



# Western News

For and about WMU faculty and staff

FEBRUARY 24, 2011  
Volume 37, Number 11

## Board of Trustees gathers twice today

Members of the WMU Board of Trustees will gather in the Bernhard Center at 9 a.m. for a brief swearing-in ceremony in the President's Dining Room and again at 12:45 p.m. for a regular meeting in 157-159.

During the ceremony, newly appointed Trustee Dana Debel and reappointed Trustee Ken Miller will be sworn in for eight-year terms. During the meeting, trustees will elect officers for 2011 and conduct other business.

The agenda includes consideration of proposed differential tuition recommendations for two colleges and an assessment agreement with Merit Network Inc., a statewide non-profit computer network WMU belongs to.

## Weather emergency prompts action

The current weather emergency has led to power outages across the area. In response, officials have opened up various facilities to members of the WMU community who show their Bronco ID Cards. Complete details appear in the Campus Announcements section of the GoWMU portal.

Highlights include opening up residence hall space to off-campus enrolled students at no charge on a first-come, first served basis, and shower areas in the Student Recreation Center to employees and their immediate families as well as off-campus students.

Also, University community members are reminded they may get warm meals at WMU's dining halls and other eateries by using cash or WMU Dining Dollars, and in a few cases, VISA or Mastercard.

## Staff award nominations due Feb. 28

Nominations for the spring round of semiannual Make A Difference awards are due by Monday, Feb. 28. Make a Difference is a peer-to-peer program that recognizes WMU staff for their accomplishments and daily investment of energy and creativity.

Any WMU community member, including parents, may make a nomination. Visit [www.wmich.edu/hr/make-a-difference](http://www.wmich.edu/hr/make-a-difference) for nomination forms and instructions.

## Work-study paperwork coming due

Work-study recipients must have earnings charged to their work-study awards by Tuesday, March 1, or those awards will be canceled. Those who have hired a work-study recipient whose earnings will not be charged to work-study by that date should Contact Angela Madden at [angela.madden@wmich.edu](mailto:angela.madden@wmich.edu) before March 1.

## FYE facilitator applications sought

First-Year Experience Programs is accepting applications for paid First-Year Seminar facilitators to teach FYE 2100 this fall. The seminar helps new students transition to WMU. Up to 70 seminar sections will be offered. The deadline for faculty members, including instructors, to apply is Friday, March 18. Visit [www.wmich.edu/provost](http://www.wmich.edu/provost) for more information and an application.

## Community to welcome med school dean



Jensen

Hal B. Jensen, who was named last month as the founding dean for the WMU Medical School, will be formally welcomed to the Kalamazoo community today during a reception in downtown Kalamazoo.

Jensen and his family will be honored and introduced at an event set for 4:30 to 6 p.m. in the ballroom of the Radisson Plaza Hotel. WMU President John M. Dunn and Jensen will make brief remarks at 5:15 p.m. to a crowd that is expected to include members of the University and broader Kalamazoo communities as well as members of the area medical establishment. The reception is open to the public.

Jensen's appointment was announced Jan. 25. He was selected from among nearly 60 candidates whose credentials were considered by a community committee in the search for a founding dean of the medical school. The school is a community partnership involving Borgess Health, Bronson Healthcare and the University.

Jensen is coming to Kalamazoo from Tufts University, where he served as professor of pediatrics and regional dean for the Western Campus of the Tufts School of Medicine. He is expected to begin his duties at WMU this spring.

## Class registration begins for Lifelong Learning Academy

A sea of smiling faces greeted organizers of a Feb. 9 open house for WMU's new Lifelong Learning Academy. More than 200 campus and community members attended the event, which resulted in 45 people registering that evening for the academy's inaugural classes and another 65 registering as of early this week.

The academy offers low-cost educational programs to older Kalamazoo-area residents, although individuals of any age are welcome to participate. The first session runs from Monday, March 14, through Friday, April 8, and features 15 non-credit classes that meet once



every two, three or four weeks. All of the courses will take place between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. and last two hours.

"We're tapping into an unmet community need," says Ruth Heinig, co-chair of the academy Advisory Board. "I hear people saying, 'Just because I'm getting older doesn't mean I've stopped learning. Life's too short and too exciting not to keep exploring and finding new passions.'"

The Lifelong Learning Academy



open house featured remarks by several people who have been instrumental in developing the academy. Representing WMU were John M. Dunn, president; Dawn Gaymer, associate provost for Extended University Programs; Robert Miller, associate vice president for community outreach; and Heinig. Also addressing the crowd was Bernard Palchick, leadership gift officer and professor of art at Kalamazoo College, which is a partner in WMU's academy initiative.

The academy is a membership organization, but the only membership requirement is to pay a nominal annual fee, which is being waived for the upcoming session. Tuition costs \$20, \$30 or \$40, depending on how often a class meets. Fees also may be charged to offset the cost of class materials and travel.

As time goes on, the academy will be offering more and more courses each session. It

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# Around campus and beyond

## Black History Month talk is tonight

Molefi Kete Asante from Temple University will speak on "African American History in the Age of Obama" from 6 to 7:30 p.m. today in 157-158 Bernhard Center in celebration of Black History Month. Asante founded the nation's first doctoral program in African American studies at Temple.

## Entrepreneurs focus of presentation

Tamara Davis, director of the Michigan Small Business and Technology Development Center for Southwest Michigan, will speak at 8 a.m. Friday, Feb. 25, as part of the Keystone Community Bank Breakfast Speaker Series. The talk, titled "Tapping into Resources for the Entrepreneur," will take place in the Dean's Conference Room of Schneider Hall and is free. A continental breakfast begins the event at 7:30 a.m. Reservations are required by calling (269) 387-6059.

## Archives facility meeting rescheduled

The public meeting on development of a new facility for WMU's Archives and Regional History Collections that was canceled due to weather has been rescheduled for 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 8, in the Fetzer Center. The event is designed to gather input on the new facility from members of the campus and local communities as well as to provide information to the public about ongoing development activities.

## Philosophy of pragmatism explored

The philosophy of pragmatism will be explored when visiting scholar Gregory J. Shepherd, dean of the Scripps College of Communication at Ohio University, lectures from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 9, in 1028 Brown Hall. Shepherd will discuss pragmatism as a distinctively American philosophy.

## Visiting scholar to give two talks

"Pragmatism and Democracy" is the subject of a talk by visiting scholar Jack Knight from Duke University at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 9, in the Fetzer Center's Putney Auditorium. Knight will highlight the pragmatic benefits of democratic institutions as opposed to institutions that use other kinds of decision rules, such as markets and courts.

In an earlier talk the same day, he will discuss his research during a colloquium titled "Studying the Impact of Supreme Court Decisions" at 3 p.m. in 3301 Friedmann Hall. The colloquium is aimed at faculty and graduate students in political science, but is open to all.

## Date set for annual diversity lecture

This year's Respecting Difference lecture will be presented at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 29, and repeated at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 30, in Chenery Auditorium. The lecture, "Challenges Are Inevitable. Defeat Is Optional," focuses on the physically challenged.

## Senior citizens getting ready for fun-filled prom night

Area senior citizens will be celebrating prom night for the 23rd consecutive year when they gather from 7 to 10 p.m. Thursday, March 10, in the Bernhard Center's North and South ballrooms.

The University's annual Senior Prom is a fun-filled, nostalgic evening that brings senior citizens together with WMU students, faculty and staff for a night of Big Band music and swing and ballroom dancing.

Members of the general public are welcome to attend this semi-formal event. No reservation is necessary. Admission is free,

as is parking in the nearby parking ramp—Parking Structure No. 1.

For the 2011 Senior Prom, dubbed "Nautical Nights & Dancing Delights," attendees are invited to dance away in what will be decorated as the ballroom of a vintage cruise ship. Music will be provided by the Otsego Jazz Band, and the event will include dance contests, prizes, free refreshments, bingo and photo keepsakes.

The Draper-Siedschlag, Ernest Burnham-Smith Burnham and Henry Residence halls are organizing the prom with the help of volunteers and funds from student organizations and WMU.

## Physicist tapped for national group

Charles Henderson, physics and Mallinson Institute for Science Education, has been appointed to the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Undergraduate Physics Education Research and Implementation.



Henderson

The committee is charged with developing a series of recommendations for implementing best teaching practices on a wider and more sustained basis. These recommendations will be directed to academic institutions, educational policy makers and funding agencies.

An associate professor, Henderson has been on the WMU faculty since 2002. His research focuses on the beliefs that physics teachers have about teaching and learning and how these beliefs affect the adoption and use of research-based instructional strategies.

Much of his current work is directed toward developing theories and strategies for promoting change in the teaching of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM subjects.

Henderson is a former Fulbright Scholar and past president of the Michigan Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers. He serves as editor for the *Physics Education Research* section of the *American Journal of Physics*.

## Facilities Management team lauded

Peter Strazdas, associate vice president for Facilities Management, will be representing his department at an event next month in recognition of its selection as one of the nation's best facility management organizations for 2010.



Strazdas

The department received an FMXcellence award in a national competition for public and private facility management organizations that was judged by the editors of *Building Operating Management*. The 2010 honorees will be recognized during the National Facilities Management and Technology Conference and Exposition Tuesday through Thursday, March 15-17, in Baltimore.

Strazdas and representatives from the other award-winning organizations will make presentations at a special best practices summit during the conference, and WMU's Facilities Management unit will be highlighted in an article in *Building Operating Management*.

The magazine created the FMXcellence Recognition Program to honor facilities management teams that embrace and respond to their organization's initiatives. It acknowledges that facilities management efforts in areas such as sustainability, construction and cost cutting play an important role in achieving results for organizations.

"The use of technology, staying ahead of the curve with best facility practices and sharing them with our peers has energized our team and provided WMU customers and taxpayers with good service and value," Strazdas says. "Our Facilities Management team will stay on this course as we continue on our journey to excellence."



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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](mailto:jeanne.baron@wmich.edu).

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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

# Sustainability initiatives gain WMU recognition in many areas

The University's stainless steel EcoMug is being highlighted by the National Wildlife Federation as one of the top projects across the country that contribute to campus environmental sustainability.

The re-useable mug has been given to all new students since fall 2009 to reduce waste. It is featured along with a photo at [www.nwf.org/Global-Warming/Campus-Solutions.aspx](http://www.nwf.org/Global-Warming/Campus-Solutions.aspx) on NWF's Campus Ecology website. Clicking the link provides a list of about 85 projects from more than 60 colleges and universities nationwide included as Campus Sustainability Case Studies for 2010.

NWF's Campus Ecology program published the sustainability case studies to highlight initiatives ranging from green building and job training to habitat restoration. The EcoMug is one of three projects from WMU on the list that also includes a student-approved fee designed to support campus sustainability efforts, as well as an externally funded research project to evaluate best practices among the first 100 signatories to the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment. WMU President John M. Dunn is on the climate commitment group's national Steering Committee.



Other institutions whose projects made the NWF list include George Washington University, Harvard, New York Institute of Technology,

Michigan State University and the University of Michigan.

In addition, WMU was lauded as a campus trendsetter in a groundbreaking national report released Feb. 9 that outlines how colleges around the nation are saving millions in operating funds by using innovative green financing models.

Successful methods pioneered at WMU were outlined in "Greening the Bottom Line: The Trend toward Green Revolving Funds on Campus." Released at [www.GreeningTheBottomLine.org](http://www.GreeningTheBottomLine.org), the report was published by the Cambridge (Mass.)-based Sustainable Endowments Institute in collaboration with 11 partner organizations.

In response to rising energy costs and steep budget cuts, schools are tapping a new option—a green revolving fund or GRF—for financing sustainability improvements, while earning a high return on investment. WMU's quasi GRF has been in existence since 1980—by far the oldest effort noted in the Bottom Line report.

## New award celebrates University's diversity and multicultural leadership efforts

The Diversity Celebration Planning Committee is seeking nominations for its first Excellence in Diversity Awards.

The awards are designed to celebrate diversity and multicultural leadership efforts that have advanced WMU's Diversity and Multicultural Action Plan, increased diversity, and worked to create a campus climate that welcomes and supports all individuals.

WMU students, faculty and staff are eligible to make award nominations as well as receive the award. Nominations, including self-nominations, are being accepted through Wednesday, March 9.

Award recipients will be recognized at an Excellence in Diversity Awards Celebration from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 6, in the Bernhard Center. The theme for the evening is "Together We're Better."

There are six categories of Excellence in Diversity Awards. Four categories are for individuals—faculty members, staff members, undergraduate students and graduate students—and two are for groups—student organizations or teams and colleges, departments and other University units.

Awards will be bestowed based on the nominated individual or unit's multicul-

tural activities or goals. Those activities or goals will be evaluated largely for their variety; how far they go beyond everyday job responsibilities; and how they increased awareness of, or sensitivity to, diversity and multiculturalism. Nominations for the new awards should consist of a brief summary addressing those criteria. Additional supporting materials also may be included.

Nomination forms are available online at [www.wmich.edu/diversityandinclusion](http://www.wmich.edu/diversityandinclusion) and may be picked up in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, which is housed in the Trimpe Building. The forms should be sent to the diversity and inclusion office by e-mail to Lillian Manning at [lillian.manning@wmich.edu](mailto:lillian.manning@wmich.edu) or by campus mail to Mail Stop 5372.

For more information, contact Zarinah El-Amin Naeem at (269) 387-6324.

### 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**—Diana K. Allen, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services.

**30 Years**—Tobias J. Boyle, information technology; Lisa K. Hotchkiss, residence life; and Betty L. Kirk, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services.

**25 Years**—Patricia A. Moore, intercollegiate athletics, and Elizabeth Richardson, multicultural affairs.

**20 Years**—Carol L.J. Hustoles, vice president for legal affairs and general counsel; Stephen L. Kettner, information technology; and Nujurnor J. Park, information technology.

**15 Years**—Dennis W. Brooks, WMU Bookstore; Deveta R. Gardner, Career and Student Employment Services; Joel

Kendrick, paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging; Suzette A. Kohlert, Sindecuse Health Center; Tracey Scott Overkamp, Facilities Management-maintenance services; Shannon A. Rininger, Miller Auditorium; and Anthony Craig Velez, Facilities Management-maintenance services.

**10 Years**—Connie Black-Pond, social work; Donna M. Dlugie, University Libraries; Audrey K. King, Dining Services-Bernhard Center; and Shellie Mosher, grants and contracts.

**Five Years**—Megan L. Anderson, Extended University Programs; Bonnie K. Ayers, Bronco Express Services; Christine A. Dingman, Extended University Programs-Grand Rapids; Joyce Lavarne Dixon, student financial aid and scholarships; and Adam Christopher Newsted, College of Health and Human Services.

### Obituaries



Faires

**Nora H. Faires**, who died Feb. 6 in Ann Arbor, Mich., at age 61, will be remembered during an on-campus memorial service at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 13, in the atrium lobby of the Gilmore Theatre Complex.

Faires was a professor emeritus of history who had a dual appointment in gender and women's studies and was a longtime chair of the Canadian Studies Initiative. She joined

the WMU faculty in 2000 and, due to her illness, retired in December after 10-1/2 years of service to the University.

Memorial contributions in the name of Faires may be made to the Southern Poverty Law Center or any progressive organization. In addition, WMU graduate students have named a new graduate research award in her honor. Contributions to that award may be made through the WMU Department of History website.

Contact history Professor Ed Martini at [edwin.martini@wmich.edu](mailto:edwin.martini@wmich.edu) for more information.

## Recent Board of Trustees news

During its Dec. 17 meeting, the WMU Board of Trustees acted on several academic-related matters.

- The board authorized the creation of a Master of Science in Engineering (Chemical) degree. It addresses the needs of students for advanced degree options and of local businesses for engineers as well as helps build relationships between the University and the companies and scientists located in the WMU Business Technology and Research Park.

- Trustees gave their seal of approval to a new center honoring the lifetime achievements and commitment to Chinese studies of Timothy Light, emeritus in comparative religion and former WMU provost. They voted to establish the Timothy Light Center for Chinese Studies, retroactive to the center's opening Oct. 1.

- Lastly, trustees authorized the University to enter into a consortium agreement that allows WMU, Ferris State University, Grand Valley State University and Muskegon Community College to use space in the Stevenson Center for Higher Education/Cooperative Center at MCC. The schools will use the center to offer third- and fourth-year and graduate classes to complete requirements for baccalaureate degrees, post baccalaureate degrees and non-credit training.



## On Campus with Samer Shammās



NO. 1 IN DEDICATION  
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

Samer Shammās has a head for figures, a must when you're charged with keeping a watchful eye over the finances of a large, highly visible area of the University.

As the Haenicke Institute's senior operations manager for financial operations, Shammās is responsible for managing the budgets of the institute and its individual units, plus nine endowment funds, the International Education Faculty Development Fund and the President's as well as the Dean's Study Abroad scholarships. He also deals with financial matters associated with such institute functions as staff travel, international student immigration and admissions, study abroad, and certain overseas faculty research projects.

"It's a balancing act. I manage about 100 fund and cost centers and work with various partners and institutions around the world," Shammās says. "Pretty much every financial transaction that goes through the institute goes by my desk. Each budget has to be implemented, periodically adjusted and balanced at the end of the year."

Shammās, who immigrated to the United States from Lebanon with his entrepreneurial parents in 1981, graduated from Portage (Mich.) Central High School at 16 and majored in accounting at WMU. He spent a few years managing pizza franchises before returning and finishing his bachelor's degree 1992 and joining WMU's staff. Shammās managed the Lawson Arena Pro Shop until 1998, when his event activities were moved to the WMU Bookstore and he became the bookstore's supply and event sales manager.

"I wasn't looking for a different job, but in 2005 I noticed a senior budget analyst posting in *Western News*. It seemed to fit me perfectly, although I had no 'junior' and still don't," he says with a chuckle. "It was meant to happen. I saw the posting on a Friday, applied on Monday, interviewed on Wednesday and was offered the job on Friday."

As the Haenicke Institute has grown, so has Shammās' decision-making and financial-management roles, and in 2009, he was promoted to his current post.

"Technology makes it possible to get work done 24/7. I can reply to faculty and staff members worldwide, day or night, so they don't have to worry. It really isn't stressful when you enjoy what you're doing," he says. "I honestly enjoy interacting with students, faculty and institute employees. The real challenge is finding the time to get everything done. You work all day, eat at your desk, then before you know it, it's five o'clock."

Shammās' spare time is even more limited these days, as he's pursuing a master's degree in accountancy. But he still finds time to share board games, movies and visits to parks with his wife and three daughters. The Texas Township resident also likes to play auto racing video games and watch NASCAR racing.

## University donates aviation simulator to West Michigan charter high school

An evolving partnership between the College of Aviation and the nation's first charter high school for young aviators was celebrated Feb. 10, when the college donated a flight simulator to the West Michigan Aviation Academy.

"This is about our organizations' commitment to one another to support and welcome young people into aviation," says Capt. Dave Powell, dean of the aviation college. "We'd love to see WMAA graduates at WMU a few years from now, and we're looking forward

to working with them as they grow into aviation professionals in the future."

The WMAA is America's only public aviation charter high school. It opened last fall and is located at the Gerald R. Ford International Airport in Grand Rapids, Mich. West Michigan businessman Dick DeVos is president of the school's board of education.

The flight simulator is one of two that WMU decided to dedicate to student outreach. Last fall, the college upgraded its simulation technology to match the so-

phisticated avionics in its fleet of 26 Cirrus aircraft used by the college for flight training.

While the bulk of WMU's flight simulation technology now features the new avionics, two of the college's original simulators remain at the level more commonly used in collegiate aviation. One will go to the academy, and WMU aviation officials will use the other for a mobile classroom that will travel to schools around the region, helping students explore the potential of science and technology careers.

## Applications for Passau faculty exchange due March 16

WMU and the University of Passau are inviting their faculty members to apply for a short-term faculty exchange this summer.

The WMU applicant selected will spend one month in May or June as a visiting professor at Passau, one of the newest German universities in the lovely region of Bavaria. During that time, the WMU faculty member will have ample opportunity for research and interaction with Passau faculty, and will most likely be invited to give one or two lectures on an area of their expertise.

Interested applicants should submit a brief letter of interest, including a proposed list of topics they might like to speak on, and a curriculum vitae by Wednesday, March

16. German language skills are not required to apply.

The relationship between WMU and Passau is entering its third decade and has provided many opportunities for cross-cultural interchange. The exchange program is open to faculty members from any discipline. The University of Passau will provide office space, access to its facilities and housing in the city.

Visit [www.uni-passau.de/6.html?&L=1](http://www.uni-passau.de/6.html?&L=1) for more information. Applications and questions should be directed to Michelle Metro-Roland, director of faculty and global program development in the Haenicke Institute, at [michelle.metro-roland@wmich.edu](mailto:michelle.metro-roland@wmich.edu) or at (269) 387-3908.

## Class registration begins

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also will continue to develop a rich array of interest groups and broaden its programming to include lectures, travel-related activities and other special presentations and events.

To register for a class, download the spring session brochure at [www.wmich.edu/off-campus/lifelong/programs](http://www.wmich.edu/off-campus/lifelong/programs) and follow the instructions on the registration form. The brochure also may be picked up at Extended University Programs, area senior centers and Kalamazoo public libraries.

To request a brochure or obtain more information, visit [www.wmich.edu/offcampus/lifelong](http://www.wmich.edu/offcampus/lifelong) or call Extended University Programs at (269) 387-4200.