



# Western News

For and about WMU faculty and staff

JANUARY 13, 2011  
Volume 37, Number 8

## Trustees schedule 2011 meetings

The WMU Board of Trustees has set its meeting dates for the 2011 calendar year. Most board meetings are held during the morning in the Bernhard Center. The meeting days and dates are: Thursday, Feb. 24; Friday, April 8; Thursday, June 9; Friday, July 22; Wednesday, Sept. 28, and Thursday, Dec. 8.

## Dunn again donates salary increase

President John M. Dunn was lauded by the WMU Board of Trustees Dec. 17 for his "outstanding" level of performance and "commitment to student success, diversity, civility and excellence in each of the many roles the University plays and with every constituent group it serves."

By unanimous vote, the board's positive evaluation increased Dunn's salary by 1 percent—a figure in keeping with increases given to campus employee groups this year. The move raised the president's annual salary from \$362,457 to \$366,082.

Just as with his two previous increases, Dunn will donate the entire amount back to WMU for student scholarships. The donation will reflect the difference between his starting salary of \$345,000 and his new annual figure, which now amounts to \$21,082.

## WMU-CMU spring blood challenge set

The annual spring blood challenge between WMU and Central Michigan University will run from Tuesday through Friday, Jan. 18-28, and include 11 individual blood drives at various campus locations.

Those donating blood during one of the drives could win a semester-long WMU parking pass, an Amazon Kindle, a \$25 Meijer Card or a \$20 WMU Bookstore gift certificate.

Visit [www.wmich.edu/news](http://www.wmich.edu/news) for more information about this year's challenge. To make an appointment to give blood at one of the drives, call (800) 733-2767 or visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and click Make a Blood Donation Appointment.

## Event helps students get involved

New and returning students will be welcomed to campus for the spring semester during the third annual Western Warm-Up from 1 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 20, in the Bernhard Center's East Ballroom. The event gives students a chance to learn more about WMU's academic programs and student organizations and ways to get more involved in the campus community.

More than 75 University departments and registered student organizations will be handing out information as well as free goodies. Refreshments will be available, and students may enter to win prizes. Winners will be announced at the Campus Activities Board's Miller Movie later that evening. Students must be present at the 9 p.m. event in Miller Auditorium to win.

## Variety of MLK celebration events slated

WMU and Kalamazoo College will join forces with the city of Kalamazoo and the Northside Ministerial Alliance to stage a communitywide tribute to the life and legacy of civil rights champion Martin Luther King Jr.



Activities memorializing King begin Friday, Jan. 14, with an MLK Chapel Service in K-College's Stetson Chapel and continue through March 30. Among a slate of activities on Monday, Jan. 17, the national holiday honoring King, will be the city's annual Community Day of Service and a march to MLK Park.

This year's communitywide MLK celebration carries the theme "Bringing Life to the Dream" and includes a wide range of activities, from educational sessions and forums to book readings and panel discussions, many of which will take place at WMU.

The University's activities will begin Saturday, Jan. 15, with a WMU Celebration and Public School Students Visitation on campus in the Bernhard Center. Featured speakers are Juan Pacheco, a motivational speaker with Barrios Unidos, and Basheer Jones, a talk show host with Basheer Jones and Co.

Visit [www.wmich.edu/mlk](http://www.wmich.edu/mlk) for a complete schedule of campus and community events.

## Researcher is instrumental in new charter studies

A study by WMU researchers shows that privately operated education management organizations, or EMOs, now operate some 30 percent of the nation's charter schools.

The study, titled "Profiles on Non-profit Education Management Organizations—2009-2010," finds that while the growth of for-profit education management organizations has been slow, their nonprofit counterparts have enjoyed steady growth.

The report was released jointly Dec. 15 by the WMU-based Study Group on Education Management Organizations and the National Education Policy Center at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

The two organizations also released a study Dec. 9, titled "Profiles of For-Profit Education Management Organizations," that finds almost half of the public schools operated by for-profit EMOs have not met adequate yearly progress benchmarks mandated under federal No Child Left Behind legislation.

Both studies were written by Gary Miron, educational leadership, research and tech-

nology, and Jessica Urschel, a WMU graduate student. Alex Molnar of Arizona State University also co-authored the for-profit Profiles report.



Miron

That report takes the first-ever look at how well schools run by for-profit EMOs are doing in meeting annual yearly progress requirements.

It is of particular interest to states like Michigan, which leads the nation

in the number of for-profit EMOs with 185.

The report says 53 percent of schools run by for-profit EMOs met AYP requirements last academic year. Small EMOs managing three or fewer schools did the best with 70.8 percent making AYP while for-profit EMOs running online or virtual schools did the worst with only 30 percent making AYP.

One emerging distinction noted in the Dec. 15 Profiles report is that some of the more prominent and successful nonprofit

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## Prof says move over Mighty Mouse, HeroRat is here

Rodents aren't usually associated with superheroes.

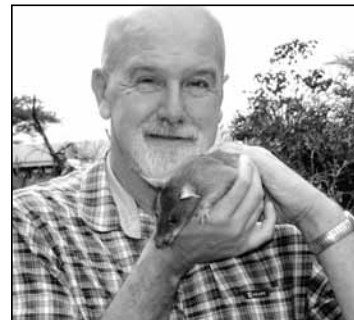
But Alan Poling, psychology, is part of a team working with a non-governmental organization called APOPO that has successfully used large African pouched rats to sniff out landmines and tuberculosis bacteria.

Poling says the rodents, dubbed HeroRats, have an acute sense of smell and do well at detecting explosive devices and the live TB bacterium. They're also cheaper to train and maintain than dogs, making them a valuable alternative for landmine detection in developing countries.

"Product developers, not scientists, founded APOPO.

They asked me to get involved because of my expertise

in animal learning," Poling says. "On the one hand, I thought their work was innovative and interesting. On the other hand, I thought it was kind of counterintuitive—rats don't come immediately to mind when one thinks of diagnosing diseases."



Alan Poling displays a typical HeroRat.

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# Around campus and beyond

## Chinese culture classes offered

The Confucius Institute is offering seven low-cost Chinese culture courses to the general public beginning Monday, Jan. 17. There are tuition-only discounts for senior citizens age 55 and older as well as WMU students and employees. To register or obtain more information, visit [www.wmich.edu/confucius](http://www.wmich.edu/confucius) and click Culture Classes.

## Cafe plans menu to honor MLK

An MLK lunch will be served in the Bernhard Cafe and Marketplace from 11:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 18. Visit [www.wmich.edu/bernhard/2011/mlk-lunch-bcafe.pdf](http://www.wmich.edu/bernhard/2011/mlk-lunch-bcafe.pdf) for details.

## Bank executive to present talk

Banker Arthur C. Johnson, a former American Bankers Association chairman, will speak on "Changes and Challenges in Community Banking" at 5 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 27, in Schneider Hall. Those planning to attend the talk should register by Thursday, Jan. 20, at [shawna.cassada@wmich.edu](mailto:shawna.cassada@wmich.edu) or (269) 387-6059.

## HR slates six training programs

"The Way Western Works" training series will continue this spring with six more free sessions that provide useful information about University processes, departments and resources. The sessions

are open to all employees and will be held from 10:30 a.m. to noon in the Fetzter Center. Pre-registration is required.

The first session on Tuesday, Jan. 25, will look at WMU wellness initiatives. Future sessions will cover PeopleSoft, Logistical Services, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Career and Student Employment Services, and the Office for Sustainability. Visit [www.wmich.edu/hr/development/series](http://www.wmich.edu/hr/development/series) to register.

## Tigers GM headlines dinner event

WMU alumnus Dave Dombrowski, CEO and general manager of the Detroit Tigers, will be the keynote speaker for the inaugural Bronco Baseball Leadoff Dinner Thursday, Jan. 27, in the Cityscape Event Center in downtown Kalamazoo. Doors open at 5 p.m. with a silent auction and an autograph session with the 2011 WMU baseball team. Visit the baseball site at [www.wmubroncos.com](http://www.wmubroncos.com) to register.

## Arts director to discuss challenges

Neil Bremer, executive director of the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo, will present "Enough Already" at 8 a.m. Friday, Jan. 28, in the Dean's Conference Room, Schneider Hall. Bremer will discuss his job and vision for the future. A continental breakfast begins the event at 7:30 a.m. Reservations are required and may be made by calling (269) 387-6059.

## Retirement receptions

**Office of Information Technology**—Pamela Rups, Instructional Technology Center coordinator, will be honored during a reception from 3 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 26, in the Oaklands.

**WMUK Radio**—Floyd Pientka, general manager, will be honored during a reception from 3 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 27, in the Oaklands.

**Registrar's Office**—Seven employees will be honored during a reception from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 28, in the Gilmore Theatre Complex atrium. They are Barbara McKinney, registrar; Michele McLaughlin, associate registrar; Joanne Lee, clerk; Pa-

mela Robertson, office coordinator; Susan Henker, office supervisor; Sharon Wagner, webmaster; and Patricia Emelander, clerk. Public safety will not be issuing parking tickets to event attendees who park in Lot 33.

**Office of the Vice President for Research**—Three employees will be honored during a reception 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 31, in the west lobby of Walwood Hall. They are Wil Emmert, senior research and program officer; Victoria Janson, research compliance coordinator; and Walter Worthy, faculty development officer.

## Obituaries

**Emily Czuhajewski**, a former environmental services area employee, died Dec. 25 in Kalamazoo. She was 85. Czuhajewski came to WMU in 1969 and retired in 1984.

**Kevin J. O'Donnell**, a former lead skills training specialist for the Center for Disability Services, died Dec. 5. He was 58. O'Donnell came to WMU in 1994 and retired in 2009.

**Austra Zuika**, a former secretary in the academic records office, died Oct. 17. She was 91. Zuika came to WMU in 1961 and retired in 1984.

## 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.

## Anthropologist writes new book

Robert L. Anemone, anthropology, has written a book titled "Race and Human Diversity: A Biocultural Approach."

The book, published last year by Prentice Hall, investigates human race from the twin perspectives of biology and culture. It suggests that while human biological diversity is real, all racial classifications are based on cultural notions and biases that fail utterly as biology.

Anemone has been a member of the anthropology faculty since 1996. In addition to his work on race and diversity, he is a vertebrate paleontologist with an active field research program in southwestern Wyoming. This summer, he also will be searching for early human fossils in the limestone caves of the Gauteng Province of South Africa.

## Artist elected to national council

Jim Hopfensperger, art, was elected president of the National Council of Arts Administrators at the organization's 2010 annual meeting in Austin, Texas.

The council promotes communication among institutions and provides meaningful collaborative opportunities for arts administrators within academia as well as with leaders in related arts organizations. An affiliate of the College

Art Association, the council is the premier forum for exchange on issues confronting visual arts, design, and arts education administrators in higher education today.

Hopfensperger is co-director of the University's Sculpture Tour and previously served as senior associate dean of the College of Fine Arts. He also chaired the Department of Art and Art History at Michigan State University and headed the Studio Art Program at Penn State University.

## Professor picked for fellowship

Laura Spielvogel, anthropology, is one of 25 recipients of a highly competitive fellowship to develop educational products for the Kaufman Education Ventures program.

She will be immersed in the intensive, residential, hands-on fellowship from mid-February through May, working to catalyze creation of educational companies with the potential to change the face of education and generate thousands

of jobs and dramatic economic benefits.

Spielvogel was selected for the program from a pool of more than 1,400 applicants. She is part of a three-person team charged with developing two interactive "social e-textbooks," one for cultural anthropology and the other in Civil War and Reconstruction.

A WMU faculty member since 2000, Spielvogel works on issues of gender, popular culture and globalization in contemporary Japan and with notions of identity and community that define cultures in the United States.



Anemone



Hopfensperger



Spielvogel



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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

# Fund started by Sindecuse doctor helps students pay medical bills

College students have been hit as hard by today's faltering economy as the rest of the population, but a retired University employee is working to fill a financial gap so their health doesn't suffer.



Staufer

W. Bryan Staufer, along with his wife Kathy, have established an emergency assistance program to help WMU students pay for medical care provided by the University's Sindecuse Health Center.

Staufer, a physician in Sindecuse from 1993 to 2007, was a pediatrician before coming to WMU. He and Kathy donated personal funds in 2005 to start the Bryan and Kathy Staufer Emergency Fund.

The fund has been used sparingly, surviving mainly through fundraising and generous donations by Sindecuse staff members. As economic conditions in Michigan have become more depressed, finding and keeping affordable health care has become more difficult for a growing number of students.

According to Fran Morrow, Sindecuse director of medical social work, about 15 percent of WMU's students are uninsured or underinsured.

"While financial aid may help cover their expenses for tuition and housing, our students are forced to gamble with their health, as they cannot afford the student health-insurance plan," Morrow says.

"We know that academic success is directly related to good health. We also know that having a good education is directly related to better employment outcomes in the future. It is our goal to ensure that all students at WMU have access to basic health care at Sindecuse."

Morrow meets with every student who has unmet medical-related financial needs to determine the best possible resources for them on campus and in the community.

"Whenever possible, we access community programs that are available to eligible students and work with pharmaceutical patient assistance programs to obtain free prescription medications for students with chronic health issues," Morrow notes.

"But that isn't always enough. We're hoping to increase the amount of money available in the Staufer Fund so we can help out the increasing number of students who are hurting—financially and medically."

The fund covers only medical expenses incurred at Sindecuse, and those receiving assistance pay on a sliding fee scale that

includes at least a 25 percent co-payment.

Since its inception, the fund has assisted some 100 students with diabetes, cancer, mental illness and other chronic conditions.

To donate, visit [www.wmich.edu/shc/giving](http://www.wmich.edu/shc/giving) or contact Morrow at [fran.morrow@wmich.edu](mailto:fran.morrow@wmich.edu) or (269) 387-4623.

## License plate gets makeover

WMU supporters will be able to spell out their devotion to WMU and support its students with a new license plate unveiled by the Michigan Secretary of State Jan. 10.



The new plate features the "W" logo that has been used extensively over the past three years to identify the University. The new fundraising plate replaces a design featuring the Bronco logo that had been in use since Michigan introduced university fundraising plates in 2000.

WMU ranks third among the state's 15 public universities with nearly 11,000 plates already on the road. Each year, those WMU plates generate more than \$100,000 that is dedicated to student assistance. Vehicle owners may keep their existing WMU plates or switch to the new look. However, no new plates will be issued with the Bronco logo.

Go to [www.wmich.edu/wmuplates](http://www.wmich.edu/wmuplates) for complete details and an order form.

## Former WMU-Southwest staffer named to direct regional site

Luann M. Harden has been named to head the WMU-Southwest regional site.

Harden, a marketing and communications coordinator in Extended University Programs, is a former student services coordinator for WMU-Southwest. She assumed her new post Jan. 3, replacing George E. Fierro,

who became EUP director of outreach and special programs this past November.

A WMU staff member for the past six years, Harden is pursuing a doctoral degree at the University in educational leadership with a higher education concentration and an enrollment management focus.

## New cadre of 52 faculty, staff members inducted into University's 25 Year Club

Fifty-two people who began their service to WMU in 1985 were inducted into Western Michigan University's 25 Year Club during a Dec. 1 gala honoring longtime employees.

The annual gala, held in the University's Bernhard Center, honors employees who have built their careers at WMU. With the new class of inductees in place, the club now has 391 active and 655 retired members.

The 2010 inductees are: Judah Ari-Gur, mechanical and aeronautical engineering; Pnina Ari-Gur, mechanical and aeronautical engineering; Paula Armstrong, speech pathology and audiology; Robert J. Balik, finance and commercial law; Dana Ball, Facilities Management-landscape services; Sue A. Beougher, university relations; Debra S. Berkey, health, physical education and recreation; Daniel M. Bracken, office of information technology; Sharon L. Carlson, University Libraries; Steven Darrell, Dining Services-Bernhard Center; Polly R. Graham, Facilities Management-maintenance services; Carolyn J. Harris, Spanish; Richard L. Hodges (retired), accountancy; Alan J. Hovestad, counselor education and counseling psychology; Wei-Chiao Huang, Light Center;

Michele Johnson, plant accounting; La-

verne Jones, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Valarie J. Levenske, Dining Services-Valley #1; Timothy Made, Facilities Management-maintenance services; Inayat U. Mangla, finance and commercial law; Pamela J. McMakin, Facilities Management-maintenance services; Ali M.

of Business; Allan J. Schwenk, mathematics; Julie A. Scott, information technology; Dora L. Secondi, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Frank L. Severance (retired), electrical and computer engineering; Patricia L. Short (retired), Registrar's Office; Marilyn J. Shriver,



New inductees included, from left: Toni Y. Woolfork-Barnes, director of First-Year Experience Programs; Paula Armstrong, office assistant in speech pathology and audiology; and Timothy Mader, millwright/maintenance mechanic in Facilities Management-maintenance services. (Photo by Mike Lanka)

Extended University Programs-Battle Creek and Lansing; Lisa K. Soule, Facilities Management-maintenance services; Fern Stewart (retired), Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Terri D. Stowers, University Libraries;

Burnie J. Tabb, accounts receivable; Ralph Tanner, electrical and computer engineering; Andrew S.

Metwalli, finance and commercial law; Laurie E. Miley, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Ellen M. Miller, Dining Services-Bernhard Center; Theresa Pau, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Mary E. Pratt, Facilities Management-landscape services; Patricia A. Putman, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services;

Susan R. Reed-Williams, information technology; Andrew C. Robins, WMUK Radio; William E. Rotgers, Haworth College

Targowski, business information systems; Donald E. Thompson, educational leadership, research and technology; Lois J. Tolhurst, University Libraries; Jay S. Treiman, mathematics; Joseph D. Truppa, Facilities Management-maintenance services; Linda L. Wallace, public safety; J. Alashar Walt, Registrar's Office; Dennitta L. Warner, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Elaine M. Williams, Miller Auditorium; Toni Y. Woolfork-Barnes, First-Year Experience; and Roy V. Zimmer, University Libraries.



# On Campus with Sherri Alvey and Bradley Galloway



TESTING "PATIENTS"  
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

Some people faint at the sight of blood, but not Sherri Alvey and Bradley Galloway. Dealing with the red stuff is routine for the two diagnostic technologists.

They and two colleagues make up the Sindecuse Health Center's diagnostic services unit. Unit staffers are cross-trained in radiology as well as phlebotomy, so they're skilled in taking X-rays as well as collecting samples for analysis. They also perform all of the functions of a basic lab, including doing general chemistry panels, liver profiles, urinalysis, and thyroid and prostate tests, plus provide general maintenance and quality control for the unit's instruments and analyzers.

Sindecuse's diagnostic unit performs lab work whether it's ordered by an individual's family doctor or a Sindecuse health practitioner. In addition, it will schedule early-morning appointments on Tuesdays and complies with all state and federal privacy regulations.

Alvey, a registered radiologic technologist, came to WMU in 2007 as a temporary employee and was hired full time in June 2008. Previously, she worked at Borgess Hospital in Kalamazoo for 10 years as an X-ray technician.

"We can do almost any kind of specimen draw right here at Sindecuse and if we don't have the equipment to test it here, we'll send it to a referral lab," Alvey says. "It's also important for the WMU community to know that generally, there's no co-pay or deductible at Sindecuse. You come here and you'll never see a cost unless it's a genetic test."

Galloway came to WMU in August 2008 and has an associate degree in X-ray technology. He was a CAT scan technician for St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor, Mich., for two years and a radiologic technologist for Battle Creek Health System for eight years.

"I say this job was meant to be. What's most challenging is finding new ways to improve patient care and enhance the customer experience while reducing the costs involved," he says. "But I love my job. I truly feel that Western's faculty, staff and students are one of the most courteous, friendly and compassionate groups of people I've encountered."

Alvey lives with her husband in Richland, Mich. They have a 4-year-old daughter, and a boy due to be born in a month.

Galloway, a Marine Corps veteran, serves on a subcommittee dedicated to improving Sindecuse services and enjoys attending Bronco hockey games. He and his wife, Zandra, live in Portage, Mich. They have a daughter attending WMU and three sons.

## Chemistry mural project reaches 50 percent of fundraising goal

A popular Department of Chemistry fundraiser has reached its halfway mark, garnering \$65,000 for graduate student assistance in the five years since it was launched.

The Elemental Chemistry Fund has sold sponsorships for 52 of the 118 elements displayed on a large periodic table mural in the first-floor lobby of the Chemistry Building.

Alumni, faculty, staff, friends of the department and local industries have purchased sponsorship rights for tiles of the elements included in the table—from \$500 for regular elements to \$10,000 for precious metals.

About \$11,000 of what has been raised has been used to help chemistry graduate students with personal and financial emergencies continue their education. One student was helped after her apartment was destroyed by fire and two others received aid to go to

Africa so they could attend the funerals of close relatives.

"It's very gratifying that it's taken off like this," says Michael Barcelona, chemistry, a former department chair who helped develop the fund. "It's something we can do that provides long-term solidarity in the department."

The idea for the mural and the fund was formed in 2005, and the tiles were placed in the newly constructed Chemistry Building during its 2007 opening, says Sean Bashaw, the facility's building coordinator and the electronic shop supervisor for the chemistry department.



Bashaw and the periodic table mural. (Photo by Deanne Puca)

Minneapolis artists Amy Baur and Brian Bolden produced the mural. Chemistry pioneer Madame Curie and other images accent the artwork and recognize the strength, courage and persistence of scientists.

Sponsorship of a tile is a way to help support chemistry students or honor a current or past member of the department or University. To make a contribution, contact Bashaw or Barcelona.

## Researcher is instrumental

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EMOs have been receiving a great deal of philanthropic support.

"While concerns about profit motives are not as apparent with nonprofit organizations, there remain concerns about how public governance of these schools is being affected," Miron says. "Some of them charge similar fees and behave similarly to for-profit EMOs."

Visit [www.wmich.edu/leadership/emo](http://www.wmich.edu/leadership/emo) to read both Profiles reports.

## Prof says move over Mighty Mouse

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APOPO, which is headquartered in Tanzania, is an acronym for a Dutch landmine detection product organization. Its work has been featured of late by MSNBC, CNN, the United Nations publication *Freedom from Fear* and numerous scholarly journals.

In addition, Poling has been interviewed during the past few months by media outlets such as the *New York Times*, CBS News and Voice of America.

He also was the lead author of a study published in the December issue of the *American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*, and will be featured in an upcoming edition of an American Psychological

Association publication.

Poling joined the HeroRat team in 2009 to increase its research capacity, improve the scientific rigor of that research and further streamline rat-training processes.

He has been going to Tanzania periodically since joining the team, and will be traveling there early this year to work on several projects with two doctoral students from WMU.

Visit [www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2011/01/008.shtml](http://www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2011/01/008.shtml) to read more about Poling's HeroRat-related research. Visit [www.apopo.org](http://www.apopo.org) for more information about APOPO and how to donate to the HeroRats campaign.