



Western News

For and about WMU faculty and staff

APRIL 7, 2011

Volume 37, Number 14

Board of Trustees to meet Friday

Consideration of a small residence hall and apartment rental rate increase and the transfer of property known as the Northwest Unit of the former Kalamazoo Psychiatric Hospital to the city of Kalamazoo will top the agenda for the next WMU Board of Trustees meeting. The board will meet at 11 a.m. Friday, April 8, in 157-159 Bernhard Center.

Grant applications due tomorrow

Grant applications for the 2011-12 Visiting Scholars and Artists program are due April 8. Visit www.wmich.edu/provost/VSAP for details and an application.

Faculty asked to take part in survey

WMU is participating in the nationwide Faculty Survey of Student Engagement. Faculty members receiving an invitation to complete the brief online questionnaire are encouraged to do so. Their anonymous input will help identify aspects of the undergraduate experience that may need attention.

Special pay plan goes into effect

The University's new TIAA-CREF 403(b) Special Pay Plan went into effect April 1 for eligible employees. Upon resignation or retirement, payouts for annual leave, sick leave or other designated payments will go to a 403(b) created for the employee. More details are available on the Human Resources website.

Register for Medieval Congress for free

Kalamazoo County residents and members of the WMU community may attend the 46th International Congress on Medieval Studies for free if they register online or in person by Wednesday, April 27. The event is set for Thursday through Sunday, May 12-15.

Register online at www.wmich.edu/medieval/congress or in person at the Miller Auditorium Ticket Office. Those who call (269) 387-8745 and register by mail or fax will only pay a nominal handling fee.

Don't forget to use up annual leave

The new annual leave program means many employees may only carry over 120 hours into the fiscal year beginning July 1. Detailed information about the new annual leave program for all benefits-eligible, non-bargaining employees is available on the Human Resources website.

Make WMU News your home page

In response to faculty and staff suggestions for more news on the WMU home page, WMU News was recently updated to include all the same global navigation found on the home page. Updated daily for the past 13 years, WMU News has 10,000 news articles archived, and posts more than 800 new stories about our University annually. For the latest news and events, make www.wmich.edu/news your default home page.

Historic gift news covered nationwide

Just moments after WMU President John M. Dunn made a March 22 announcement of an anonymous \$100 million gift to support the new medical school, the news was circling the globe.

By day's end, the story had appeared in some 160 news outlets, ranging from the "CBS Evening News" to the *Wall St. Journal* and *Business Week*. By week's end, the number of local and national stories had soared past the 200 mark.

The official WMU news release was sent on the day of the announcement at 9:30 a.m. to reporters who were on standby to expect the story at such organizations as the Associated Press, the *Detroit News and Free Press*, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Inside Higher Ed*, and *Bloomberg*.

By 9:45, with the gift news conference just drawing to a close, the story was on the AP wire and over the next 45 minutes began appearing in the online editions of newspapers and TV stations in Chicago, Anchorage, Sacramento, Houston and Seattle.

Over the next few days, the story was tweeted by national bloggers. Among those forwarding the story using Twitter was Paul Fain, formerly senior reporter for the Money & Management section of the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. Fain tweeted the gift story with this message: "Another 9-figure gift for a Rustbelt public U. Guess there's still money in the Midwest."



Katie Couric reports WMU's \$100 million gift on the "CBS Evening News."

Study shows much-praised charters not for everyone



Miron

A new report released March 31 by researchers in WMU's College of Education and Human Development and Teachers College at Columbia University raises serious questions about the high attrition rate of students across the country who attend the nationally heralded charter school program known as KIPP—the Knowledge is Power Program.

The report, "What Makes KIPP Work? A Study of Student Characteristics, Attrition and School Finance," also suggests that KIPP relies too heavily on a large infusion of dollars from private sources, which may make it hard to sustain the program over time. WMU's Gary Miron, educational leadership, research and technology, is the report's lead researcher.

KIPP operates 99 schools in 20 states and is renowned for its "no excuses method," by which generally high-poverty students attend school for a longer day and year than public school students in more traditional school settings. It has been widely praised by both the Bush and Obama administrations as a model for a successful charter school and viewed by some as a possible management option for failing Detroit schools.

But little attention has been paid to the kinds of students entering KIPP schools, the characteristics of the large number of students that leave KIPP, and the number of dollars KIPP receives from school districts, state and federal government, and private sources.

"I am surprised that KIPP gets more money from the federal government especially because

continued on page 4

Just one week left to respond to Chronicle survey

With the *Chronicle of Higher Education* relying on feedback from faculty and staff to determine which of the nation's schools are "America's Great Colleges to Work For," WMU employees have just one week left to make their views known.

An anonymous email survey was sent the week of March 21 to a random sample of employees—faculty, administrators, professional staff and hourly employees. Those surveyed have until April 15 to reply. At *Western News* press time, the overall response rate was 26 percent.

This is the third year the University has participated in the survey and the first year it has been able to include non-exempt,

hourly employees in the survey.

"The standard survey includes faculty, administrators and professional staff at no cost," says Felicia Crawford, director of human resources. "The decision was made to pay the additional fee to have all groups included for 2011, which we hope will result in more meaningful data about our campus. We're really counting on people taking the time to thoughtfully provide us and the *Chronicle* with good and confidential feedback."

The *Chronicle's* Great Colleges to Work For program recognizes small groups of colleges (based on enrollment size) for specific best practices and policies, such

continued on page 4

Around campus and beyond

Final spring employee mixer slated

All faculty and staff are invited to the final Fridays with Friends mixer of spring semester from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, April 8, in the atrium of the Gilmore Theatre Complex. Complimentary light hors d'oeuvres and cash bar will be available.

Events planned for Earth Fest

WMU is celebrating Earth Fest with a week of largely student-sponsored events beginning Friday, April 8. Keep visiting WMU News at www.wmich.edu/news for stories about some of the planned events, most of which will be listed on that website's Events Calendar.

Wounded Warrior 5K is Saturday

Runners, walkers and spectators of every age are invited to take part in the Wounded Warrior 5K race Saturday, April 9. The non-certified course winds through East Campus. Packet pickup and late registration begins at 7 a.m., and the race starts at 9 a.m. Registration is \$15. Proceeds benefit the Wounded Warrior Project, a non-profit organization that provides care directly to wounded veterans and their families. To register, visit www.wmuwoundedwarrior.com or call (269) 235-2789.

Chemistry Research Day slated

Chemistry Research Day will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. Friday, April 15, in the Chemistry Building. The keynote talk will be given by R. Graham Cooks of Purdue University at 4 p.m. in room 1720. Student and faculty posters will be presented from 2 to 4 p.m. in the atrium.

U.S.-China relations to be addressed

Gene H. Chang, professor of economics and director of the Asian Studies Institute at the University of Toledo, will speak from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 12, in 2028 Brown Hall.

Stanford scholar to give lecture

Stephen Orgel of Stanford University, a renowned Shakespearean scholar, will speak on "Open Secrets: Everyday Magic in Early Modern England" at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 14, in 242 Bernhard Center.

Events focus on heterosexism

The effects of heterosexism on queer youth will be the focus of campus events Friday, April 15. The events, which are free and open to the public, will take place from 5 to 9 p.m. in 1301 Wood Hall and revolve around the documentary film "Put This on the {Map}: Re-teaching Gender and Sexuality." Visit www.facebook.com/wmulbgt for details.

Author to discuss new book

WMU alumnus Richard Njus is returning to his alma mater to discuss his new book from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 19, in the Fetzer Center's Kirsch Auditorium. Njus is the author of "Touching Hearts, Educating Minds."

Arbor Day celebration planned

The 2011 Arbor Day celebration will be held at 10:30 a.m. Friday, April 22, on the Parkview Campus by the electric-vehicle charging station in front of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences Building.

Bronco named national coach of year

Jeff Blashill, first-year head coach of the hockey team, has been named national coach of the year by two of the sport's



Blashill

leading publications. *Inside College Hockey* announced April 1 its pick of Blashill as National Coach of the Year. Four days earlier, he was named National Co-Coach of the Year by *College Hockey News*.

Blashill led a rejuvenated Bronco hockey team to its first trip to the Central Collegiate Hockey Association Tournament championship game since 1986. WMU defeated regular-season champion Michigan in the semifinals and fell to Miami in the final game, but earned an at-large berth to the NCAA Tournament.

A former assistant coach at Miami University, Blashill came to WMU last April. He had spent the previous two years as head coach and general manager of the Indiana Ice of the United States Hockey League, the top U.S. juniors league.

Student wins Kennedy Center award

Mikala Hansen, a master's student studying playwriting and a graduate assistant in English, has won the coveted National Association of Partners of American Theatre



Hansen

Annual Playwriting Excellence Award for her full-length play, "Viking-American."

The Kennedy Center award entitles the recipient to spend a week at the center in Washington, D.C., and a week at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas as part of an intensive program in writing for stage and screen.

Hansen earned a bachelor's degree in creative writing at Denison University in 2007 and expects to graduate from WMU this year. After graduating, she plans to move to Chicago and perhaps teach while writing plays for theaters.

Staffer among first to be certified

Cari Robertson, Sindecuse Health Center, is among the first group nationwide to earn certification as a Master Certified Health Ed-



Robertson

ucation Specialist. The newly created voluntary certification signifies that Robertson has met the national standards for individual health education practitioners.

Those standards include advanced-level knowledge and skills and a commitment to the advancement of the health education profession and continued professional development.

Robertson joined Sindecuse in 2006 as WMU's director of health promotion and education. She is a member of the American College Health Association and its Health Promotion Section. She also is a member of numerous University organizations and chairs such groups as the Alcohol Risk Reduction Advisory Board, Western Employee Wellness Committee and Health Education Quality Improvement Subcommittee.

Exchange

For sale—Fully furnished park model trailer in South Haven's Depot Park. Inexpensive to own. Two+ bedrooms, family room, loft and decks. Park has pool and is an easy walk to beaches and downtown. Priced in the high \$60,000's. Call (269) 323-3198.

For rent—Fully furnished Lake Michigan beachfront condo in South Haven, Mich. Sleeps four to five people. Heated pool and

within walking distance to town. Priced at \$1,050 per week. Call (269) 323-3198.

For rent—House in Winchell Neighborhood. Two bedrooms, two bathrooms, hardwood floors, finished basement and deck. Washer and dryer included. No pets. Available now for \$925 per month. Call (269) 615-1224.

Retirement receptions

Paul Maier, professor of history, will be honored for his 50 years of service to WMU during a retirement celebration Friday, April 8, in 157 Bernhard Center. The deadline for dinner reservations has passed, but the campus community is invited to attend the pre-dinner reception from 6:30 to 7 p.m. and post-dinner program, which will start at about 7:45 p.m.

Bill Woods, associate dean of the Haenicke Institute, will be honored for his 38 years of service to WMU during a retirement reception from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 19, in the Richmond Center Atrium.

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.



EDITOR: Jeanne Baron. CONTRIBUTORS: Tonya R. Durlach, Thomas A. Myers, Deanne Puca, Cheryl P. Roland and Mark E. Schwerin. GRAPHIC DESIGN: Tammy M. Boneburg.

WESTERN NEWS (USPS 362-210) is published by the Office of University Relations, Walwood Hall, Western Michigan University, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5433, every other week during the fall and spring semesters and Summer I session. Periodicals postage paid at Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5165.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Western News*, Office of University Relations, Western Michigan University, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5433.

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 semester publication dates are Jan. 13 and 27, Feb. 10 and 24, March 10 and 24, and April 21. Items may be submitted by mail, fax to (269) 387-8422 or e-mail to jeanne.baron@wmich.edu.

WMU is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer consistent with applicable state and federal laws.



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

WMUK fund drive starts soon

WMU's public radio station, WMUK, is partnering with Ministry with Community and the Kalamazoo Foundation in its spring fund drive, which begins Saturday, April 9.

The effort will raise funds for WMUK programs while assisting those suffering from homelessness, poverty and mental illness in the Kalamazoo area. The foundation will make a gift to Ministry with Community equal to 10 percent of dollars pledged or donated to WMUK before or during the station's on-air spring campaign up to the first \$150,000 raised by WMUK.

All fund drive donations go to WMUK. All contributions from the foundation to the ministry are separate gifts over and above WMUK spring campaign dollars.

The on-air portion of the spring drive runs through Friday, April 15. Pre-drive contributions may be made online at www.wmuk.org or by mail. WMUK's Web ticker will feature up-to-date results of the station's fundraising effort throughout the drive.

WMU student joins fight against methamphetamine

As a critical care flight nurse, Dawn Johnston had seen enough. Now the WMU student and full-time flight nurse for West Michigan Air Care is mounting a legislative effort aimed at methamphetamine production.

"I'm fed up with transporting people who burn themselves up in meth labs," Johnston says. "The cost to our local governments, health-care resources and to the children affected because of meth lab activity is very troubling, and labs are even blowing up in motels and apartment buildings, threatening the public. It's time we did something about it."

Johnston is pushing legislation that would make pseudoephedrine a prescription drug, just as it was before 1976. The nasal decongestant has become the principle ingredient or precursor for making meth, an extremely

addictive drug that is wreaking havoc with the criminal justice system and medical community and destroying families across Michigan and the nation.

Legislation passed several years ago requiring pseudoephedrine and related drugs to be placed behind the counter and buyers to sign a book when purchasing them is not working, Johnston says. Meth producers find ways to circumvent the restrictions.

Johnston, who is enrolled in WMU's RN-to-BSN program, is now completing a report on the human and financial impact of meth labs in Michigan. After she's finished she will contact Michigan legislators across the state to educate them about the need to pass a pseudoephedrine prescription drug law. Through her contacts with law enforcement, Johnston has already found a legislative ally, and she has found her instructors to be very receptive. She's turned her efforts into a community health project for school credit.

For more information, go to www.facebook.com and search "Michigan Meth Lab Elimination Act."



Johnston

WMU blood drive honors No. 1 Bronco hockey fan

The student organization Tsai Lun is joining with the WMU College of Engineering and Applied Sciences to stage a blood drive in honor of Gideon Schripsema, whose special connection to the Bronco hockey team has generated headlines.



Schripsema falls asleep with a hockey stick given to him by WMU goalie Jerry Kuhn. (Facebook photo)

The blood drive is set for 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, April 8, in C-126 of the Engineering and Applied Sciences Building on WMU's Parkview Campus. Free parking is available in Lot P2 on the east side of the building.

Schripsema, who attended his first game when he was 2 years old and whose entire family is composed of Bronco hockey fans, was diagnosed with leukemia when he was 3. Three days later, it was his big brother Brody's fifth birthday and the party would have to take place at the hospital.

The Bronco hockey team showed up at the hospital for the party, forging a special relationship between Schripsema and his family. That relationship has spawned numerous news

reports, a well-watched YouTube video and even a ride on the Zamboni at Joe Louis Arena for Brody prior to a Broncos playoff game.

Graduate and faculty research showcased at 2011 poster day

Graduate students and faculty members will showcase their scholarly work Friday, April 15, in the Fetzer Center as part of the fifth annual WMU Research and Creative Activities Poster Day.

The free public event includes poster presentations of research from 9 to 11 a.m.

in 1035, 1045 and 1055 Fetzer. Keynote addresses by the 2010 Emerging Scholars will follow, from 11 a.m. to noon in Putney Auditorium. The speakers are Belinda Straight, anthropology, and Yirong Mo, chemistry. Lunch begins at noon with an awards presentation from 12:45 to 1 p.m.

Service

The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 30, 20, 15 and 10 years of service during April.

30 Years—Jacqueline M. Schley, Sincuse Health Center, and Ronald Schubot, information technology.

20 Years—John Barton, Facilities Management-landscape services; Jerry W. Fulbright Jr., Facilities Management-andscape services; Patricia A. Mikowski, Unified Clinics; Stephanie R. Page, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; and Lois J. Campbell, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services.

15 Years—Arthur Hudson, Facilities Management-landscape services; Yolanda A. Knight, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; James Douglas Short, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; and Michael A. Walden, Facilities Management-powerplant.

10 Years—Kim Brown, Facilities Manage-

ment-landscape services; Alison K. Czlonka, Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology; Jennifer A. DeHaan, College of Health and Human Services; Diane D. DeZoete, Dining Services-Bernhard Center; Robert H. McDonough, Extended University Programs-Grand Rapids; and Michelle L. Phelps, Dining Services-Bernhard Center.

Obituaries

Marie Irene (Stickley) Delahousaye of Yelm, Wash., died March 24. She was 93. Delahousaye joined the WMU staff in 1965 and retired as a secretary in what was the general business law department in 1980 after 15 years of service to the University.

Richard W. Flores Sr. of Plainwell, Mich., died Dec. 26, 2010. He was 83. Flores retired as a technical associate with the Paper Pilot Plant in 1993 after 10 years of service to WMU.

Edward Galligan of Kalamazoo died March 29. He was 85. Galligan joined the

WMU faculty in 1958 and retired as a professor emeritus in English in 1989 after 30 years of service to the University. He chaired his department from 1985 until his retirement.

Doris Luke of Santa Clara, Calif., died March 15. She was 99. Duke retired as a mail clerk in 1976 after 10 years of service to WMU.



Galligan



Diversity award winners named

The inaugural recipients of WMU's Excellence in Diversity Awards were

recognized during an April 6 program.

The recipients are: David Topping, president of the OutSpoken registered student organization; Joe Johnston, Lewis Walker Institute for Race and Ethnic Relations; Joseph Morris, counselor education and counseling psychology; Donald Desmett, Frostic School of Art; Sisay Asefa, economics; Sigma Lambda Beta; and the School of Public Affairs and Administration.

Three employees also were praised for their work this past academic year to further diversity and inclusiveness on campus. They are Yvette Hyter, speech pathology and audiology; Katharine Cummings, College of Education and Human Development; and Zarinah El-Amin Naeem, diversity and inclusion.

The Excellence in Diversity Awards program celebrates leadership, as demonstrated by successful efforts to increase diversity on campus, advance WMU's Diversity and Multicultural Action Plan, and help create a climate that welcomes and supports all individuals.

On Campus with Diana Sawyer



CLEARING THE AIR
(Photo by Deanne Puca)

Diana Sawyer has been where few have gone before at the University.

As a skilled trades helper in Facilities Management-maintenance services, her responsibilities include upkeep of building air systems, including changing air filters for heating and air conditioning systems.

The task requires Sawyer to know where filters are located throughout campus buildings and how to access them—in some cases by climbing into crawl spaces to reach ductwork.

"I've been in so many places, sometimes I have to ask myself, 'Have I been here before?'" she says.

A WMU employee for more than 35 years, Sawyer has only been doing her current job since last November. But the mechanics and other maintenance staff members who are her new co-workers have helped her learn the ropes.

Her previous job as a maintenance stockroom custodian for eight years also has been valuable. That work has helped Sawyer identify the equipment parts and filters that she needs in her new post.

"Equipment is equipment," she says, "but you have to make sure you have the right material."

Sawyer notes that when working with machinery, safety also is a priority on the job. As an example, she points out that although some filters are located in walls within buildings, many are located in ceilings that require tall ladders to access.

It's exciting to be able to go to so many different places around campus, she adds, and to be a part of the upgrades in air systems, such as is currently being done in Waldo Library.

But purchasing new equipment isn't always an option because of the cost. So, Sawyer says, it's part of her job to keep a wide variety of WMU's existing equipment running properly.

A native of the Kalamazoo area, Sawyer started working at the University in 1976 in Dining Services. She lives in Portage, Mich., and has three grown children—two daughters and a son—as well as one grandson. In her spare time, she enjoys hobbies such as crocheting and knitting.

Study shows much-praised charters not for everyone — continued from page 1

KIPP has limited special education services which are subsidized with federal dollars," Miron says. "Charter schools traditionally receive less money because they provide fewer services like special education and vocational training. That is why it's surprising that KIPP receives more money than all of our comparison groups from public sources."

None of the 12 KIPP districts reported any private revenues in the national school district finance dataset; however, a separate analysis of these districts' 990 tax forms for 2008 revealed large sums of private contributions. Per-pupil contributions for the 11 KIPP districts that the researchers included in this analysis equaled an average of \$5,760, much more than the \$1,000 to \$1,500 ad-

ditional per-pupil revenue KIPP estimates is necessary for their program.

Combining public and private sources of revenue, KIPP received, on average, \$18,491 per pupil in 2007-08. This is \$6,500 more per pupil than what KIPP's local school districts received in revenues. Some KIPP students have as much as a \$10,000 advantage over their peers in traditional public schools.

The report's authors say KIPP's claims of improving test results of the students who persist in its schools faster than traditional public schools are supported by rigorous and well-documented studies.

"KIPP has been lauded as a successful private operator of public schools, but this report shows that KIPP is not able to serve the broad spectrum of public school students with the money that is currently available for public schools," Miron says.

New Frostic fellows announced

Five students have been named the fall 2010 recipients of Gwen Frostic Doctoral Fellowships.

They are Michelle Barger of Kalamazoo, geosciences; J. Adam Bennett of Gastonia, N.C., psychology; Michael Buchalski of Stevensville, Mich., biological sciences; Katherine Ellison of Freeland, Mich., history; and Travis Hayden of Portage, Mich., geosciences.

Frostic Doctoral Fellowships are given twice annually by WMU's Graduate College. They are made possible by an endowment from the estate of the late poet, artist and naturalist Gwen Frostic, a 1929 WMU alumna.

The competitive fellowships range from \$1,000 to \$4,000 and assist doctoral students in all fields with dissertation expenses, including tuition and fees, materials and travel.

Just one week left to respond

continued from page 1

as compensation and benefits, faculty-administration relations, and confidence in senior leadership. The *Chronicle* bases its assessments on a random survey of full-time faculty, administrators and professional staff as well as an institutional audit that captures demographics and workplace policies and practices.

In 2009, the first year the University participated in the *Chronicle* initiative, WMU was named one of the top-10 large colleges in the nation in five separate categories. WMU's top-10 placement came in recognition of its offerings and best practices in providing health care benefits, tuition remission, life insurance, disability insurance, and post-retirement benefits.

Finals Finish shines the light on WMU students

Help is being sought to stage the annual Finals Finish from 6 to 10:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 26.

A campus tradition, Finals Finish promotes student success by making spring finals week less stressful. This year's theme is "Your future's so bright, you gotta wear shades." The Student Recreation Center will again be the main venue, offering study space, fitness classes, massages, competitive and non-competitive games, live DJ music, prize drawings and food.

Members of the campus and local communities assist in staging the event. Volunteers are needed to work a 2-1/2-hour shift from 5:45 to 8:15 p.m. or 8 to 10:30 p.m. All volunteers receive a T-shirt and are assigned to the Student Recreation Center, where they greet and visit with students, serve snacks, monitor the study area, issue recreational and fitness equipment, and help supervise games and other activities.

Visit www.wmich.edu/finalsfinish to volunteer or obtain more information.

