



Western News

For and about WMU faculty and staff

DECEMBER 2, 2010
Volume 37, Number 7

Open enrollment period about to end

Open enrollment for health and life insurance and flexible spending accounts ends at 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3, for AAUP faculty and for AFSCME, MSEA, POA and eligible non-bargaining employees. The open enrollment period for health insurance for WMU retirees also ends Friday. Visit www.wmich.edu/hr/open-enrollment for details.

December trustees meeting scheduled

The next meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees will be held Friday, Dec. 17. The board usually meets in 157 Bernhard Center. Details will be posted online at www.wmich.edu/news closer to the meeting date.

Tax-deferred savings options available

Employees have options for saving for retirement while reducing their taxable income. Visit www.wmich.edu/hr/benefits/tax-deferred-savings-letter.html for information on tax-deferred savings plans and how to schedule a meeting with investment advisor Jane Brady-Ertz.

Fall commencement exercises slated

President John M. Dunn will preside over three commencement ceremonies Saturday, Dec. 18, in Miller Auditorium. Visit www.wmich.edu/commencement for ticket information and full details.

The ceremonies will take place at 9 a.m. for the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Aviation and Fine Arts; noon for the Haworth College of Business, College of Health and Human Services, and Extended University Programs; and 3 p.m. for the colleges of Education and Human Development and Engineering and Applied Sciences

ACE seeks presentation proposals

WMU is hosting the 2011 conference of the Michigan ACE Network for Women Leaders in Higher Education, which will be held in Lansing June 6-7. The deadline for presentation proposals is Friday, Jan. 28. Visit www.wmich.edu/miace for details.

United Way campaign is a success

WMU has surpassed its \$275,000 campus United Way goal. According to campaign directors, a total of \$280,600 in gifts and pledges was received from more than 1,500 WMU donors. Those donating included 293 people who had not participated in the campus campaign before and 402 people who increased the amount of their gifts compared to one year ago.

Last Western News for fall semester

Today's issue of Western News is the last issue for fall. Western News will resume its regular publication schedule Thursday, Jan. 13. Publication dates are posted in the Western News masthead that appears in every issue at the bottom of page 2. During the hiatus, go to www.wmich.edu/news to keep up with news and announcements.

Gordon wins National Book Award for fiction

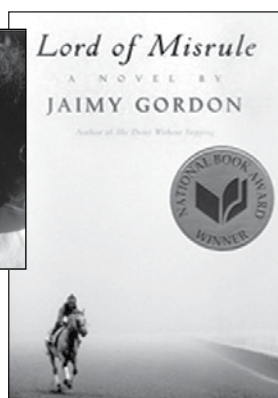
Jaimy Gordon, English, was announced Nov. 17 as the 2010 National Book Award winner in fiction for her new novel, "Lord of Misrule."

USA Today calls the book awards program "publishing's version of the Academy Awards." WMU will celebrate Gordon's achievement from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 13.

The free public event will begin with a reading at 3:30 p.m. in 2008 Richmond Center. Featured guests are Bruce McPherson, publisher of Gordon's award-winning novel, and several WMU graduates who have won prestigious writing awards, including Bonnie Jo Campbell, Liesel Litzenburger and Melinda Moustakis. A reception will follow at 4:30 p.m. in Richmond's lobby.



Gordon



The National Book Award in fiction has been won previously by such literary giants as William Faulkner, Saul Bellow and John Updike. It comes with a \$10,000 cash award and bronze statue, but literary prestige and increased book sales are among the primary benefits as well.

"Lord of Misrule," Gordon's fourth novel, was published just this month by McPherson & Co. Set in the world of West Virginia horse racing in the early 1970s, the book was praised by the judges as a "vivid, memorable and linguistically rich novel" about the rock-bottom end of the sport of kings.

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Applications sought for MLK activity proposals

University community members interested in staging events as part of activities celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King's life and legacy are asked to submit an application to have their events become a sponsored MLK program. The deadline to apply is 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10.

WMU departments, offices, individuals and organizations are invited to apply for funding grants as well as publicity assistance. Whether seeking funding or not, those planning to hold MLK-related events during spring semester are asked to submit proposals for each event so these activities can be included in WMU's publicity for the 2011 MLK celebration.

The theme of this year's celebration in honor of the slain civil rights giant is "Bringing Life to the Dream." The first campus event that has been scheduled already is a WMU Celebration and Public School Visitation, set for Saturday, Jan. 15, in the Bernhard Center.

Visit the MLK website at www.wmich.edu/mlk to obtain an application form for proposals, along with submission guidelines. For more information on submitting a proposal, call the Office of Diversity and Inclusion at (269) 387-6313.



*May this holiday season find your home filled with
the pleasures of good books, family and friends.*

—John and Linda Dunn

Around campus and beyond

Faculty art on display until Dec. 23

WMU will host its annual faculty art exhibition starting today through Thursday, Dec. 23, in the Monroe-Brown Gallery of the Richmond Center for Visual Arts. The "Frostic School of Art Faculty Exhibition" will feature the latest works of more than 30 faculty members.

Family Disability Resource Day set

WMU is co-sponsoring a Family Disability Resource Day from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4., in Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 120 Roberson St., Kalamazoo. The free event will include workshops on topics such as autism, intellectual disability, mental health and emotional behavior disorders. Register or obtain more information at luchara.wallace@wmich.edu or (269) 387-5941.

Series features three holiday concerts

The School of Music is offering three concerts in The Glorious Sounds of the Season Concert Series this year. The concerts will showcase student and faculty artists to raise money for music scholarships. General admission tickets for each concert are \$15, \$12 for seniors and \$5 for students. They are available from the Miller Auditorium Ticket Office at (269) 387-2300 or (800) 228-9858.

Saturday, Dec. 4, the University Choral, Cantus Femina and Collegiate Singers will present "Choral Christmas" at 4 and 7:30 p.m. in the First Presbyterian Church, 321 W. South St., Kalamazoo.

Sunday, Dec. 5, the University Symphony Orchestra, Gold Company and GC II will present a joint "Christmas Pops" concert at 3 p.m. in Chenery Auditorium, 714 S. Westnedge Ave., Kalamazoo.

Sunday, Dec. 19, the Western Brass Quintet will present "A Brass Celebration of Christmas" at 3 p.m. on campus in the Dalton Center Recital Hall.

Immigration, race topics of talks

Arlene Torres, a cultural anthropologist from the City University of New York, is the final presenter in the RACE Speaker Series. The WMU-scheduled series coincides with the "RACE: Why Are We So Different?" exhibit, which will be at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum through Jan. 2.

Torres will speak on "Latino Settlements and Immigration Debates: What Do Race and Culture Have To Do With It?" at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5, in the museum. She also will speak on "'Blanqueamiento' (Whitening) and the (Im)Migrant Trek North: Its Implications for the Afro-Latina/o Diaspora" at noon Monday, Dec. 6, on campus in 1115 Moore.

Proposals sought for WMU writing centers conference

The East Central Writing Centers Association, the nation's oldest writing centers organization, will hold its annual conference Thursday through Saturday, March 3-5, at WMU.

The theme is "Centering Assessment: Roles, Relationships, Resistance, Respect," but organizers invite proposals about all aspects of writing center work and scholarship. Visit the conference website at www.ecw-ca2011atwmu.com/index.html to submit proposals, which are due by Friday, Dec. 10.

The conference will feature a panel keynote discussion by four major voices in contemporary writing assessment and writing center assessment, all of whom are current or former writing center directors.

In addition, WMU's Eileen Evans, vice provost for institutional effectiveness, a former director of the University's Writing Center, will present a lunch-time talk.

For more information, visit the conference website or contact Kim Ballard, WMU Writing Center director, at kim.ballard@wmich.edu or (269) 387-4446.

Exchange

Home, estate sale—Brick home in the Kalamazoo Public Schools district priced for quick sale. Three bedrooms, two baths, 1,800 square feet. Available for show by appointment. Estate sale to be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4. Sale includes dining room table and buffet, kitchen items, yard equipment, ladies plus-size garments, and some 800 New York Times best-selling hardcover fiction and non-fiction books. Home and estate sale is located at 3327 Tampa Ave. between East Main Street and Gull Road. Contact Paige Warner at (269) 290-9246.

For rent—Two-bedroom mid-century home in quiet neighborhood close to WMU and Kalamazoo College (readers of Dwell and Atomic Ranch magazines take note). Furnished or unfurnished home appropriate for one to two non-smoking professional people. Available Jan. 1. \$750 per month plus utilities. Call (269) 273-4519.

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.

Prof named endowed business chair

David Burnie, finance and commercial law, has been named the National City Corp. Endowed Chair in Finance and Commercial



Burnie

Law. The honor includes a stipend and funding for research and research-related expenses. It is bestowed for three years with the opportunity for renewal.

"The award is given to an outstanding faculty member with a rank of assistant professor or higher who has demonstrated exceptional contributions to his or her discipline," says Kay Palan, dean of the Haworth College of Business. "All aspects of academics were considered in the selection, including teaching, research and service."

Burnie came to WMU in 1987 and has been an active researcher and administrator. He previously served as Haworth's associate dean and in other posts, as well as helped found the college's Co-Op MBA Program.

Economist co-writes time-use book

Jean Kimmel, economics, has co-written a book that connects children's development with how mothers choose to spend their



Kimmel

time. "The Time Use of Mothers in the United States at the Beginning of the 21st Century" provides valuable information for policymakers dealing with education, taxation, child care and other issues.

The book, written with Rachel Connelly, economics chair at Bowdoin College, was released this month by the Upjohn Institute for Employment Research. It is based on the authors' analysis of the American Time Use Survey.

A WMU faculty member since 2001, Kimmel is involved in four research areas: parental time choices; the motherhood wage gap; the gender and racial divide in computer access as well as the factors contributing to computer time choices; and the relationship between fertility and labor supply.

Musician pens guide for performers

Stephen Zegree, music, has condensed 30 years as a professional musician, director and educator to write "The Wow Factor: How



Zegree

to Create It, Inspire It and Achieve It." The book is a practical guide for performers, students, teachers and even parents.

It draws upon Zegree's experience helping would-be stars attain success and is a treasure trove of fundamental philosophies and concepts essential to a performer's growth and development. One chapter contains insights from interviews with top performers Zegree has worked with, including Nick Lachey, Bobby McFerrin and Liza Minnelli.

Zegree gleaned much of the wisdom for "The Wow Factor" from directing Gold Company, WMU's world renowned vocal jazz ensemble. His book is available at the WMU Bookstore and through Hal Leonard Corp. at www.halleonard.com, amazon.com or Kindle.



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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.

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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Professor earns NEA poetry fellowship



Wardrop

Among the many accolades picked up recently by members of WMU's English faculty is a prestigious National Endowment of the Arts fellowship.

Daneen Wardrop, English, was selected for one of the NEA's coveted Creative Writing Fellowships in poetry. The fellowships alternate annually between poetry and prose. This year, the NEA received 1,063 eligible applications, and granted \$25,000 fellowships to 42 poets.

The fellowships are selected through an anonymous review process and encourage the production of new works of literature by allowing writers the time and means to write.

Wardrop has written a book of poems, "The Odds of Being," which was published by Silverfish Review Press in 2008. Her poetry and scholarly articles have appeared in several journals, and she has received numerous honors for her creative writing.

Those honors include the 2006 Poetry Society of America Robert H. Winner Award, judged by Jean Valentine; the 2005 Bentley Prize for Poetry from Seattle Review; two Pushcart prize nominations; and the 2007 Gerald Cable Book Award.

Older adults encouraged to save the date for learning academy info session

Older adults in the Kalamazoo area will have a new opportunity to stay intellectually active and socially engaged when WMU launches its Lifelong Learning Academy this spring.

The program will be similar to academies already established at other universities here and abroad to provide learning initiatives for older adults. An open house to introduce WMU's academy and upcoming spring session has been set for 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 9, in the west lobby of Walwood. Refreshments will be served.

The local academy will have a diverse repertoire of non-credit educational programs specifically designed to address the interests of the adult learner. The courses will be designed to provide intellectual and cultural stimulation, promote personal growth, and foster social engagement in an informal and lively learning atmosphere.

Ongoing programming will encompass the arts and humanities, current events, the environment, health, history, interna-

tional and enrichment topics, and science and technology. There also will be a rich, evolving array of other courses as well as interest groups, lectures, special events and presentations, and travel programs and classes.

Plans call for the WMU Lifelong Learning Academy to start with an initial session that will begin March 14. The session will feature two-hour daytime classes offered weekly for two to four weeks, depending on the subject. Instructors will be drawn from current and former WMU faculty as well as local community members who are experts in particular fields or have strong interests in selected areas.

The academy is membership based, but membership is open to anyone with a passion for learning. There are no membership requirements, such as needing previous college experience, and no tests or grading—just learning for the joy of it.

Courses are geared toward those age 50 and up. Attendees pay a nominal annual

Emeriti set December program

The Emeriti Council's next Wednesday II meeting will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8, in Walwood's Emeriti Lounge.

The program will be a performance of an excerpt from last year's play "Good Death" and a discussion of the play's topic by Joan Herrington, theatre chair.

"Good Death" is an original collaboration, created entirely by WMU theatre students.

It explores the questions and emotional conflict behind euthanasia, terminal illness, aging, medical ethics and controversial topics. The script is compiled from verbatim interviews and incorporates transcripts from the Dr. Kevorkian trial.

fee, which is being waived for the inaugural spring session, as well as a modest tuition fee for the courses that they sign up to attend. However, additional fees may be required for class materials, texts and travel.

A volunteer advisory board has been formed to lead the academy. The board operates under the auspices of WMU's Extended University Programs, and in concert with educational and community organizations in the Kalamazoo area.

Co-chairing the advisory board are D. Terry Williams, WMU professor emeritus and former chair of theatre, and Ruth Heinig, WMU professor emerita of communication.

The board's membership includes community residents, retired college and university faculty members, and WMU staff members.

A curriculum committee has been working since early fall to develop and schedule the initial classes. Other committees to be formed will focus on areas such as membership, events and resource development.

Visit www.wmich.edu/offcampus/lifelong for additional details.

More information also may be obtained by calling Extended University Programs at (269) 387-4200. Questions may be directed to George Fierro, director of outreach and special programs, or Cheri Lay, director of the Office of Lifelong Learning and Education.

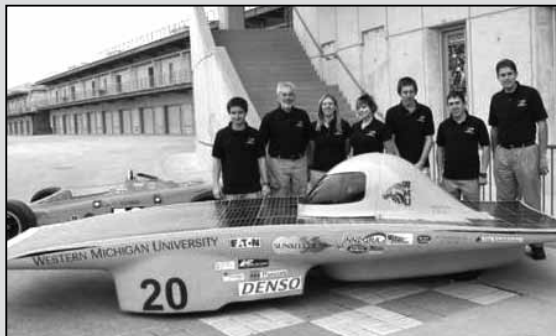


Williams



Heinig

BIG WEB PRESENCE—WMU's solar racecar, Sunseeker, helped officials at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway unveil plans Nov. 19 for an emerging technology day. The day will be part of the track's 100th anniversary celebration week in May. Sunseeker and members of its racing team were invited to represent the American Solar Challenge during the technology day announcement. IMS officials released a YouTube video about the announcement that featured team member Nicholas Killoran and Sunseeker. Pictured is the main photo that accompanied the track's official news release. (Photo by IMS)



Obituary



Bruce

Phillip L. Bruce, emeritus in engineering technology, died Nov. 23 in Kalamazoo. He was 78.

Bruce joined the faculty in 1963 and retired in 1990 after 27 years. He was active in industrial arts and education

organizations and served as a resident advisor in Garneau-Harvey from 1964 to 1973.

Arnold G. Nelson, English, died Nov. 13. He was 92.

Nelson joined the WMU faculty in 1954 and retired in 1981 after 26-1/2 years.

University recognized for innovative use of software

WMU is being recognized for its successful innovative use of 3-D computer-aided design software in the classroom by the international company that created the software.

California-based Autodesk, a leading 3-D design, engineering and entertainment software company, is featuring WMU as a "customer success story" in its promotional materials for the software that allows students to model campus buildings for energy analysis renovations and retrofits.

College of Engineering and Applied Sciences students and Facilities Management staff members have been using Autodesk for years and took it a step further to create building information models of existing

campus facilities. The Autodesk promotion highlights WMU as the only owner of the software to take this innovative approach.

In addition to that recognition, Peter Strazdas, associate vice president of Facilities Management, co-presented a workshop on building information models during the Construction Owners Association of America's fall leadership conference Nov. 17-19 in Tampa, Fla.

He joined other presenters from Texas A&M, Walt Disney Engineering, Georgia Tech, the University of Florida, the University of Colorado, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and many national construction and architectural firms.

On Campus with Sarah Hamilton



JOB COMPOUNDS HER INTEREST
(Photo by Deanne Puca)

Among the Chemistry Building's many storage rooms is one filled with shelves of bottled and powdered chemicals, countertops lined with scales and other measuring equipment, and rows of glass beakers hung on pegs to dry. Sarah Hamilton is in her element working in rooms like that.

Hamilton came to WMU two years ago as chemistry lab coordinator. She manages the stock rooms and conducts lab demonstrations for teaching assistants. In addition, part of her job entails making sure all the right items are available and placed on carts for the chemical labs that are associated with various classes, including general chemistry and organic chemistry.

Hamilton has an educational background and deep interest in chemistry, but working with students and staff members is her favorite part of her position at the University.

"Students have an energy; they get excited about their future. It's refreshing to work with them," she says. "There's always something different to do, and I can work independently to get my job done."

A native of Dorh, Mich., Hamilton grew up and went to college in West Michigan.

She earned her bachelor's degree in chemistry from Ferris State University. Initially, her academic interest was in forensic science, and she worked as an intern at the Michigan State Police Forensic Science Division in Lansing, Mich.

Despite the numerous television shows on forensic science that wrap up complex cases in an hour, Hamilton says the real-life science is detailed and time consuming, with backlogs for test results sometimes taking a year to clear up.

"It is fascinating, but it's not like what you see in the shows. You are not going to get your answers right away and, sometimes, not at all," she says.

Hamilton is married to Michael, a physical therapist at Borgess Medical Center. Opportunities for him to continue his education are what led the couple to locate to Kalamazoo.

Before landing her WMU job, Sarah worked at Avtech Corp. as a laboratory quality assurance professional. She enjoys reading and football, especially cheering on the Broncos and the Detroit Lions. The couple has a pug, Diesel, and a cat, Tessa.

Deadline for faculty award nominations approaching

Nominations are due Friday, Jan. 21, for the 2011 Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award. Up to three recipients will be selected.

The recipients will be honored during the 2011 Academic Convocation and receive a \$2,000 honorarium that becomes part of their base salaries, a plaque, and an opportunity to present a campus lecture, exhibition or performance.

The award is based on outstanding professional achievements. Wide recognition be-

yond WMU is essential. Current, continuing board-appointed full- and part-time persons with faculty rank are eligible if they have at least seven academic years of service to WMU and are not previous winners.

Go to www.wmich.edu/research and click Newsletter & Awards for more information and forms.

Questions should be directed to Ernst A. Breisach, emeritus in history, at ebreisach@sbcglobal.net or (269) 344-1734.

Gordon award

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Gordon, who has taught at WMU since 1981, based the novel on a world she learned about fresh out of college in the late 1960s when she took a series of jobs intended to boost her life experience.

She worked for a period as a groom and hot-walker at Charles Town Race Track in West Virginia. That experience served as background, as well, for her short story about horseracing, "A Night's Work." The story was chosen for "Best American Short Stories" in 1995.

This is the second time in as many years an author with WMU connections has been among the National Book Award finalists. Alumna Bonnie Jo Campbell, a student of Gordon's in the 1990s, was named a finalist last fall for her book of short stories, "American Salvage."

In addition, Daneen Wardrop has received a coveted Creative Writing Fellowship in

poetry this year from the National Endowment of the Arts (see related story on page 3).

Gordon has published three other novels: "Bogeywoman," "Shamp of the City-Solo" and "She Drove Without Stopping." The latter, often described as a woman's road novel, was an American Library Association Notable Book for 1990.

In 1991, Gordon won an Academy-Institute Award for her fiction from the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters. "Bogeywoman" made the Los Angeles Times list of the Best Fiction of 2000. Gordon also has earned numerous other awards for her work, which includes a novella, poetry, masques, short stories and essays.

Visit the National Book Foundation site at www.nationalbook.org/nba2010.html to learn more about the competition and judges and to read an extended interview with Gordon about her award-winning book.

Apps keep WMU fans connected

WMU sports fans can now keep up with their favorite Bronco teams on the go, thanks to three new smart phone applications.

Intercollegiate athletics and Smart-phones Technologies recently released the WMU Broncos College SuperFans App for the iPhone and Android, as well as a clock widget and live wallpaper for Bronco fans using Android devices.

SuperFans provides instant access to college football and basketball scores, schedules, stories, Associated Press and BCS polls, conference standings, and game previews and recaps. It's available for \$2.99 in Apple's iTunes App Store and the Android Market.

The other two Bronco apps also cost \$2.99 and are available in the Android Market.

The WMU Broncos Clock Widget XL allows users to replace their standard clock with a custom Broncos clock and also displays Mid-American Conference and top-25 scores when games are in progress.

WMU Broncos Live Wallpaper features a 3-D Bronco logo and background animation that fades from "WMU" to "Broncos."

Visit www.smartphonestech.com/csf to download the applications.

