



# Western News

For and about WMU faculty and staff

NOVEMBER 4, 2010  
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## Health and Wellness Expo coming up

The 2010 Health and Wellness Expo will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 10, in the indoor tennis courts area of the Student Recreation Center. This free event introduces members of the University community to resources found on campus and in the Kalamazoo area that can positively impact their health and well-being.

During the expo, attendees can peruse informational displays, chat with health care representatives, get a flu shot, sign up to participate in Western Wellness and other fitness programs, enjoy some fresh local food, receive a free chair massage, and bring home vendor giveaways.

## Helpers needed to build parade float

The float committee is looking for several willing elves to help decorate the WMU float for the Kalamazoo Holiday Parade. Volunteers are needed at the Campus Services Building Friday, Nov. 12, starting at 5 p.m.

Popcorn balls and hot chocolate will be provided. To ensure there will be enough snacks, those planning to volunteer are asked to RSVP by contacting Nancy Dyksterhouse at [nancy.dyksterhouse@wmich.edu](mailto:nancy.dyksterhouse@wmich.edu) or (269) 387-2351.

## Time to start nomination process

Nominations are due Tuesday, Jan. 21, for WMU's 2011 Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award. Up to three recipients will be selected and honored during the 2011 Academic Convocation. Recipients 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 beyond 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](http://www.wmich.edu/research) and click Newsletter & Awards for details and forms. Contact Ernst A. Breisach, emeritus in history, at [ebreisach@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ebreisach@sbcglobal.net) or (269) 344-1734 for more information.

## China research options to be discussed

The Light Center for Chinese Studies will hold an internal conference on Research Interests and Opportunities in Chinese Studies from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, in 1040 Fetzer Center. Faculty, staff and students are invited to attend.

Prospective attendees should submit a one- to two-page description of projects and activities related to greater China that they have engaged in or would like to engage in down the road. Materials should be submitted by Thursday, Nov. 11, to Christina Paruch at [hige-lightcenter@wmich.edu](mailto:hige-lightcenter@wmich.edu) or (269) 387-3951.

## Medical school initiative gets high praise

A private medical school initiative that leverages the resources of WMU and Kalamazoo's two major hospitals has been singled out by Business Review West Michigan as the educational arena's Deal of the Year for 2010.

The annual awards program, now in its fifth year, was designed by the business publication to honor the year's most significant business transactions in West Michigan. The publication's staff members and local business leaders look at every major industry and "call out the transactions that had or will have the greatest economic impact on West Michigan."

This year, Deals of the Year were selected from among 30 finalists in eight categories. Earlier this fall, WMU's medical school initiative and its Sangren construction project were named finalists in the education and construction categories, respectively. The winning organizations in all eight categories were announced Oct. 22.

Other education finalists included: Kalamazoo College for its creation of the Arcus Center for Social Justice Leadership, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation for investing \$16.7 million in Woodrow Wilson teaching fellowships to train Michigan science and math teachers, and Grand Valley State University for its new Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

## Founding dean candidates to make presentations

Three candidates for the post of founding dean of the WMU School of Medicine are coming to Kalamazoo to meet with local stakeholders and make public presentations.

The medical school initiative is a partnership involving WMU, Borgess Health and Bronson Healthcare.

Each event will begin with a half-hour informal "meet and greet" with the candidates and conclude with a reception. Attendees will have an opportunity to pose questions during the candidates' presentations.

Scheduled to make presentations are:

- **Robert A. Forse**, professor and associate chair for surgical education at the Creighton University School of Medicine. Forse will speak at 5 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 11, in Bronson's Gilmore Auditorium.



Forse



Pamies



Jensen

- **Rubens J. Pamies**, vice chancellor for academic affairs, dean for graduate studies and professor of internal medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Pamies will speak at 5 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, in Borgess' Lawrence Education Center.

- **Hal B. Jensen**, professor of pediatrics and regional dean for the Western Campus of the Tufts University School of Medicine. Jensen will speak at 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 2, in Bronson's Gilmore Auditorium.

## International Education Week kicks off Nov. 15



WMU will highlight numerous countries and cultures during its 2010 observance of International Education Week, set for Monday through Saturday, Nov. 15-20.

International Education Week is a joint initiative of the U.S. departments of State and Education. The week promotes programs that prepare Americans for a global environment and also attract future leaders from abroad to study, learn and exchange experiences in the United States.

Numerous entertaining and educational events have been scheduled on campus throughout the week, and most are free and open to the public. In addition, international students from WMU will be visiting area K-12 schools during the week, introducing the region's youth to a broad assortment of foreign cultures.

"Striving for a Sustainable Future" is the theme for this year's International Education Week, which is being organized by WMU's Haenicke Institute for Global Education.

The theme reflects sentiments expressed by President Barack Obama when he said: "All of us share this world for but a brief moment in time. The question is whether we spend that time focused on what pushes us apart, or whether we commit ourselves to an effort—a sustained effort—to find common ground, to focus on the future we seek for our children and to respect the dignity of all human beings."

Keep checking [www.wmich.edu/news](http://www.wmich.edu/news) for a complete list of events.

# Around Campus

## Gold Company concert tonight

Gold Company, WMU's internationally recognized vocal jazz ensemble, will hold its 33rd annual "Sneak Preview" concert at 8:15 p.m. tonight in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. The performance will include new music from upcoming shows, including the ensemble's Dec. 5 holiday concert. Tickets are \$10 and \$5 for students and may be purchased at the door.

## Talk to address inequality in China

Terry Sicular from the University of Western Ontario will speak on "Inequality in China: Challenges to a Harmonious Society" from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 10, in 2028 Brown. Sicular's presentation is part of the economics department's Sichel Lecture Series. The theme of this year's series is "Dragon vs. Eagle: The Chinese Economy and U.S.-China Economic Relations."

## Civic ecology is Frostic lecture topic

Marianne Krasny from Cornell University will present a public lecture titled "Civic Ecology: Transforming Urban Places from the Ground Up" Thursday, Nov. 11. A reception will follow the talk, which will be presented at 6:30 p.m. in the Fetzer Center's Putney Auditorium.

## African burial ground to be discussed

Visiting anthropologist Warren Perry from Central Connecticut State University will discuss "The Archaeology of New York's African Burial Ground" at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 11, in 1115 Moore. He will talk about the 17th- and 18th-century burial ground in lower Manhattan that construction workers discovered in 1991.

## Veterans invited to special lunch

Veterans in the campus community and WMU Army ROTC students are invited to share a complimentary lunch on Veteran's Day, Thursday, Nov. 11. The event will be at 2 p.m. in the AT building on the Oakland Drive Campus. Students also are holding a blood drive in that building the same day from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Ethics center celebrates 25th birthday

The Center for the Study of Ethics in Society will celebrate its 25th anniversary starting at 4 p.m. Monday, Nov. 15, in the Bernhard Center with a presentation by Ethics Center Director Michael Pritchard followed by a reception and panel discussion. Visit [www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2010/10/028.shtml](http://www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2010/10/028.shtml) for details.

## Haworth series spotlights Klohs

Birgit Klohs, president and CEO of The Right Place Inc. in Grand Rapids, Mich., will speak on "Positioning West Michigan for the Global Economy" at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 17, in Schneider. To attend, register by Friday, Nov. 12, by contacting Shawna Cassada at [shawna.cassada@wmich.edu](mailto:shawna.cassada@wmich.edu) or (269) 387-6059.

## APA holiday gathering scheduled

The Administrative Professional Association will hold its holiday gathering at the Henderson Castle in Kalamazoo starting at 5:15 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 2. The program will include a castle tour, appetizers and a cash bar. The cost is \$15 for members and \$20 for nonmembers. Reservations and prepayment are required by 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 19. Visit [www.wmich.edu/apa](http://www.wmich.edu/apa) for details.

## Staff organization holding annual poinsettia sale

The Professional Support Staff Organization is again holding its annual poinsettia sale fundraiser. Orders are being accepted through Tuesday, Nov. 23.

Poinsettias are \$9 each and are available in seven colors: red, white, pink, burgundy, marble, jingle bells and Monet. Visit [www.wmich.edu/psso](http://www.wmich.edu/psso) to download an order form.



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**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

## Fundraising group to honor law prof

Thomas Edmonds, finance and commercial law, will receive the Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals' West Michigan chapter. It will be presented at a noon luncheon during the group's National Philanthropy Day event Nov. 9 at Calvin College in Grand Rapids.



Edmonds

The award recognizes outstanding skills in coordinating and motivating volunteers for fundraising projects benefiting charitable institutions. Edmonds is being honored for his work in helping to raise money to establish Kalamazoo County's drug court, which is a national model.

A former Kalamazoo County sheriff for two decades, Edmonds served as an adjunct professor at WMU from 1976 until joining the faculty full time in 2004 after 28 years in law enforcement. He teaches courses in legal environment as well as criminal law and procedure. Visit [www.afpwm.org/npd](http://www.afpwm.org/npd) for details about the philanthropy day event.

## Musician-composer a hit in Berlin

Tom Knific, music, was featured in concerts and a master class during the 2010 International Double Bass Convention in



Knific

Berlin. Presentations were made by nearly 100 artists, many of whom are principals in Europe's leading orchestras.

Knific performed in three concerts, including a recital of all his original compositions, and in an international trio. In his solo recital, he performed several jazz works as well as his "classical" compositions, including the world premier of "The Muezzin of Göreme."

While in Germany, Knific also received a commission from the Viennese ensemble, Bass Instinct, and fielded numerous requests that he perform his compositions around the globe.

Knific has taught double bass and jazz guitar at WMU since 1987 and was appointed director of the jazz studies program in 2000.

## Emeritus receives Japanese citation

Michitoshi Soga, emeritus in physics, was awarded a Foreign Minister's Commendation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan in an August ceremony at the Japan Consulate in Detroit.



Soga

The honor recognizes outstanding achievements in international fields that promote friendly relations between Japan and other countries.

Soga joined the WMU physics faculty in 1968 and retired in 1996. He began officially working with the international affairs office in 1986, building relationships and linkages between the University and his native Japan.

His legacy of bridge-building was recognized in 2006 with the founding of the Soga Japan Center at WMU. He remains "on call" for the University to serve as a diplomat for Japanese institutions, alumni and students.

# 2010 open enrollment period is under way for insurance, FSAs

WMU's open enrollment period for health insurance, life insurance and Flexible Spending Accounts began Monday, Nov. 1, and will continue through 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3.

Open enrollment for health insurance is available for benefits-eligible non-bargaining employees as well as members of and retirees from the American Association of University Professors; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; Michigan State Employees Association; and Police Officers Association.

During open enrollment, employees and retirees have the option of adding eligible

dependents to their health insurance.

Eligible employees, but not retirees, also have a one-time opportunity during this year's open enrollment period to elect additional life insurance coverage without having to obtain medical underwriting approval.

Insurance elections made during the 2010 open enrollment period are effective Jan. 1. Visit [www.wmich.edu/hr/open-enrollment](http://www.wmich.edu/hr/open-enrollment) to review the detailed information mailed to employees and retirees the week of Oct. 25.

Employees who wish to participate in an FSA in 2011 must enroll or re-enroll during this year's open-enrollment period.

FSAs offer an opportunity to use pre-tax dollars to pay for dependent-care expenses or qualified medical expenses that are not covered by insurance. Current as well as new participants must submit an FSA enrollment form to Human Resources by the deadline.

That form is part of the BASIC Flex enrollment booklet and is available online at [www.wmich.edu/hr/open-enrollment](http://www.wmich.edu/hr/open-enrollment) and in print from the Human Resources office, 1300 Seibert Administration Building.

## Team gives WMU kudos

University officials have begun sharing some of the positive observations of the Higher Learning Commission site team that visited WMU Oct. 18-20.

After the team makes its report to the HLC, WMU will receive a draft HLC report at the end of November and have a chance to respond. A final report will be issued in February and the final, official HLC findings will be publicly announced in April.

In a message to the campus Oct. 20, President John M. Dunn thanked the campus for the time-consuming effort and for rising "to the occasion in a way that can only be characterized as outstanding." The team, he said, singled out a number of University achievements and initiatives for special commendation.

They included high student satisfaction levels, a committed university "family," accomplishments in sustainability and energy conservation, seamless community engagement, outstanding internationalization efforts, accessible leadership, and exceptional attention to such student populations as veterans and former foster care youth.

## United Way goal at 90 percent; celebration planned

President John M. Dunn plans to hold a celebration from 4 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, in 210 Bernhard Center to mark the end of another successful campus United Way campaign.

But additional contributions are still needed. As of 8 a.m. Nov. 3, a total of \$246,000 in gifts and pledges had been

received from 1,394 WMU donors. That put the University at more than 90 percent of its 2010 goal of raising \$275,000 for the Greater Kalamazoo United Way.

Faculty, staff and retirees who have not already turned in their pledge cards are encouraged to do so now, then join the University community in the Nov. 18 celebration festivities. During the event, Dunn will acknowledge campaign organizers as well as contributors, and light refreshments will be served.

A grand-prize drawing will be held for people increasing their gift by \$50 since last year. Prizes include a pair of seats in the President's Box for the last home football game, an overnight stay at the Oaklands with two tickets to the Gold Company's annual concert, and more.



This United Way billboard featured, from left, coach Steve Hawkins, men's basketball; Buster Bronco; and coach Colleen Munson, volleyball.

## Obituaries

**Jessie J. Lemmer** of Kalamazoo, a WMU employee from 1967 to 1993, died Oct. 30. She was 87.

Visitation will be from 5 to 8 p.m. today in the Langeland Family Funeral Homes, Westside Chapel, 3926 S. 9th St. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Friday in Milwood Christian Reformed Church, 3306 Lovers Lane.

Memorial gifts may be directed to Hospice Care of Southwest Michigan or a charity of one's choice.

**Correction**—Harvey Overton, emeritus in humanities, is alive and well. *Western News* incorrectly reported in the Oct. 21 obituary for Overton's wife, Jean, that Overton had passed away.

## WMU administrator wins dance competition

Jim Thomas, WMU's new vice president for development and alumni relations, was the grand prize winner and popular vote winner at the 2010 Dancing with the WMU/Kazoo Stars scholarship fundraising event.

Thomas, paired with senior dance major Angela Guerro, won the competition by dancing the swing to "The Candy Man" performed by Christine Aguilera. Dressed in military khakis, the two impressed the judges and audience with fast-paced footwork, intricate spins and a lift in which Guerro lifted Thomas.

WMU Board of Trustees Chairman Larry Tolbert and senior dance major Ashley Rop earned third place.

The fundraiser was hosted by Partners in Dance and the WMU Department of Dance. Judges for this year's event were Bobby Hopewell, Kalamazoo mayor; Kathryn Williams, music theatre choreographer; and D. Terry Williams, WMU emeritus theatre professor and chair.



Thomas and Guerro dancing to "The Candy Man" (Photo by John Lacko)

## Service

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

**20 Years**—Donald Scott Paff, Facilities Management-landscape services, and William Arbogast, Sindecuse Health Center.

**15 Years**—Teresa L. Cleveland, Online Education; Michele L. Cole, College of Education and Human Development; Teresa M. Cronkhite, Dining Services-Bernhard Center; Kerrie Jo Harvey, College of Arts and Sciences advising; Nancy King, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Douglas Lloyd, Facilities Management-construction; Sharon McKenzie, Facilities Management-building

custodial and support services; John Phillips, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; M. Montgomery Porter III, intercollegiate athletics; Dale Allen Sheppard, Facilities Management-maintenance services; and Mary Jo Starks, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services.

**10 Years**—Mark L. Belmar, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Karen E. Crane, Dining Services-Valley #2; Christen L. Crowley, Human Resources; James W. Dancy, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Marianne DeAngelis, Dining Services-Valley #1; Douglas Engebretsen, College of

Education and Human Development; Dan G. Malley, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Betty Merrifield, Dining Services-Valley #2; Cathleen S. Smith, Extended University Programs; Ruth Wagenaar, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Earlie M. Washington, College of Health and Human Services; and Jeffrey A. Winkle, Facilities Management-landscape services.

**Five Years**—Douglas M. Carney, student affairs; Major C. Eatmon Jr., Facilities Management-maintenance services; Lou Ann Morgan, University Libraries; Dawn Robarge, Center for Disability Services; and Sarah E. Troup, Development Office.



## On Campus with Terri Stowers



GOOD THINGS COME IN SMALL PACKAGES  
(Photo by Deanne Puca)

Terri Stowers loves books—not just reading them, but the way a book feels when she curls up with one and the anticipation that wells up on seeing new titles come by her desk at Waldo Library.

An employee at Waldo for 25 years, her most recent job is as library assistant for receiving, which allows her to unpack and sort through all the new books, CDs and movies that are shipped to WMU by various vendors. Often, she'll jot a title down on her ever-growing list of future reading material.

"It seems like there's just not enough hours in the day. I wish there was more time to read," she says, adding that it's the busy pace of her job at WMU that she enjoys. "I'd rather have too much to do than not enough. The work is really varied, and the people I work with are wonderful. A lot of us have worked together for years, so it's like a family."

Stowers began her career at Waldo as a student worker then a part-time staff member while she was majoring in American studies with minors in library sciences and French. She continued her part-time position after graduation until she landed a full-time job with University Libraries, first in cataloging and then in receiving.

But her library experience extends much earlier in her life. She volunteered in her elementary school library and then worked at the Portage District Library as a teenager.

Although her reading list is varied, Stowers prefers thrillers and books by authors Jody Picoult and Joy Fielding. She also enjoys music, movies, running and traveling. Her interest in travel can be traced to her Navy father's postings around the world before he retired from the service and got a job in Kalamazoo when Stowers was 8 years old. For example, born in Hawaii, she started the third grade in Naples, Italy; spent the middle part of the school year in West Virginia; and finished up the grade in Kalamazoo.

While she can always find a good read at the library, she found much more during her early years at Waldo. That's where Stowers met her husband, Greg, who also was attending WMU. The two live in Comstock Township and have been married 22 years. Their 15-year-old daughter, Ashley, is following in her mother's footsteps by volunteering at the Comstock Township Library.

## New WMU center, annual forum focus on information technology in health care

An interdisciplinary partnership has resulted in the creation of a new WMU center that aims to improve health care information technology.

The Center for Health Information Technology Advancement, or CHITA, grew out of presentations at last year's WMU Information Technology Forum. The 2010 IT Forum, set for Friday, Nov. 12, will represent the kickoff for the facility's grand opening.

CHITA is a joint project by the Bronson School of Nursing and Department of Business Information Systems. Center Director Bernie Han, business information systems, says the facility's focus is to facilitate better health care by providing solutions to today's health care information technology needs.

"Through joint course projects under a collaborative learning environment, both nursing and computer information systems students will gain a better understanding of health care and use of IT to improve business practices," Han says. "As a result, they can offer ways to more effectively and

efficiently organize and deploy IT for better health care."

The center will address state and federal priorities aimed at using technology to reform health care delivery. Faculty members will pursue external resources to support research initiatives that will support area hospitals, health care companies and communities.

One of the facility's first initiatives will be to provide WMU students with real world, hands-on experiences. Associate Center Director Sharie Falan, nursing, says select computer information systems undergradu-

ates are working this fall with nursing graduate students to study the workflow of the health care business at Bronson Methodist Hospital.

The ninth annual WMU IT Forum will take place from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Fetzer Center. The event, which requires advance registration by Monday, Nov. 8, will center on the theme "Advancing Health Care with IT: Exploring the Landscape for 2011."

Visit [www.wmich.edu/business/itforum](http://www.wmich.edu/business/itforum) for more information about the forum or to register online.

## University participating in series of Russian events

WMU will present a free daylong Russian Studies Conference Friday, Nov. 12, as part of the events leading up to the 2010 Kalamazoo Russian Festival.

The conference will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in 1025 and 1028 Brown. The event, which is free and open to the public, is being coordinated by Judith Rypma, English.

It will feature sessions by WMU faculty as well as such invited speakers as best-selling author Robert Alexander and Vyacheslav Moshkalo, counselor cultural attaché with the Russian embassy.

Rypma, a local poet, also is instrumental in another free event leading up to the Kalamazoo Russian Festival. She will present "A Tribute to Russia in Poems and Pictures" at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 11, in the Portage District Library, 300 Library



Moshkalo

Lane, Portage, Mich. Light refreshments and tea will be available.

The Russian festival itself, which WMU is co-hosting, will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13, in the Fetzer Center.

It will feature a variety of music and dance performances; an art gallery displaying Russian art, coins and currency; the sale of authentic Russian cuisine; tea served Russian style; and a children's area.

For more information about the Russian Studies Conference, contact Rypma. Visit [www.russianfestival.org](http://www.russianfestival.org) for details about the Russian festival, which charges an admission fee for those older than age 5.

## Campus planning seeks input

Members of the University community are invited to an open forum on the Campus Master Plan from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 9, in the Fetzer Center.

Those interested in attending are asked to take a 10- to 15-minute "Hot Topics" survey online, then bring their questions and comments to the forum.

Visit [www.cf.wmich.edu/masterplan](http://www.cf.wmich.edu/masterplan) for details.