



# Western News

For and about WMU faculty and staff

NOVEMBER 18, 2010  
Volume 37, Number 6

## Select holiday hours posted online

Most WMU employees will have the Thanksgiving holiday off as well as the Friday after Thanksgiving. However, for the academic community, the Thanksgiving Holiday Recess begins at noon Wednesday, Nov. 24, and ends with the resumption of classes at 8 a.m. Monday, Nov. 29.

That means computer labs, Waldo Library and other campus services will operate on reduced hours or close at 5 p.m. Nov. 24 and reopen Nov. 29. Visit [www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2010/11/043.shtml](http://www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2010/11/043.shtml) for details about holiday hours for select offices.

## 47th annual Turkey Trot 5K slated

Runners, walkers and spectators of every age are invited to attend the University's 47th annual Turkey Trot 5K race at 8:45 a.m.



Saturday, Nov. 20. Online registration closes at 2 p.m. today. Packet pickup and registration will be available on site race day.

The non-certified Turkey Trot course winds through WMU's main campus, with a start and finish line in the Student Recreation Center's indoor tennis courts area. Participants are encouraged to bring canned-good donations to benefit Loaves and Fishes of Kalamazoo. Last year, the event brought in more than 800 pounds of food.

To register or obtain details, visit [www.wmich.edu/rec](http://www.wmich.edu/rec) or call (269) 387-3743.

## Office announces name change

The former Office of Legislative Affairs is now the Office of Government Affairs. Telephone numbers and other contact information remain the same. The office is correctly listed under "Government Affairs" in the new campus directory.

## Hilltop Review submissions due soon

Monday, Jan. 10, is the deadline to submit papers and artwork for the spring 2011 issue of *The Hilltop Review: A Journal of Western Michigan University Graduate Student Research*. The publication accepts submissions from any current WMU graduate student.

Papers are peer reviewed by a representative faculty member and a graduate student. Papers recommended for publication are reviewed by an editorial board composed of graduate students. Visit the Graduate Student Advisory Committee website at [www.wmich.edu/gsac](http://www.wmich.edu/gsac) for more information.

## One more fall issue of Western News

This is the next to the last issue of *Western News* for the fall. The last issue will be distributed on Thursday, Dec. 2. The deadline to submit items for that issue is 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 26. Publication will resume Jan. 13.

## Researchers get \$3.5 million education grant

Two WMU researchers have been awarded a five-year, \$3.5 million grant to work with principals and aspiring principals to improve education in 12 partner high-need school districts in Michigan.

With the help of the U.S. Department of Education grant, Jianping Shen and Van Cooley, both educational leadership, research and technology, will conduct the Learning-Centered Leadership Development Program.

The project pairs 50 practicing and 50 aspiring principals from the same schools in the 12 participating districts. Assessment of the schools and districts involved shows an urgent need for improving leadership

of both practicing and aspiring principals. Improving leadership will, ultimately, raise student achievement.

Shen says student achievement has been a major focus of educational policy and practice for the last decade, especially for high-need schools and districts. The new project builds on prior work he and Cooley have undertaken that is being

funded by the education department's first School Leadership Program grant and two subsequent projects funded by the Wallace Foundation.

The goal of the new project is to develop a learning-focused leadership development program demonstrating strong results that

*continued on page 4*



Shen



Cooley

## WMU, MCC to offer two joint academic programs

An agreement signed Nov. 11 by the presidents of Muskegon Community College and WMU will mean the two schools will join forces to provide bachelor's degrees in engineering and recreation to Muskegon-area students.

WMU President John M. Dunn and MCC President Dale Nesbary formalized the agreement with a signing ceremony at MCC's Stevenson Center just before a celebration marking the Stevenson Center's 15th anniversary.

A second signing ceremony that day included Dunn, Nesbary and two other university presidents, David Eisler of Ferris State University and Thomas Haas of Grand Valley State University, who also have advocated for joint university/community college program opportunities.

The joint programs between WMU and MCC provide students with the best of both worlds by offering them joint admission, efficient and flexible class scheduling and the freedom to move seamlessly from MCC to WMU on their way to earning an associate degree at MCC and then a bachelor's degree at WMU.

Students who opt to participate in a joint program meet admissions criteria for each school and are assigned MCC and WMU advisors who help them develop a Personal Program Plan that identifies the courses needed and their sequence. Students are enrolled at both MCC and WMU and enjoy benefits from both institutions, such as library and computer system use and access to athletic, professional and cultural programming.

Students in the program may begin taking a WMU course during their first year at MCC and may opt to return to MCC for additional courses even after completion of their associate degree requirements. On their way to completion of a bachelor's degree, students take courses at MCC and at WMU-Muskegon and WMU's main campus in Kalamazoo.

## WMU well represented in Kalamazoo Holiday Parade

Four WMU-themed floats including this one representing the University's main entry were part of the annual Kalamazoo Holiday Parade Nov. 13. The other entries were organized by the College of Aviation, College of Education and Human Development, and College of Engineering and Applied Sciences. An estimated 200 students, alumni, and faculty and staff members participated. (Photo by Mike Lanka)



# Around Campus

## Art exhibits set to close Nov. 24

Two free exhibitions in the Richmond Center for Visual Arts will be closing Wednesday, Nov. 24. They are "Yellow Terror: The Collections and Paintings of Roger Shimomura" in the Monroe-Brown Gallery and "Tricia Hennessy: Whisper Scream" in the Netzorg-Kerr Gallery.

Shimomura is a visiting artist who paints and collects stereotype representations of Asian-Americans appropriated from hundreds of objects circulated within popular culture. Hennessy is a WMU art professor. Her exhibition brings together graphic design, conceptual art and the multi-media devices of popular culture.

## China's elderly, migration examined

John Giles, senior labor economist in the World Bank's Development Research Group, will speak from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 1, on "Rural to Urban Migration and the Well-Being of China's Rural Elderly" in 2028 Brown. Giles' talk is part of the Werner Sichel Lecture Series. The theme of this year's series is "Dragon vs. Eagle: The Chinese Economy and U.S.-China Economic Relations."

## Broadway songstress to perform

University Theatre will close out its fall season with "Late Night Broadway," an intimate cabaret-style show featuring Broadway star Donna Lynne Champlin and graduating musical theatre students.

Productions take place at 9 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, Dec. 2-4, in Williams Theatre at WMU's Gilmore Theatre Complex. A cash bar is available for all performances. Tickets may be purchased at (269) 387-6222, [www.wmutheatre.com](http://www.wmutheatre.com) or the Gilmore Theatre Complex or Miller Auditorium ticket offices.

## Scholar to discuss moral evolution

Visiting scholar Edouard Machery, associate professor of philosophy in the University of Pittsburgh Department of History and Philosophy of Science, will discuss the "Evolution of Morality" at 4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 2, in the political science library on the third floor of Friedmann. In his talk, Machery will examine whether morality really evolved, as many philosophers, psychologists, anthropologists and biologists claim.

## Luderer to be next Keystone speaker

Jack Luderer, interim dean of the School of Medicine, will be the next speaker in the Keystone Community Bank Breakfast Speaker Series. Luderer will discuss "WMU's School of Medicine—Moving Forward," beginning at 8 a.m. Friday, Dec. 3, in the Dean's Conference Room in Schneider. A continental breakfast starts the event at 7:30 a.m. and is free and open to the public. Reservations are required and may be made by calling (269) 387-6059.

## Special holiday lunches offered at campus venues

Members of the campus community as well as friends of WMU have three opportunities to dine in style for the holidays.

First up will be a Holiday Spectacular Luncheon in the Bernhard Cafe from 11:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. today. The public cafeteria, which is located on the Bernhard Center's main level, will be offering holiday meals from \$4.99 to \$8.99.

Visit [www.wmich.edu/dining/2010/holidaylunch10.pdf](http://www.wmich.edu/dining/2010/holidaylunch10.pdf) for a PDF file detailing the full menu and prices.

The Fetzer Center has two holiday dining events scheduled, starting with the popular

Lunch with Santa Sunday, Dec. 5. Santa will be on hand to visit with children during this festive buffet meal. Seating opens at 11 a.m. and ends at 1:30 p.m. The cost is \$13.50 or \$8 for children age 4 to 11. Children under age 3 eat free.

In addition, the Fetzer Center will be showcasing its food and amenities for large and small gatherings of WMU colleagues and friends between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Wednesday and Friday, Dec. 15 and 17. This lunch costs \$14 per person and will include holiday-themed decorations and background music.

Seating is limited for the Dec. 5, 15 and 17 lunches, so get your required reservations in early. Visit [www.fetzercenter.com](http://www.fetzercenter.com) or call (269) 387-3232 to make a reservation or obtain more information.

## Exchange

**Service provided**—Dog walking by WMU retiree for residents in Kalamazoo and west-Kalamazoo areas. Schedule regular 40-minute walks two to three times per week to keep your dog(s) happy this winter. For estimate, contact [donna.mearing@wmich.edu](mailto:donna.mearing@wmich.edu) or (269) 353-1334.

## 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.

## President named to climate group

John M. Dunn, WMU president, has been elected to the steering committee for the American College & University Presidents'



Dunn

Climate Commitment. Dunn was elected during the organization's 2010 Climate Leadership Summit in Denver Oct. 13. After becoming WMU's eighth president in 2007, Dunn has made sustainability a pillar of his presidency.

The Presidents' Climate Commitment, launched in 2007, is a network of 675 colleges and universities whose presidents have set climate neutrality as its target, rather than just setting a percent reduction in emissions. It is the first effort by any major sector of society to commit to such a target, and now serves as a role model for regional, national and international initiatives.

Institutions in the network represent all 50 states as well as about one third of the U.S. higher education student population. Visit [www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org](http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org) for details about the initiative.

## Staffer to lead national association

Julie Lenczycki, Facilities Management-projects and construction, has been elected to a two-year term as president of the



lenczycki

Association of University Interior Designers. Lenczycki was elected during the association's 2010 National Conference held in October.

The association is a non-profit professional group for individuals who work within institutions of higher education. Lenczycki, the association's first vice president, was elevated to interim president last spring after the former president left her job at Cornell University and stepped down from the post.

A WMU interior designer and project manager, she has been active in the design association for 23 years. She has served the group in numerous capacities and has won several of its Design Competition Awards.

## Prof heading international society

Andrew Targowski, business information systems, has been elected to a second term as president of the International Society



Targowski

for the Comparative Study of Civilizations. The society is affiliated with comparative studies programs worldwide and actively fosters internationalism through its annual meetings and publications.

A scholarly association, it was formally established in 1961 and is committed to the notion that complex, civilizational problems need diverse, multidisciplinary analysis. As president of the organization, Targowski is working to develop technological and business approaches to civilization.

A WMU faculty member since 1980, he is a pioneer of business computing and a prolific writer, authoring 22 books and some 60 articles in the areas of information management science and civilization.



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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. Fall semester publication dates are **Sept. 9 and 23, Oct. 7 and 21, Nov. 4 and 18**, and **Dec. 2**. 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

# Inaugural use of WMU Alert system sparks registration surge

The first use of WMU Alert on Oct. 26 due to a tornado warning sent faculty, staff and students to building shelters and triggered a surge in new registrations for the campuswide emergency notification system.

WMU Alert is part of a Reverse 911 system launched in August. If an extreme emergency is identified, the system's mass call option is activated, sending voice messages to all numbers registered to receive them. The system is capable of making approximately 4,000 calls per minute.

The number of WMU people registered to receive emergency notification warnings on their office, home or cell phones now stands at more than 10,000. A surge of nearly 400 new registrants was recorded during the week following the Oct. 26 tornado warning.

Cam Vossen, emergency management, notes that the activation led to several questions from users. She says there are a number of points every registered user must know.

- The system is voice activated. The incoming call will not impart the recorded message unless the recipient answers the phone with a verbal greeting. Some people with caller ID who see the WMU Alert identification simply pick up their phone and listen, expecting to hear a message.

- WMU Alert does not leave voice mail. This allows the maximum number of calls to be placed as quickly as possible and avoids creating confusion if someone checks voice mail later, when the critical incident information has most likely changed.

- All recorded messages give immediate

instructions for action. Some messages then urge the recipient to go to the University home page or call (269) 387-1001 for updated information. The latter two options may not be available in the case of an imminent danger to the entire campus, such as the Oct. 26 tornado. Employees who have Web and phone update responsibilities would be expected to take immediate shelter away from their work stations when warning sirens and WMU Alert are activated.

Finally Vossen notes, that although the first use of WMU Alert was for a tornado warning, an imminent and threatening weather situation, the system will not be activated for snow closings or other severe weather incidents. The University has a number of other quickly activated and effective communication tools to announce those events. Weather closings are immediately posted to the WMU home page and noted on the emergency phone line at (269) 387-1001 as soon as closing decisions are made. Closings also are communicated through area radio and television stations.

To register for WMU Alert, members of the campus community should sign in to the GoWMU portal and click the WMU Alert icon found at the top of the main page. The voluntary registration is only for the emergency call system, and phone numbers registered will not be used by the University for any other purpose.

## Dining Services employees have giving spirit

Full-time employees in WMU's six dining halls banded together last month to help out local residents by holding their third coat drive.

The drive was organized by Valley II staffers, primarily Mark Robinson and Karen Bowling. More than 100 coats were collected, as well as numerous hats, scarves, gloves and blankets.

This year's items were distributed to homeless Kalamazoo residents by Cheryl Carr, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services. The previous two drives garnered a similar number of coats, but for the March of Dimes and Kalamazoo Gospel Mission.

"The generosity and hard work of our employees truly shows an outstanding concern for others and a focus on service to our community," Dining Services director Judy Gipper says. "This drive was the employee's idea, and they take charge of all aspects of it."

In addition, Dining Services workers are now collecting money for another annual event—helping the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission fund its Thanksgiving meals.



Participating in the coat drive were, from left: Mark Mundo, Paul Choker, Louise Ollie, Deb Cronkright, Mark Robinson and Chris Fawley-Zehner. (Photo by Kim Pagan)

## Seven staffers to be honored

Seven WMU staff members have been selected to receive Make a Difference awards for fall 2010-11.

The fall 2010 Make a Difference honorees are: Kathleen Cantley, Facilities Management-landscape services; Dannie Alexander, intercollegiate athletics; Brynne Belinger, institutional effectiveness; Sheri Harper, Facilities Management-projects and construction; Suzette Kohlert, Sindecuse Health Center; Conn Macomber, Facilities Management-projects and construction; and Steven Palmer, residence life.

The awards will be presented during a reception at 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 2, in the Bernhard Center's West Ballroom (208-209). The University community is invited to attend the reception, during which the award recipients each will receive a before-tax prize of \$300 and a commemorative certificate.

## Obituary



Scott

Frank S. Scott, professor emeritus of industrial engineering, died Nov. 5. He was 87.

Scott was an expert in industrial and vocational education who came to WMU in 1956 and retired in 1983. He served as chair of the Department of Engineering and Technology from 1973 to 1976, and worked overseas on consulting assignments with the U.S. Agency for International Development.



Sichel

Beatrice Sichel, former head of circulation for University Libraries, died Nov. 12 in Kalamazoo. She was 76.

Sichel, a former research chemist, joined WMU in 1974 and retired in 2001. She headed the Physical Sciences Library for 17 years then headed the University Libraries Circulation Department for nine more. She was married to Werner Sichel, emeritus in economics.

## Service

The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service during December.

**30 Years**—Eileen B. Evans, institutional effectiveness; Cynthia D. Jackson-Ekeledo, Sindecuse Health Center; Arthur R. McGurn, physics; and Peter J. Strazdas, Facilities Management.

**25 Years**—Pamela J. McMakin, Facilities Management-maintenance services; Ali M. Metwalli, finance and commercial law; Mary E. Pratt, Facilities Management-landscape services; and Ralph Tanner, electrical and computer engineering.

**20 Years**—Patrick A. Benton, College of Aviation; Anne C. Hopkins, psychology; Patricia M. Negrevski, Evaluation Center; Kelly L. Penskar, information technology;

Jane L. Tomlin, information technology; Teresa M. Ventimiglia, university relations; and John D. Winchell, University Libraries.

**15 Years**—Joel Boyd Jr., Center for English Language and Culture for International Students; David Ladd, student financial aid and scholarships; Lois Lemon, paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging; Thomas C. Marks, Center for English Language and Culture for International Students; and Abraham L. Poot, mechanical and aeronautical engineering.

**10 Years**—Louann A. Bierlein Palmer, educational leadership, research and technology; Valery N. Bliznyuk, paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging; Alamgir Choudhury, industrial and manufacturing engineering; Teresa Crumpton, speech pa-

thology and audiology; Nora Faires, history; Ann C. Mathis, mechanical and aeronautical engineering; Jane Perk, WMU Bookstore; Norman C. Risk, Facilities Management-maintenance services; Janice L. VandeVusse, Sindecuse Health Center; Eric Vangsnes, physician assistant; and Annette M. White, Sindecuse Health Center.

**Five Years**—Victoria H. Davis, WMUK; Cari DeLong, Facilities Management-landscape services; Jeannynne M. Depoian, blindness and low vision studies; Linda L. Dillon, College of Aviation; Lori B. Farrer, College of Education and Human Development; Andrew A. Henderson, Center for Disability Services; and Kim W. Ketchum, paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging.



## On Campus with Cari DeLong



NATURAL FIT  
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

The great outdoors is Cari DeLong's office. As the University's natural areas manager, she does much of her work in places most people visit during their off hours—if at all.

DeLong is responsible for the ecological health of the 274-acre Asylum Lake Preserve near the Parkview Campus, the 48-acre Kleinstuck Preserve primarily located in Kalamazoo's Oakland/Winchell Neighborhood, woodlots such as the tree-covered parcel behind the Sindecuse Health Center, and storm water treatment areas such as Goldsworth Valley Pond.

"I love what I do. I get to work with great people at WMU and in the community on a lot of progressive projects on campus," DeLong says. "It's been really interesting because this job has been evolving, and it's developed into the natural areas manager role. These natural areas are an important asset to the campus and local community."

DeLong began working at the University as an undergraduate research assistant with the Environmental Institute. After graduating, she was hired through a grant to conduct research at the institute and coordinate the newly formed Asylum Lake Policy and Management Council. The institute and her current employer, Facilities Management's landscape services department, lobbied to make the coordinator position full time, and DeLong was hired for the job in 2005.

Her duties include doing public relations and educational outreach for campus natural areas, which involves working with researchers, volunteers and community organizations such as the Stewards of Kleinstuck. In addition, DeLong serves as WMU's storm water management coordinator, obtaining and administering storm water improvement grants.

"A main priority at Asylum Lake is increasing safety and access, but in an ecologically sustainable manner. That's why we've been paving and sloping the new parking lots and installing rain gardens—shallow depressions planted with deep-rooted native plants and grasses," she says. "Now, runoff from the lots goes to rain gardens, which filter out hydrocarbons and other contaminants. WMU student volunteers helped me plant the vegetation in the Parkview Avenue entrance's rain garden. It's a great example of collaboration and ecologically sustainable work."

DeLong earned a bachelor's degree in biology and environmental studies in 2004 and a master's degree in geography focusing on environmental and resource analysis last spring. The Kalamazoo resident likes to read and, not surprisingly, spend time outdoors.

## Time to review University's snow removal, closure procedures

Winter hours will soon begin for WMU's snow removal crews.

The crews must plow, shovel, scrape and de-ice more than 23 miles of roads, 100 acres of parking, 39 miles of walks and 200,000 square feet of steps and ramps.

Winter weather rarely results in a decision to close WMU. But when there is a shutdown, news of the decision is posted on the University's home page at [www.wmich.edu](http://www.wmich.edu) and emergency information line at (269) 387-1001. After completing those postings, University employees com-

municate closure details to local television and radio stations.

Official closure of the main campus means that the University's branch campuses also are closed. However, closure of a branch campus does not automatically mean that the main campus will shut down as well.

Providing there is not a major storm, most campus areas will be clear of snow and ice before the majority of students and employees arrive each day. Plow schedules cover snow and ice removal activities 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

As in past years, various steps around the campus that are deemed to be a convenience

rather than a necessity will be closed for the winter, allowing crews to concentrate on major access areas.

Students and faculty and staff members who have special mobility needs should call the landscape services office at (269) 387-8557, as snow and ice removal schedules can be adjusted to accommodate needs.

Those making requests regarding weekend or other special activities also should direct their calls to that office. Callers are asked to provide as much advance notice as possible.

Questions or concerns after normal business hours should be directed to the Department of Public Safety at (269) 387-5555.

### Education grant

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paves the way for additional projects. It focuses on seven dimensions of principals' work identified in studies as being associated with higher student achievement. Those include everything from inspiring school renewal and operating an orderly school to high, culturally relevant expectations for students, coherent programs and empowering school personnel.

In addition to putting principals through rigorous training, the project will provide a statewide training curriculum for the Michigan Department of Education, Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals and Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association.

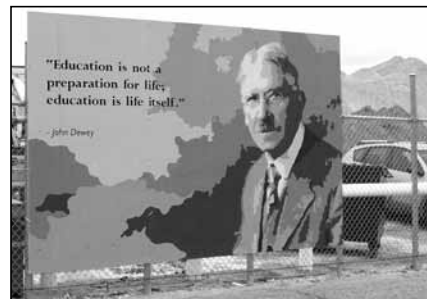
## Construction fence features words of wisdom

Form, function and art combine this month as WMU art students and Sangren construction officials collaborate to provide a construction barrier that both inspires and provides practical solutions to common construction problems.

A mural that will eventually consist of 21 panels is going up around the Sangren site.

When it's completed, the mural will celebrate education through the use of quotes from educators and philosophers. Each monochromatic panel will feature a quote and portrait that gives voice to a unique perspective on education.

The project is the brainchild of Karen



Art panel example (Photo by Jeanne Baron)

Bondarchuk, art. She and a group of 23 art students are working with construction officials from Miller Davis to create and place the panels.