



Western News

For and about WMU faculty and staff

APRIL 21, 2011

Volume 37, Number 15

New 'Great Colleges' deadline set

The response deadline for a survey that will decide "America's Great Colleges to Work For" has been extended to Friday, April 22. The *Chronicle of Higher Education* extended the deadline in response to requests from numerous institutions. Members of the WMU community who received the random, anonymous email survey are encouraged to respond by the new deadline. As of last week, WMU's overall response rate was 30 percent.

Commencement ceremonies slated

WMU will grant degrees to more than 2,600 students during four commencement ceremonies Saturday, April 30, in Miller Auditorium. The ceremonies will be held at: 9 a.m. for graduates of the colleges of Aviation and Education and Human Development; noon for graduates of the Haworth College of Business and Extended University Programs; 3 p.m. for graduates of the colleges of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Fine Arts, and Health and Human Services; and 6 p.m. for graduates of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Time to reserve spring luncheon seat

The 2011 APA/PSSO Spring Awards Luncheon will be held at 11:30 a.m. Friday May 20, in the Bernhard Center Ballroom. Reservation forms are due Wednesday, May 11. This year's theme is "WMU Pep Rally," and the community service project is the University's Seita Scholars Program for youths who have aged out of foster care.

The annual luncheon is sponsored by the Administrative Professional Association and Professional Support Staff Organization. During the event, both APA and PSSO present their annual awards. The cost to attend is \$5 for members and \$8 for nonmembers. Visit www.wmich.edu/apa to download a reservation form or see a list of suggested items to donate to Seita Scholars.

Hall of Fame nominations accepted

The WMU Athletic Hall of Fame selection committee is soliciting nominations for the 2011 induction class. The deadline for nominations is Sunday, May 1. Nominees should represent the best of Bronco athletics and may be from any sport and time period. Six honorees will be selected and recognized during the upcoming football season. Visit www.wmubroncos.com and click News for details about making a nomination.

Apply now for tuition remission

It's time for eligible employees and retirees to apply for tuition remission for dependent children, spouses and designated eligible individuals for summer II 2011 through summer I 2012. Submit completed applications by May 13. Instructions and forms are available on the Human Resources website at www.wmich.edu/hr/forms.html as a PDF file.

WMU to honor Dominican Republic official



Melo de Cardona

Ligia Amada Melo de Cardona, minister of education for the Dominican Republic, will receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from WMU during a noon commencement ceremony April 30.

Melo is credited with providing educational leadership, being a mentor to students from her country and being a driving force behind her nation's Dominican National Scholars Program. The program provides funding for students from any discipline and economic level to learn English and travel to approved universities in the United States to pursue their dreams and be among their nation's next generation of leaders.

Since 2008, WMU has been one of a select group of American universities enrolling students through the scholarship program. This year, some 140 Dominican students are studying at the University.

"Minister Melo displays an extraordinary record of contributing to both primary and secondary educational improvement in the Dominican Republic," the University's Honorary Degree Committee found in approving her nomination. "Her drive to expand and develop the human capital potential of the next generation of leaders in her country will undoubtedly have tremendous impact on Dominican society well into the future."

Replacements named for retiring administrators

Janice J. Van Der Kley has been appointed WMU's vice president for business and finance and chief financial officer, while James Gilchrist has been appointed vice provost for budget and personnel and chief information officer.

The appointments were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees April 8 and are effective July 1.

Van Der Kley has been serving for the past four years as associate vice president for business and finance and University controller. She will replace Lowell Rinker, who is retiring.

A certified public accountant, Van Der Kley joined WMU's staff in 1983. She was associate vice president for finance from 2002 to 2007 and assistant vice president for finance from 1993 to 2002. She also has headed internal audit and the operations area in institutional advancement as well as served as an instructor in the University's Department of Accountancy.

Gilchrist has served since 2007 as vice provost for academic operations and chief information officer. He replaces Bassam Harik, who also is retiring.

A member of the faculty since 1980, Gilchrist was associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences from 2000 to 2005, then served two years as director of Institutional Research. He is a specialist in organizational communication and communication ethics and has chaired what is now the School of Communication.



Van Der Kley



Gilchrist

University historian retires after making WMU history

When Paul Maier delivers his last lecture on the history of ancient Rome this week, WMU will close the book on a long chapter in its history.

Maier will retire at the end of this semester after more than 50 years on the history faculty and 52 years as a member of the University community. He is WMU's longest-serving faculty member ever, and his expansive research findings and prolific writing career have put him in demand among scholars and reporters as an internationally known expert in his field.

His attitude about his WMU role remains as fresh as the day he was hired.

"There is no greater job than being a university professor," he says. "I've actually had a little pang of conscience all these years about cashing my paychecks."

Maier has been a favorite source for reporters at media outlets ranging from the "NBC Nightly News" to *U.S. News & World Report*, *Time* and *Newsweek*.

One of the nation's foremost authorities on early Christianity, Maier is a Harvard- and University of Basil-educated historian and a seminary graduate who first came



Maier early in his career (left) and today (right).

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Around campus and beyond

Art exhibit depicts disease, recovery

An exhibit of oil paintings by WMU graduate Rachel Castle Herzer that depicts her experience with cancer is on display through Monday, May 16, in the second floor gallery of the Health and Human Services Building. Herzer graduated from WMU last year with a bachelor's degree in fine art. Pieces in the exhibit, titled "Emergence," were inspired by her bout with thyroid cancer and representations of self-portraiture and suffering throughout art history.

WMU previews summer camps

Whether they like to play the drums, write mysteries, sing jazz or design their own video games, young people will find something to engage their minds at numerous WMU camps planned for this summer. Registration is under way for many of the camps, and space is limited for most. Visit www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2011/04/051.html for a partial list of camp offerings.

Promoting Kalamazoo is talk topic

A local audience will get a view from the top on bolstering Kalamazoo at the April presentation of the Keystone Community Bank Breakfast Speaker Series. Greg Ayers, president of the Kalamazoo County Convention and Visitors Bureau, will present the talk at 8 a.m. Friday, April 29, in the Dean's Conference Room of Schneider Hall.

The talk, titled "Promoting Kalamazoo as a Visitor Destination," is free and open to the public. It will begin with a conti-

mental breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Reservations are required and may be made by calling (269) 387-6059. Free parking is available in the Fetzer Center parking lot.

Foster care youth to give lecture

A former foster-care youth will give a free public lecture from noon to 1:30 p.m. Friday, May 6, in the Fetzer Center's Putney Auditorium. The talk, "Knowing the Differences: Cultivating Achievement for Foster Care Youth in College," will be presented by Cherish L. Thomas. Thomas is now a graduate student at the University of Michigan.

Thomas also will present a free workshop for foster-care youth age 16 to 21 from 4:30 to 8 p.m. Friday, May 6, and 1 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, May 7. It will address topics such as questions attendees may have about their future and strategies for attendees to discover who they are and would like to be. Registration is required. For more information, contact the WMU Seita Scholars Program at seita-scholars@wmich.edu or (269) 387-8362.

Program focuses on retirement issues

Human Resources will wrap up the spring portion of its 2011 retirement-related seminar series with a program on "Medicare and Social Security Benefits" at 9 a.m. and again at 4 p.m. Tuesday, May 17, in the Bernhard Center. The seminars are designed exclusively for University employees and being conducted by Sanford Advisory Services. Reservations are required by calling Sanford Advisory Services at (269) 488-6900.

Board of Trustees ups room and board rates slightly

The WMU Board of Trustees approved a 1.9 percent increase in campus room and board and apartment rental rates for the 2011-12 academic year—the lowest housing increase since 2005.

"The change this year confirms the University's commitment to keep campus living affordable and attainable for WMU students," says Dr. Diane Anderson, vice president for student affairs. "Research dem-

onstrates that an on-campus living experience results in better academic performance, increased connection with the university community and higher graduation rates."

The rate increase will not affect students who return to residence halls in 2011-12. As part of the Western Edge, WMU's Residence Hall and Dining Advantage Program will continue to ensure that rates for students living in traditional residence halls will not increase for four consecutive years. The program has saved families \$1.2 million since its inception in 2008.

The trustees' move also means the rental for 361 on-campus apartments will increase by 1.9 percent. Additional residence hall and dining incentives will be offered for second-year and beyond students.

Retirement reception

Mike Stoline, statistics, will be honored for his 43-1/2 years of service to the University during a retirement reception from 3 to 5 p.m. Friday, April 29, in the Oaklands.

Jobs

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

Math educators co-author book

Christian Hirsch and Steven Ziebarth, mathematics, have co-authored a book with Harold L. Schoen and Allison BrckaLorenz from the University of Iowa. The book,



Hirsch



Ziebarth

"A Five-Year Study of the First Edition of the Core-Plus Mathematics Curriculum" is an in-depth longitudinal study of three schools that used WMU's Core-Plus Mathematics as their secondary mathematics curriculum.

The book, published by Information Age Publishing and released last fall, is a volume in the Research in Mathematics Education Series.

The longitudinal study tracked students from ninth grade through their first year of college using both qualitative and quantitative evaluation data to report on the different implementation experiences at each school.

The work on the study laid the foundation for a National Science Foundation-funded grant to develop a second edition of the Core-Plus Mathematics project. The U.S. Department of Education cited the first edition as "exemplary."

Prof part of Race to the Top Awards

Louann Bierlein Palmer, educational leadership, research and technology, was selected to serve this past summer as a peer reviewer for the U.S. Department of Education's Race to the Top grant program.



Palmer

The competition has been one of the highest-profile education reform efforts in recent history, and less than 100 peer reviewers were selected from thousands of applicants.

Palmer was involved in both phase 1 and 2 of the grant competition, during which nearly \$4 billion was awarded to 10 states and the District of Columbia. Her area of expertise involves educational reform policy, and she worked directly in the public policy world for 15 years prior to WMU.

Dean named Woman of Achievement

The YWCA of Kalamazoo has named Earlie M. Washington, dean of the College of Health and Human Services, one of its 2011 Women of Achievement. The recipients



Washington

will be honored during the 27th annual YWCA Women of Achievement Celebration at 5:15 p.m. Thursday, May 19, at the Radisson Plaza Hotel.

The award is given annually to women in the community who have made significant contributions within specific arenas as a volunteer or in a career. Washington was cited for her outstanding contributions to WMU, the Kalamazoo community and scholarship in several fields as well as her leadership on two national social work associations.



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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Jackson speaks at WMU



Civil-rights activist and former presidential candidate Jesse Jackson delivered a public address at WMU April 18. During his "With Justice for All" talk, Jackson urged students to continue fighting for economic justice and civil rights and exercise their rights, especially by voting and opposing funding cuts to education. He said many politicians assert state's rights as a way of making budget decisions that help large corporations and the wealthy. "The fact is, this issue of cutting the poor and enhancing the wealthy is not a race issue....," he said. Jackson was in Kalamazoo as a guest of the WMU chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, an African-American fraternity celebrating its national centennial this year. He began his campus visit with a closed campus and community leadership meeting.

(Photo by Mike Lanka)

Help select WMU's top four staffers for 2011

Fourteen staff members are in the running for 2011 Make a Difference annual awards, which carry a \$1,200 before-tax prize and will be presented during the fall 2011 Academic Convocation.

The 14 are recipients of 2010-11 fall and spring semiannual awards through WMU's Make a Difference program. As such, they are now eligible to be considered for one of the four annual awards bestowed by this peer-to-peer staff recognition program.

Members of the WMU community have until Tuesday, May 31, to help decide who will be this year's "final four."

In the running are: Sara Anderson, Human Resources; Brynne Belinger, Institutional Effectiveness; John Boss, Facilities Management-maintenance services; Kathleen Cain-Babbitt, Facilities Management-landscape services; Kai Chapman, Development-advancement services; Sheri Harper, Facilities Management-projects and construction; Suzette Kohlert, Sindecuse Health Center; Conn Macomber, Facilities Management-projects and construction; Steven Palmer, Residence Life; Tracy Pattok, Institutional Research; Timothy Strunk, student affairs; Connie Volenski, economics; Kevin West, music; and Tiffany White, university budgets.

In making its decision, the selection com-

mittee will review new information submitted for the candidates, as well as their previously submitted semiannual nomination materials. Those wishing to submit new information should include specific examples of how their candidates have demonstrated dedication to outstanding service.

The prestigious annual Make a Difference award is reserved for exceptional employees—those who reach far beyond their assigned responsibilities to give generously and creatively of their time and talents, making the University an even finer place to work and study.

Submissions of additional information may be sent to the Make a Difference Selection Committee by email to make-a-difference@wmich.edu, online at www.wmich.edu/hr/make-a-difference, fax to (269) 387-3441, or campus mail in care of Human Resources at Mail Stop 5217.

Acclaimed University pianist to perform at Carnegie Hall

World-renowned pianist Lori Sims, the John T. Bernhard Professor of Music at WMU, will perform in Carnegie Hall's Zankel Hall Saturday, May 7, as part of Hausmusik's 15th anniversary celebration.



Sims

Sims will perform a concert in tribute to the late pianist William Masselos. She is a founding artist of Hausmusik, a non-profit organization founded in 1995 that strives to help emerging and dedicated classical music artists achieve greater recognition.

Sims is no stranger to stages at high-profile New York performance venues. In 2007, she performed in Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall and, in 2000, she performed in concert at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall. She has won a long list of performance honors, including the Gold Medal at the 1998 Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition, and has performed throughout North America, Europe and China.

She has appeared at the prestigious Gilmore International Keyboard Festival six times and her New York City recital debut in 2000 at Lincoln Center, a concert in which she debuted the award-winning Etudes of WMU's Curtis Curtis-Smith, received critical acclaim in the New York Times.

Board of Trustees approve faculty, staff retirements

The retirements of five faculty members and four staff members were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees at its April 8 meeting.

Trustees also signed off on one sabbatical leave and accepted the resignation of one faculty member.

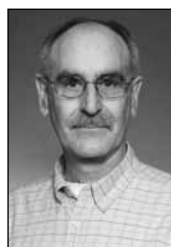
All of the faculty members who are retiring are doing so with emeritus status. Their names, positions, years of continuous service and effective dates of retirement are: Ellen H. Brinkley, English, 25 years, Dec. 31; David P. Cowan, biological sciences, 32 years, Dec. 31; Bruce M. Haight, history (change in retirement date only), 41 years, Dec. 31; Bassam E. Harik, economics and vice provost for budget and personnel, 33 years, June 30, 2012; and Karen Wicklund, music, 14 years, Dec. 30.

The staff members retiring are: Daniel-Muslim Y. Abdullah, Facilities Management-maintenance services, 22 years, June 30; Jerry W. Fulbright, Facilities Management-landscape services, 33 years, March 31; Cynthia K. Halderson, Mallinson Institute for Science Education, 17 years, June 26; and W. Wilson "Bill" Woods, associate dean of the Haenicke Institute, 25 years, June 30.

Resigning is Jerrold J. Jackson, speech pathology and audiology, June 30. Granted a fall 2011 sabbatical leave is Kuriakose K. Athappilly, business information systems.



Brinkley



Cowan



Harik



Wicklund



Woods

WMU wins Stryker Challenge

WMU students provided a clear and resounding answer last month when Kalamazoo's Stryker Corp. decided to find out which of several high-profile Midwest engineering schools would be the best place to recruit new talent.

WMU's four-person team of electrical and mechanical engineering students walked away with the top spot in the first Stryker Challenge, a seven-hour competitive event held in March. The event was designed to help the company determine its best recruiting locations. The WMU engineers beat teams from the University of Michigan and Michigan State, Notre Dame and Purdue universities to capture the event's top prize.

Obituaries

Louis Govatos, a former faculty member, has died, it was recently learned. He was 99. Govatos joined WMU's faculty in 1952 and retired as a professor emeritus of education and professional development in 1977 after 25 years of service.

Ruth Jane Overbeek, a former staff member, died March 27. She was 92. Overbeek joined WMU's staff in 1965 and retired as a secretary in the Burnham dining service in 1978 after 13 years of service.

Sarah A. Sims, a former staff member, died April 17. She was 72. Sims joined WMU's staff in 1991 and retired as a custodian in 2004 after 13 years of service.

Gertrude "Trudy" M. VanZee, a former



VanZee

faculty member, died Feb. 6. She was 98. VanZee joined WMU's staff in 1952 as a catalog librarian in Waldo Library and became head of the catalog department in 1963.

She retired in 1978 as an associate professor emeritus of University Libraries after 26 years of service. Previously, VanZee had served for 10 years as an assistant librarian at Kalamazoo College and for a few years as a catalog librarian at the University of Michigan and Michigan State University.

On Campus with Cheri Bales



ALWAYS ON THE GO
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

Slowing down isn't easy when you're Cheri Bales—not by nature or as coordinator of marketing and communication for WMU's largest college.

Bales works 28 hours a week for the College of Arts and Sciences, directing a half dozen student employees and interns as well as a part-time Web coordinator. Together, the team serves the college's 26 academic departments, plus the dean's office and advising, career, and development areas.

"Even though we're the largest college entity, we're the least recognized because we're so spread out," Bales says. "It's amazing the volume of work we do here in a year. But the more material we can get out there, the more we can brand our college."

Helping to build the college's image is a key part of Bales' job, as is planning special events. But the bulk of her time is spent gathering, processing and disseminating information. That primarily means maintaining the college's events calendar, publicizing important news, designing publications, and serving as an information clearinghouse for callers across the college and campus.

An increasing amount of her work involves electronic and social media, such as sending email blasts, creating podcasts, and updating the College of Arts and Sciences alumni and friends LinkedIn website. Among her newest projects are adding a new online reader called Issuu.com for various publications, so recipients don't have to download a PDF to read the publications; and incorporating QR scanner codes in graduate program posters, so recipients can quickly navigate to the department's graduate studies page.

"I look at my job as a customer service position. I like to find the best way to solve people's needs and help them do it efficiently," Bales says. "This job is a perfect fit in that and other ways. I enjoy working with everybody in the college, especially the student workers and interns. There's always a new job waiting to be done."

Bales earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Nazareth College through a nights-and-weekends program and earned a master's degree in interpersonal communication from WMU. She has run her own public relations and communications business since 1991 and been a part-time faculty member in the University's School of Communication since 2002.

Bales and her husband, Bob, live in Schoolcraft, Mich., and have four sons ranging in age from 11 to 24. One child is attending WMU and one is dual enrolled as a high school junior. The couple owns Sauganash Golf Club in Three Rivers, Mich. "I married a PGA golf pro thinking I'd end up some place warm. So far, no luck," Bales says with a dry smile.

University historian retires after making WMU history

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to WMU in 1958 as the Lutheran campus pastor (a position he held until 1999) and a visiting professor. But he views his official start date as 1960, when he accepted an offer to become a full-time member of the faculty.

His research has focused on manuscript and text analysis, archaeology, and comparison of sacred and secular sources from the first century A.D. That means he's been able to uncover fresh information on such topics as the actual date of the crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth, the hidden politics behind his trial and condemnation, the circumstances of the persecution of Christians under Nero, and many other topics he has explored in nearly 300 published articles and reviews.

Maier has penned 25 books—academic tomes, translations, biographies, novels and children's works—that have sold more than 4 million copies and been translated into 18 languages. All editions of his books are currently on display in the middle of the main floor of Waldo Library.

Throughout the academic year, Maier gives seminars across the country on topics reflected in the seven DVDs he has produced that offer new light on Jesus, St. Paul, the early church and current Christianity.

He's been named WMU's Distinguished Faculty Scholar and a winner of the WMU Alumni Association's Teaching Excellence

Award. In 1984, he earned a citation as one of America's 25 finest educators by the Washington-based Council for the Advancement and Support of Education.

During his WMU tenure, Maier has worked under the administrations of six of the University's eight presidents, and he's fond of pointing out that today, most people know about the people he worked with during his early years not because of their personalities or teaching skills but because campus buildings have been named for them.

Those who think his retirement may mean he'll be easier to reach or that he'll

spend more time indulging his favorite nonscholarly hobby—operating heavy equipment—are in for a rude awakening. His post-WMU life is already beginning to take on the frenetic pace he kept up as a faculty member.

In tribute to the beloved professor, the Paul Maier Fund for Ancient History has been established. Visit www.wmich.edu/history/maier.html for details about the fund. Visit www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2011/04/062.html to learn all about Maier's plans during the coming years and more about his WMU career.

National Geographic spotlights biologist's work

The National Geographic Society is tracking the research of Stephen Malcolm, biological sciences, on its News Watch blog.

Malcolm has been studying monarch butterflies in the field for 28 years, recently with support from National Geographic's Committee for Research and Exploration.

To get answers to some common question about the monarchs passing through gardens this spring, and their mysterious South American cousins, visit www.nationalgeographic.com and click Blogs. Malcolm is featured in an April 6

post titled "Monarch Butterflies: Miles to Go Before They Sleep (and Lay Eggs)" by Barbara Moffet.



Left photo: A male *Danaus erippus* (southern monarch) feeds on nectar near Tucuman, Argentina. (Photo by Stephen Malcolm) Right photo: Stephen Malcolm.