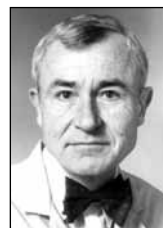


Fisk

**Franklin G. "Greg" Fisk**, emeritus in science studies, died Dec. 28. He was 80. Fisk joined the faculty in 1969 and taught half time in the School of General Studies and half time in the College of

Education. He retired in 1997 as a professor after 28 years of service to WMU.

A memorial service will be held in the First Baptist Church of Kalamazoo at a later date. Visit [www.avinkcremation.com](http://www.avinkcremation.com) to make a memorial guestbook entry. Donations may be made to the Greg Fisk Music Fund.



Fochtman

**John A. Fochtman** died Dec. 13 at his home in Petoskey, Mich. He was 74. Fochtman, a physician, joined the Sindecuse Health Center staff in 1978 and retired in 1992 after 14 years of service to WMU.

Visit [www.stonefuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.stonefuneralhomeinc.com) to make a memorial guestbook entry. Donations may be made to the Friendship Center in Petoskey.

**Sally L. Stickan** died Dec. 7. She was 79. Stickan, of Portage, Mich., joined the

staff in 1986 and retired in 1998 as a hall assignment clerk in residence life after 12 years of service to WMU.

A memorial service will be held in the Dutcher-Kolcz Funeral Home in Bronson, Mich., at a later date. Keep visiting [www.dutcherfh.com](http://www.dutcherfh.com) for updated service information. Donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, Disabled Veterans of America, hospice or any other organization of choice.

**Louella M. Stratton** died Dec. 31 in Kalamazoo. She was 88. Stratton joined the staff in 1963 and retired in 1984 as a secretary in Dining Services after more than 20 years of service to WMU.

Visit [www.winkelfuneralhome.com](http://www.winkelfuneralhome.com) to make a memorial guestbook entry. Donations may be made to the American Heart Association, the Kalamazoo Nature Center or the Northwest United Methodist Church.



# On Campus with Larry LeVan



FOCUSED AND GOAL ORIENTED  
(Photo by Deanne Puca)

Listening, paying close attention to details and making sure to learn something new every day are goals that have served Larry LeVan well in life and in his job as an environmental control person at WMU.

When he came to the University almost 10 years ago, his job was answering service calls for heating and cooling issues; and LeVan quickly learned to look beyond the obvious. From items blocking temperature sensors to software glitches, it's LeVan's job to monitor the climates of University buildings and respond to concerns if temperatures become too hot or cold.

His work the past decade has led him to most buildings on campus for service calls. This past fall, however, his job focus shifted from working on hardware in the field to working more on software systems. A major part of his responsibilities now is upgrading systems and anticipating problems before they occur.

"Preventative maintenance is something I really believe in," he says. "It's just like changing the oil in a car. You have to change the oil in a car before it runs out or there's a major expense."

LeVan also believes in learning, self-improvement and setting goals. For example, he keeps a list with him at all times of 10 new things he can do in a few hours or days. When he accomplishes a listed task, he replaces it with a new one. He says this gives him at least 10 reasons to start every morning with a goal in mind. Since he started keeping the list, he's completed close to 120 new things, from learning how to make Tiffany windows to exploring and studying extinct volcanoes in northern Arizona.

"Here at WMU, they encourage you to learn and apply what you've learned in your everyday work duties," he says. "Hopefully that will carry over into your personal life, also."

A former builder, LeVan lives in an older five-bedroom home he's renovating in Three Rivers, Mich. He likes traveling, especially taking spontaneous trips. Although most of his trips today are to visit his three grown children and three grandchildren, he admits he still prefers to take the "long way on back roads" and explore new areas. Since he was young, LeVan has had an interest finding and collecting fossils and rocks. He still enjoys looking for specimens and polishing them and has collected hundreds of unusual rocks from campus alone. He also enjoys cross-country and downhill skiing.

## Semiannual staff award nominations due Feb. 28

Nominations for the spring round of WMU's semiannual Make a Difference awards are due by Tuesday, Feb. 28.

Make a Difference is a campuswide peer-to-peer program that recognizes WMU staff for their accomplishments and daily investment of energy and creativity. It features semiannual and annual awards available to Staff Compensation System, AFSCME, MSEA and POA employees who provide exceptional services to the University.

Every fall and spring, semiannual awards

are presented to a maximum of 15 people. Those selected for the accolade receive a before-tax prize of \$300 and a certificate; are recognized at a special reception; and may be nominated for one of four annual Make a Difference awards that includes a before-tax prize of \$1,200.

Semiannual award recipients may win multiple times, but are limited to one semiannual award per academic year. Visit [www.wmich.edu/hr/make-a-difference](http://www.wmich.edu/hr/make-a-difference) year round for nomination instructions and forms.

## Gov. Snyder praises Seita Scholars program continued from page 1

cation Studies at WMU and implementing teaching and research initiatives that will complement the Seita Scholars effort.

The teaching component will begin with a new three-year, \$1 million project funded largely by the Kresge Foundation that will allow WMU to build a consortium of Michigan colleges and universities and support organizations to promote higher education opportunities for foster youth.

The statewide effort will reach out to foster youth beginning at age 12 and include a youth-friendly website that provides college resources for those currently in foster care.

Harris is ideally suited to lead the Seita Scholars program and brings a unique blend of qualities and personal experiences to the director's post.

He has worked with Vanguard, Pfizer and

most recently Stryker Medical, where he was a senior project manager. He also had a highly successful nine-year stint in the U.S. Air Force, including two years in the Air Force Academy's admissions office.

Harris grew up without his biological father, was sexually abused during his formative years and entered a state-run independent living program at age 16. Persevering, he went on to earn a bachelor's and master's degree.

He has raised two children from foster care and is currently raising two more. Harris has been actively involved in WMU's foster youth program since its inception as a career mentor, is a board member for the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Kalamazoo, and has served as a volunteer for a foster-youth support program at Michigan State University.

## Dozens of local internships up for grabs starting in April

Students have a chance to earn a minimum of \$8,000 in wages, scholarship funds and other compensation by participating in the Monroe-Brown Internship Program.

The program provides career experience for certain full-time college students at several Michigan schools, as well as funding support for their studies. Some 43 positions are available at 33 Kalamazoo-area companies.

The deadline to apply for an internship is March 15. Each participating company chooses their interns using their own hiring methods and criteria.

Lynn Kelly-Albertson, executive director of WMU's Career and Student Employment Services, notes that all of this year's internships are posted online on WMU's BroncoJOBS website.

"But what we really want students to know is that they can come to our office and have their resumes reviewed before they apply for a Monroe-Brown internship," Kelly-Albertson says. "These positions are highly competitive. The better the resume, the better the chance of landing an interview and an internship."

For more information or to apply for an internship, visit BroncoJobs at [www.wmich.edu/career](http://www.wmich.edu/career) or visit the internship website at [www.southwestmichiganfirst.com](http://www.southwestmichiganfirst.com) and select Monroe-Brown Internship Program under the Talent tab.