



# Western News

SEPTEMBER 23, 2010  
Volume 37, Number 2

For and about WMU faculty and staff

## Board of Trustees to meet today

The WMU Board of Trustees will meet at 11:15 a.m. today in 157-159 Bernhard Center. On the agenda will be a recommendation to exchange one parcel of main campus land for another, a resolution to establish a public safety oversight committee and a recommendation to approve a list of priorities for state capital outlay funds.

A number of other items round out the agenda, including recommendations on academic program changes and a resolution authorizing the University to secure a line of credit for campus construction projects, as well as acceptance of reports covering gifts, grants and personnel changes.

## Parking permits not to be shared

Faculty and staff are reminded that the parking permits (hanging tags and stickers) issued to them are for their personal use only, and are not to be used by family members or others. Violations may result in fines, loss of parking privileges and vehicle impoundment. Visit [www.parking.wmich.edu/regulations.html](http://www.parking.wmich.edu/regulations.html) for details about parking regulations.

## Student fairs set for this, next month

The Engineering and Applied Sciences and Study and Intern Abroad fairs are coming up. The EAS event is set for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 30, at the Parkview Campus. Visit [www.wmich.edu/career/events/career\\_fairs.html](http://www.wmich.edu/career/events/career_fairs.html) for more information. The study abroad event is set for 1 to 5 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 6, in the Bernhard Center's South Ballroom. Visit [www.wmich.edu/studyabroad](http://www.wmich.edu/studyabroad) for more information.

## Expect redesigned home page soon

WMU will soon launch a new Web home page designed primarily to meet the needs of prospective undergraduate students. One of the most noticeable changes to the page will be the disappearance of the featured news and events section. Visitors will need to go to [www.wmich.edu/news](http://www.wmich.edu/news) for the latest news, events, and arts and entertainment.

## Mail-related resources updated

University Mail Stop codes and the Pony Express Tips and Tricks have been updated. These and other forms and publications are available at [www.obf.wmich.edu/logistical-services/postal](http://www.obf.wmich.edu/logistical-services/postal) on the WMU Mail Services website.

## Publication shares custodial news

The summer issue of "Custodial Corner," the newsletter of Facilities Management-building custodial and support services, is available at [www.fm.wmich.edu/operations/custodial](http://www.fm.wmich.edu/operations/custodial) as a PDF file. The issue provides information about how the unit operates, including a recent change in cleaning methods, and how it readied campus buildings for fall semester.

## Campus gears up for Homecoming week

The end of this month marks two of WMU's most festive three-day occasions—Homecoming and Family Weekend.

This will be the second time the University's Homecoming and Family Weekend, set for Friday through Sunday, Oct. 1-3, have been combined to create a rich array of on-campus activities.

The 2010 Homecoming theme is "Unmasque your Bronco Spirit." The festivities will actually begin Monday, Sept. 27, with the student-oriented Qdoba Homecoming Kickoff at 4 p.m. at Goldsworth Valley Pond. Other free student events include the Western Games at 11 a.m. Friday at the pond followed by the Soapbox Derby at 2 p.m. on Gilkison Ave.

The highpoint of Homecoming will be the 2 p.m. football game Saturday, Oct. 2, against the University of Idaho. Bronco alumni and their families are invited to start revving up for the game at 11:30 a.m. by attending the Alumni Association PepFest being staged off of Oakland Drive Campus by the Health and Human Services Building. This tailgate event will feature food and music and is the official Homecoming celebration for alumni of all ages. The deadline to purchase tickets is Saturday, Sept. 25.

Other Homecoming events of note are:

- The Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner Friday, Oct. 1. The 2010 award recipients are

*continued on page 4*



## Fall enrollment surpasses 25,000 students

Increases in the number of new students at all levels of instruction have sent enrollment surging past the 25,000 mark. The official tally of students enrolled stands at 25,045—469 students or 1.91 percent more than last year.

The increase seen in the annual fall census, completed Sept. 14, is reflected across the University in more beginning undergraduates, more students at the master's level and more doctoral students.

The raw numbers also indicate a significant increase in the retention rate—the percentage of students who return following their freshman year.

Retention has been a major focus of campuswide efforts in recent years, with a number of initiatives launched to identify and provide additional support for students who have difficulty transitioning from high

school to college.

WMU President John M. Dunn announced the enrollment figures during his annual State of the University address Sept. 16, thanking members of the campus community for their work in establishing a welcoming and supportive environment in which students can be successful.

"We have significant growth in the number of new students at all levels," Dunn told those attending. "As important as that growth is, I find myself even more encouraged by the fact that we have achieved a major increase in our freshman-to-sophomore retention rate...due to your efforts to reach out to help students during those all-important first months on campus."

Go to [www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2010/09/037.shtml](http://www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2010/09/037.shtml) for a detailed breakdown of the 2010 enrollment report.

## Dunn address focuses on achievement, discovery



WMU kicked off its academic year Sept. 16 with a convocation that honored achievement campuswide and outlined the University's challenges, goals and aspirations in an address by President John M. Dunn.

The event featured Dunn's annual State of the University address, as well as a series of awards honoring faculty and staff achievements. Dunn began his address, titled "Focus on Discovery," by announcing that WMU had exceeded expectations for enrollment (see related story on this page).

WMUK 102.1-FM, the University's public radio station, recorded the entire address. To listen to the recording, visit [www.wmuk.org](http://www.wmuk.org) to and click Newsroom.

The text of the president's remarks are posted at [www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2010/09/038.shtml](http://www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2010/09/038.shtml). Included are links to related articles spotlighting the 12 faculty and staff members who received awards during the convocation.

# Around Campus

## Two special events slated for today

On the docket for today are two special events. First up will be a discussion on the nature of humanities in modern education and a future humanities center at WMU.

It will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. in 157 Bernhard Center. Leading the discussion will be Tim Greene, provost; Alex Enyedi, College of Arts and Sciences dean; and Margaret Merrion, College of Fine Arts dean. A reception will follow. Go to [www.wmich.edu/humanities](http://www.wmich.edu/humanities) to register.

Next, visiting scholar Roshdi Rashed will speak on "Science and Philosophy in Medieval Islam" from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in 1720 Chemistry Building. A reception will precede the talk from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the building's main lobby.

## Electric vehicle conversion talk topic

Paul Pancella, physics, will talk on how he converted his 1992 Honda Civic hatchback into a battery-powered electric car at 4 p.m. Monday, Sept. 27, in 1110 Rood. Pancella will speak for a general audience and leave time for questions.

## Event features Arabic music, dance

The Arabesque Trio will present a concert of traditional Arabic music and dance at 8:15 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 28, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. Tickets may

be purchased at the door or in advance through Miller Auditorium.

## Lecture focuses on border issues

One of the nation's foremost border-control authorities will discuss immigration and U.S.-Mexico border enforcement issues during a lecture from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 29, in 1025 Brown. Timothy J. Dunn from Salisbury University will present the talk.

## Southeast Asia expert to give talk

Donald E. Weatherbee, emeritus at the University of South Carolina, will talk on "China-Southeast Asia Relations Through Two Millennia, at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 30, in the Fetzer Center's Kirsch Auditorium. He is one of America's best-known Southeast Asia scholars.

## Kalamazoo Matters event slated

The Kalamazoo Matters discussion series will continue Tuesday, Oct. 5, with a series of events focusing on out-of-school factors that influence educational achievement and outcomes. Among the events will be a 2:30 p.m. presentation in the Fetzer Center by David C. Berliner from Arizona State University. His presentation will include relevant information about Kalamazoo community factors that affect achievement and outcomes.

## WMU gearing up for 2010 United Way campaign

WMU has set a goal of \$275,000 for this year's campus United Way campaign, which began Sept. 16. Campaign organizers hope to surpass last year's giving record and increase WMU's community impact. But, to accomplish that ambitious feat, campuswide participation will be necessary.

WMU's United Way Advisory Board began distributing pledge cards to all faculty, staff and retirees last week. Gifts can be made as one-time donations by cash, check or credit card, or as pledges, payable by payroll deduction, credit card or direct



billing from United Way.

Office directors and department chairs are urged to schedule United Way meetings in their areas as soon as possible. Representatives are available to talk briefly

about United Way, distribute pledge cards and answer questions about contributions. Materials also are available for those who prefer to lead their own meeting.

Contact [wmu-united-way@wmich.edu](mailto:wmu-united-way@wmich.edu) with questions or to schedule a meeting.

## Retirement receptions

**Beth denHartigh**, Disability Services for Students, will be honored for her 32 years of service during a retirement reception from 3 to 5:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 24, in the Woodlawn Place, 2210 Wilbur Ave., near Rood.

**Mark Liberacki**, College of Arts and Sciences, will be honored for his 36 years of service during a retirement reception from 3 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 14, in the Oaklands.

## Exchange

**For sale**—Used Kenmore electric dryer. Works great. \$75. Call (269) 387-8424 or (269) 649-0062.

## 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.

## Trustee named fall Harvard Fellow

Dennis W. Archer, a WMU trustee and alumnus, is one of six high-profile international leaders who have been selected



Archer

to serve as resident fellows this fall at Harvard University's Institute of Politics. Archer is a past Detroit mayor, National League of Cities president and American Bar Association president.

At Harvard, he will interact with students, participate in the Harvard community's intellectual life and lead weekly study groups on a range of topics. Fellows are charged with helping to encourage student interest in public life and increase interaction between the academic and political communities.

This fall's other fellows include: Michele Pierre-Louis, prime minister of Haiti during 2008-09; Ophir Pines-Paz, Israel's former minister of interior, former minister of science, culture and sports, and a Knesset member; and Margaret Spellings, U.S. secretary of education under George W. Bush.

## Geographer earns top teaching award

Lisa DeChano-Cook, geography, is the first person from WMU to receive the Higher Education Distinguished Teacher Award,



DeChano-Cook

an honor given annually by the National Council for Geographic Education for those who have made extraordinary commitments to the teaching and learning of geography at the post-secondary level.

The 2010 award will be presented during the National Conference on Geographic Education, Saturday, Oct. 2, in Savannah, Ga.

A faculty member since 2001, DeChano-Cook came to WMU as an assistant professor and became associate professor in 2006. For the past three years, she has coordinated Michigan's National Geographic Bee.

## Biologist picked for national project

John R. Geiser, biological sciences, has been picked for a yearlong national scholars program to find out if popular media can help



Geiser

students better relate to course subjects.

As a 2010 resident in the American Society for Microbiology/National Science Foundation Biology Scholars Program, Geiser and 22 other U.S. biology educators will research their theories on student learning.

He will conduct his research at WMU and present his findings in May at the national ASM conference, and ASM will track the research results for five years. Geiser's study is an offshoot of discussions held previously on campus by an interdisciplinary WMU team investigating possible options for improving student motivation and performance.

It will establish whether student outcomes can be improved by providing students with examples of popular media, such as YouTube videos and Scientific American articles, which present the content material in such a way as to provide relevance to student lives.



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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

## Transformation of Bernhard Center takes next step

Much of the main floor of the Bernhard Center was completely renovated this summer as part of ongoing efforts to create a building that can better serve as a welcoming center for visitors and the hub of student activities and campus life.

"The University is committed to transforming the Bernhard Center into a 'true' student union, one that serves as the living room of WMU, and we continue to welcome the involvement of students in the entire process," says Diane Anderson, vice president for student affairs.

New entryways, updated decor and restrooms, comfortable seating areas and an LCD information display are the latest visible improvements. The improved student lounge has varied functional and comfortable furnishings, including TVs, to accommodate many uses.

Less than one year ago, offices for Student Activities and Leadership Programs moved from Faunce Student Services Building to the Bernhard Center, and the new Student Organization Center opened on the building's main floor.

The Bernhard Center is located at the center of West Campus and serves as WMU's student union, as well as a key site for holding major public events.



Bernhard Center lounge (Photo by Mike Lanka)

## Higher education focus of forum

"Higher Education: A Solution to the Michigan Crisis" is the topic of a 3 p.m. forum Thursday, Sept. 30, in 210 Bernhard Center.

Speakers at the free, public event include Michael Boulus, executive director of the Presidents Council of State Universities of Michigan; David Hecker, president of the Michigan affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers; and Howard Bunsis, chair of the Collective Bargaining Congress of the American Association of University Professors.

WMU participants will include commentators Ron Kramer, sociology, and C. Dennis Simpson, physician's assistant. Introductions will be made by President John M. Dunn; Peter Krawutschke, Faculty Senate president; and Paul Wilson, WMU-AAUP president.

## Get vaccinated before influenza season arrives

Vaccination against flu and meningitis will be offered at campus clinics and on a walk-in basis at the Sindecuse Health Center.

The seasonal flu and meningitis vaccinations are available to WMU students, faculty and staff members and their eligible dependents, and WMU retirees.

"H1N1 is one of three strains of flu viruses in the seasonal vaccine this year," says Kristine Hanson, Sindecuse. "So, only one vaccination is needed."

Beginning Monday, Oct. 4, vaccinations will be administered in Sindecuse on Mondays, 8 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 5:30 p.m.; Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 8 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 4:30 p.m.; and Thursdays, 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 4:30 p.m.

The planned clinic schedule is as follows:

## Harrison to be honored

William B. Harrison III, curator of the geosciences department's Michigan Geological Repository for Research and Education, is the recipient of the highest award bestowed by the Eastern Section of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

Harrison will receive the 2010 Galey Award during a multi-award ceremony from 4:45-5:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 26, in the Radisson Plaza Hotel's Stone Theatre. The free program is open to the public and part of the ES-AAPG's annual meeting, which is being held in the Radisson Sept. 25-29.

The award recognizes distinguished geoscientists whose outstanding accomplishments and contributions to their profession and its applications have been directed toward bettering society. WMU is co-hosting the meeting. Harrison and WMU's Robb Gillespie, geosciences, are co-chairing the event.

- Tuesday, Sept. 28, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 1207 Aviation Education Center, College of Aviation, Battle Creek, Mich.

- Thursday, Sept. 30, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., 3131 Sindecuse (geared for WMU retirees).

- Wednesday, Oct. 13, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Student Commons, Health and Human Services Building.

- Tuesday, Oct. 19, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., 157 Bernhard Center.

- Tuesday, Oct. 26, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., room TBA, Engineering and Applied Sciences Building.

- Tuesday, Nov. 10, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., indoor tennis courts, Student Recreation Center.

For cost, insurance and other details, go to [www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2010/09/048.shtml](http://www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2010/09/048.shtml) or call (269) 387-3287.

## Service

The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 50, 40, 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service during September.

**50 Years**—Paul L. Maier, history.

**40 Years**—Jeffrey W. Decker, Facilities Management-landscape services, and Suzanne M. Timmer, Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

**35 Years**—Brenda S. Grimm, WMU Bookstore; Pamela J. Miller, teacher certification; Frank Peck, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Donald Penskar, Logistical Services; and Darryl A. Salisbury, Center for English Language and Culture.

**30 Years**—Jeanine M. Bartholomew, College of Health and Human Services; Amy L. Burns, College of Education and Human Development; Nannette R. Morningstar, Bronson School of Nursing; and Diane M. Schuldt, Facilities Management-construction.

**25 Years**—Paula Armstrong, speech pathology and audiology; Dana Ball, Facilities Management-landscape services; Sue A. Beougher, university relations; Valarie J. Levenske, Dining Services-Valley #1; Laurie E. Miley, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Ellen M. Miller, Dining Services-Bernhard Center; Lisa K. Soule, Facilities Management-maintenance services; Joseph D. Truppa,

Facilities Management-maintenance services; and John Alashar Eugene Waltz, registrar's office.

**20 Years**—Paul E. Schneider, Lawson Ice Arena, and Iverne E. Thompson, WMUK.

**15 Years**—Susan C. Bland, Sindecuse Health Center; James Culhane, development; Susan M. Henker, registrar's office; Tracey Anne Henry, College of Aviation; Jeffrey Carl Landers, Facilities Management-power plant; and Brenda J. Thomas, financial aid and scholarships.

**10 Years**—Jose L. Cardoza, Facilities Management-building custodial and sup-

port services; Benjamin Gaudio, physics; Tim Montague, West Hills Athletic Club; Jodie G. Palmer, teaching, learning, and educational studies; Munselle H. Pientka, health, physical education and recreation; and Sheryl A. Todd, computer science.

**Five Years**—Laura J. Decker, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences; Monique M. Haley, Haworth College of Business; Matthew D. Holmes, intercollegiate athletics; Mat J. Kanan, intercollegiate athletics; Bonnie K. Larhlida, admissions; Lynn I. Lee, College of Education field placements; and Dustin J. White, West Hills Athletic Club.

## Obituaries



Brawer

**Milton J. Brawer**, professor emeritus of sociology, died Sept. 8 in Kalamazoo. He was 84.

Brawer joined the faculty in 1960 and retired in 1995 after 35 years of service. He served as acting director of the Center for Social

Research in 1968-69 and as University ombudsman from 1970 to 1974.

Active in several campus organizations, Brawer also served stints as president of WMU's chapter of the American Association of University Professors and secretary of the Faculty Senate Executive Board.



Jacobs

**Alan H. Jacobs**, professor emeritus of anthropology, died Sept. 13. He was 80.

Jacobs, one of the world's foremost experts on the Maasai people of Africa, retired in 1996 after 22-1/2 years of service. He came to

WMU in 1974 as chair of anthropology and stepped down from that post in 1978.

Among his many other administrative posts were African Studies Program chair from 1976 to 1979 and resident director of WMU's twinning program at Sunway College in Malaysia from 1990 to 1992.



## On Campus with Ronald Schubot



Making it work.  
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

Ronald Schubot, a systems analyst in information technology, started playing around with computers in high school. But it wasn't until he came to WMU in 1976 to study engineering and aced his computer classes that he decided this budding field was for him.

Schubot switched majors and graduated in 1980 among the University's first full class of students with a bachelor's degree in computer science, then immediately began working on a master's degree. A year later, the assembly language programming that he was doing as a graduate student got him noticed. WMU hired Schubot full time to do operating systems programming in the academic computing area.

"Primarily, my job is to analyze a situation where a program or system isn't working or something new needs to be done and come up with a solution," Schubot explains. "You type a command on the computer and it does something for you. If I've done my job right, things just happen and you'll never notice me."

Schubot mainly works on Windows server solutions now, and he's leading the project to implement active directory file sharing for student-related applications and resources. He's also responsible for maintaining the OpenVMS operating system, which remains in use processing physics research as well as BroncoNet ID accounts.

The only staffer left who knows OpenVMS inside and out, Schubot has played a role in the creation of all of WMU's student BroncoNet ID accounts. He's been working behind the scenes since campuswide computing was in its infancy and also helped develop the University's first in-house e-mail system, CONFER group conferencing system, and applications allowing faculty to post grades online and students to view them online.

"This is an interesting and challenging job. It's a collaborative effort, and I get to work with a lot of nice people," he says. "But it's always changing. In some cases, you have a total upgrade and have to learn how to do things all over again."

Schubot has long been involved in WMU's Administrative Professional Association and sings in his temple choir. But most of his spare time is taken up by amateur radio.

The Kalamazoo resident belongs to two local amateur radio clubs and has served as president of both. He holds the highest-level amateur radio license available and has been trained and vetted so he can participate in Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services, which allows him to serve in a variety of roles during floods, tornados and other disasters as well as to represent RACES on the Kalamazoo County Disaster Committee.

### Students sought to lead RACE exhibit-related discussions

Up to 40 WMU students are being recruited to help facilitate discussions regarding race, coinciding with a national touring exhibit coming to Kalamazoo Oct. 2.

Prospective participants must attend a two-part training session from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 6, and from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 9, at the exhibit, "RACE: Why Are We So Different?" in the Kalamazoo Valley Museum.

Exhibit organizers are looking for dynamic, social justice-minded students with diverse socioeconomic, racial and ethnic backgrounds to facilitate discussions on campus with other students about the exhibit. Those

chosen must be able to facilitate at least two conversations throughout the fall.

Through film, still photography, interactive components and programming, the exhibit invites people to explore race as well as the impact of race as an economic, political and cultural construct. It will be hosted by the Kalamazoo Valley Museum downtown through Jan. 2.

Visit [www.raceexhibit.org/wmich](http://www.raceexhibit.org/wmich) for more information about becoming a student facilitator or to apply. For more information about the RACE exhibit and related events, contact Zarinah El-Amin Naeem at [zarinah.el-amin@wmich.edu](mailto:zarinah.el-amin@wmich.edu) or (269) 387-6324.

### WMU trustees OK creation of two academic centers

The WMU Board of Trustees approved the creation of two academic centers July 23.

The College of Health and Human Services Center for Gerontology will advance the University's longstanding gerontology research, education and service as well as position WMU to play a vital role in the field throughout the nation.

It will provide educational programs and service learning activities for professionals and older adults and their families to help meet the estimated 874,000 additional workers in the field that will be needed during the next 10 years.

With campus and community support, it also will serve as a catalyst for health-related

research in aging and will actively pursue external funding.

The Haworth College of Business Center for Sustainable Business Practices will promote global sustainable business practices and be led by Andrew Targowski, business information systems.

It will promote those concepts and practices as businesses across the world face the challenges of a lack of resources, declining business ethics and globalization issues.

Students, faculty, staff, business partners, non-profit organizations and community representatives will examine current business practices and policies to help achieve sustainable alternatives.

### Homecoming

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Leslie Wilk Braksick, a nationally recognized leadership coach; Richard Allen Griffin, a federal judge; and William D. Johnston, head of the Greenleaf Companies and a WMU trustee. The deadline to purchase tickets is today.

- A reunion for WMU's Bronson School of Nursing and alumni of the former Bronson Methodist Hospital School of Nursing Oct. 1-2. For details, visit [www.wmich.edu/hhs](http://www.wmich.edu/hhs) or contact Amal Mansour at [amalman-sour6288@yahoo.com](mailto:amalman-sour6288@yahoo.com) or (269) 323-7933.

- The Campus Classic 5K and 1K run/walk Oct. 2. There will be on-site registration.

- A WMU Music Showcase Spectacular scholarship benefit concert featuring School of Music students, faculty and ensembles.

Visit [www.wmich.edu/homecoming](http://www.wmich.edu/homecoming) for details about these and other Homecoming events.

### Leadership coach to give talk

A nationally recognized leadership coach, business consultant, author and speaker will kick off the 2010-11 Haworth College of Business Distinguished Speaker Series.

Leslie Wilk Braksick will talk on "Leadership in a Changing World: Stand Tall or Tap Dance?" at 5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 30, in Schneider.

To attend, register by today at [shawna.cassada@wmich.edu](mailto:shawna.cassada@wmich.edu) or (269) 387-6059.