



Western News

For and about WMU faculty and staff

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Date set for next trustees meeting

The WMU Board of Trustees will meet the morning of Thursday, Feb. 18, in 157 Bernhard Center. This will be the first board meeting of the new year.

Information about the time and agenda, as well as the board's 2010 meeting schedule, will be posted online in WMU News at www.wmich.edu/news as soon as it becomes available.

Three-day service outage starts today

WMU's student information system, Banner, will be unavailable for three days, from 11 p.m. today to 11 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 31. GoWMU, the University's secure intranet portal, will be accessible during the outage.

But, several key services offered primarily or exclusively through GoWMU will be unavailable, including payment and account information and course registration. Cognos reporting tools for faculty and staff members also will be unavailable.

Those services should not be used during the outage even if they appear to be operational, because it could result in lost work or files. Key services not affected include e-learning, ECS webmail, and GroupWise e-mail and GroupWise WebAccess.

Questions or problems should be directed to the Help Desk at helpdesk@wmich.edu or 387-4357.

Free photo session for employees

All faculty and staff members are eligible to have publicity photos taken Friday, Feb. 12, between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. in the Heinig Emeriti Lounge, Walwood Hall. Employees may have copies of the electronic files for their personal use at no charge.

Those who would like to have their photos taken should contact Sue Beougher at sue.beougher@wmich.edu or 387-8402 and provide the spelling of their full name.

Dean presentations postponed

Nicholas van der Walt from the Hult International Business School has withdrawn his candidacy for dean of the Haworth College of Business.

The college's interim dean, Ajay Samant, remains a strong candidate, but the search process will be continued to identify additional candidates for the dean's post. Samant's Jan. 27 meetings with campus groups and his public presentation will be postponed until then.

Faculty invited to apply for exchange

All faculty members are invited to submit applications for a monthlong visiting professorship at the University of Passau in Germany.

The professorship is a short-term faculty exchange set for summer 2010. Visit <http://international.wmich.edu/content/view/1930/2> for complete details.

University program named best in nation

WMU has been recognized by American Humanics for having the best nonprofit leadership program in the nation for 2008-09.

The University earned the designation by winning the American Humanics Program Excellence Award during a final round of competition at the AH Management/Leadership Institute Jan. 3-6 in Phoenix. The prestigious annual award goes to the higher education institution that demonstrates best practices in all nonprofit leadership program areas.

WMU's program was honored for its particular strengths in the areas of institutional support, fundraising, nonprofit management curriculum and community service, as well as its consistent excellence in all other areas.

The University was named a finalist for the AH excellence award along with the University of Central Florida. Before traveling to Phoenix, students and other representatives from each school produced a video about their program. WMU's competition video is posted on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=5LlFuqTNwuI. After arriving in Phoenix, each team made a formal presentation to the Program Excellence Award Review Committee.

Headquartered in Kansas City, Mo., AH is a national alliance of nearly 70 colleges and universities and more than 60 nonprofit organizations dedicated to educating, preparing and certifying professionals to strengthen and lead nonprofit organizations.

The organization is supported by some of the country's largest nonprofit agencies, including the American Red Cross, Big Brothers Big Sisters, the National Urban League and the United Way. Its AH certification program is an innovative course of study that equips students to

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MLK celebration events will continue being staged through March 25

Numerous activities in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr.'s life and legacy have been taking place across campus this month. Among them was a visitation day in the Bernhard Center for public school students, where they got some one-on-one time with WMU employees like Tom Thinnies, standing, College of Aviation. MLK celebration activities will continue through Thursday, March 25. Go to www.wmich.edu/mlk for details. (Photo by Mike Lanka)



Tennessean appointed to lead education college

John J. Wheeler, associate dean and director of doctoral studies at Tennessee Technological University, has been named dean of the College of Education and Human Development, WMU's oldest college.

Wheeler replaces Gary Wegenke, who is retiring. He will take the reins July 1, pending approval by the WMU Board of Trustees.

In addition to his position as TTU associate dean, which he has held since 2002, Wheeler has served for 16 years as principal investigator and project director of the school's Make a Difference Project.

That state-funded effort offers behavioral consultations, behavioral assessment, behavioral interventions and training

resources to schools in 23 rural and underserved Tennessee counties.

Wheeler has been a Tennessee Tech professor of special education since 1994. Prior to that, he was associate professor of special education and director of interdisciplinary training at the South Dakota Center for Disabilities in the Department of Pediatrics of the University of South Dakota's School of Medicine. He is a founding member of the South Dakota Autism Project, and served that organization for five years.

Wheeler began his career as a teacher of students with severe disabilities in his home state of Illinois. His background includes experience there as a K-12 special education teacher and a high school football assistant coach.

He earned bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from Southern Illinois University in 1985, 1986 and 1989, respectively.



Wheeler

Around Campus

Faculty artists offer tribute concerts

The School of Music continues its celebration of composer Robert Schumann's 200th birthday with concerts at 3 p.m. Saturdays, Jan. 30 and Feb. 6. Visit www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2010/01/014.shtml for costs and other details.

Big league umpires visit campus

Brothers Bill and Tim Welke will discuss "The Business of Blue (Baseball Umpiring)" Friday, Feb. 5, as part of the Keystone Breakfast Speaker Series. The talk by these umpires for Major League Baseball begins with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Reservations are required and may be made by calling 387-5050.

Annual winter dance concert slated

Dance students will present their annual Winter Gala Dance Concert Thursday through Sunday, Feb. 4-7, in Williams Theatre. Visit www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2010/01/034.shtml for cost and other details.

Student-affairs staffer to give talk

Kristin S. Fouts, student activities and leadership programs, will discuss various student-affairs research topics from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Jan. 29, in 213 Bernhard Center. Those attending this free event are asked to register to alex.a.garrett@wmich.edu.

Campus programs open to youth

Two new educational opportunities for area youth are available on campus this semester. The Frostic School of Art is hosting Saturday morning art classes from Feb. 6 to March 27. Visit <http://cfa.wmich.edu/art/academics/arteducation/smart.php> for complete details. Also, intercollegiate athletics has scheduled a golf clinic Saturday, Feb. 7, in the Seelye Center. Visit www.wmubroncos.com and click Camps and Clinics to register or obtain more information.

Sichel lecture series continues

A series of lectures on the latest advances in economic forecasting continues Wednesday, Feb. 10, when Dennis Jansen from Texas A&M University speaks on "Forecasting and Asset Prices" from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in 3508 Knauss.

Dietician to discuss nutrients

The Kendall Center is hosting a free talk from noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 11. Diana Hazard, a registered dietician, will discuss "Nutrition and Super Nutrients: Truth or Fiction." The program, which will be broadcast via videoconference to Putney Auditorium in the Fetzer Center, will be held at the Kendall Center, 50 W. Jackson St., Battle Creek. Visit www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2010/01/011.shtml for registration and other details.

Professor named Educator of Year

Debra Berkey, health, physical education and recreation, was named University Educator of the Year for 2009 by the Michigan Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. Berkey was honored at the association's annual state convention this past November.



Berkey

In announcing the accolade, the award selection committee noted that all of the finalists had impressive credentials, but Berkey's combination of accomplishments, community leadership and dedication to the physical education profession warranted top honors.

Berkey has been a tireless advocate for physical education at the national, district, state and local levels. She has received numerous prestigious honors and is recognized as a scholar within her profession as well as a talented teacher.

Chemist earns 'Trailblazer' designation

Sherine Obare, chemistry, will be feted as a Trailblazer during Black Engineer of the Year awards ceremonies at the 24th BEYA STEM Global Competitiveness Conference Thursday through Saturday, Feb. 18-20. Obare was selected by the Council of Engineering Deans of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Lockheed Martin Corp., and U.S. *Black Engineer & Information Technology* magazine.



Obare

Trailblazer Awards are given annually at the BEYA Conference to men and women who are actively creating new paths for others in science, research, technology and development. The recipients distinguish themselves by constantly setting their sights higher, striving to innovate and opening doors for others.

Obare, whose research interests focus on nanoscale materials, co-directs the University's NIH-sponsored Bridges to the Baccalaureate Program.

Musician honored for life achievement

David S. Smith, music, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Music Therapy Association at its 2009 national conference. The AMTA's first president, Smith guided the new organization as it developed out of the merger of the National Association for Music Therapy and American Association for Music Therapy in 1998.



Smith

"These were often strenuous times," the AMTA said, "but Smith handled them with professionalism, enthusiasm and purpose, never losing sight of the goals of the unification agreement and working tirelessly to make them become a reality."

The association also has presented Smith with such national honors as the Presidential Award for Distinguished Professional Contributions, Outstanding Service Award, Spirit of Unification Award and Presidential Leadership Award.

Week of Feb. 15 set aside to honor student employees, supervisors

Career and Student Employment Services is accepting nominations through Tuesday, Feb. 9, for the annual awards it bestows in conjunction with Student Employment Appreciation Week, which this year will begin Monday, Feb. 15.

The week recognizes the hard work and contributions that student employees make to the University community. Faculty and staff members are encouraged to celebrate the week and show their student employees how much they are appreciated.

Nominations are being sought for two awards, Supervisor of the Year and Gary L. Belleville Student Employee of the Year.

Student employees may nominate their supervisors for the former award and supervisors may nominate student employees for the latter award.

The award winners and nominees will be recognized during a reception from 3 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 18, in the Bernhard Center's West Ballroom. The awards program will begin at 3:30 p.m.

Visit www.wmich.edu/career and click the Student Employment Appreciation Week tab to make an award nomination or obtain information about ways to recognize student employees.

H1N1 vaccinations available

Vaccinations against H1N1 influenza are available to members of the WMU community through free clinics from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 1-2, in 105 Bernhard Center.

Vaccinations will be administered on a walk-in basis—no appointments needed.

Additional clinics will be held later in February in the Valley residence halls, Student Recreation Center and Sindecuse Health Center. Dates, times and locations will be published on the Flu Information Web page at www.wmich.edu/flu.

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.



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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Students take first in national competition

A team of four WMU students won the national iOMe Challenge competition, earning a trip to Washington, D.C., Thursday, Feb. 4, to meet with members of Congress and discuss its ideas for saving the nation's Social Security system.

The team, which bested proposals submitted by 40 other schools in 17 states, also earned a \$20,000 cash prize. Susan Hoffmann, political science, is the team's faculty mentor.

Hundreds of students from some of the nation's top colleges and universities participated in the first-ever event. This year's challenge revolved around the U.S. retirement system and finding solutions to make it solvent for future generations.

Entries included a 30-second video intended to capture the attention of young adults, and an extended paper that explains the issue's problems and proposes solutions.

WMU's entry was selected as the winner by a blue-ribbon panel that met in Miami Beach, Fla., Jan. 3 and 4. Visit www.iomechallenge.org to review the University's winning essay and video.

The team from Texas Tech University came in second, followed by the team from St. Norbert College. In addition, three teams, including one from Harvard University, were named competition finalists.

WMU, Kalamazoo College offer foreign policy talks

WMU is again partnering with the World Affairs Council of Western Michigan in Grand Rapids to present timely talks on international issues as part of the council's 2010 Great Decisions Foreign Policy Lecture Series.

Locally, WMU will be offering two live lectures in the Fetzer Center's Kirsch Auditorium while Kalamazoo College will be offering a third program. All three events are free and open to the public.

- Tuesday, Feb. 2, WMU will present "The Global Financial Mess—Crisis or Just a Crunch?" at noon. The speaker will be Jim Zarroli, a National Public Radio reporter who covers a wide range of economic subjects.



Zarroli

Zarroli is a contributor to NPR's "On the Media" and is heard regularly on "Morning Edition" and "All Things Considered." He has reported on the accounting scandals at Enron and WorldCom, the trials of Martha Stewart and Bernard Ebbers, and topics ranging from employment and trade to the Federal Reserve System and deregulation.

- Tuesday, Feb. 16, Kalamazoo College will present "Using Peacebuilding Tools—

Military Might Doesn't Always Do It," at noon in the Dalton Theatre in the Light Fine Arts Center at the corner of Academy and Thompson streets.

- Tuesday, Feb. 23, WMU will present an "Update on Persian Gulf Issues" at noon. The speaker will be Eric Larson, a senior policy researcher with RAND, which is a nonprofit global policy think tank. Larson specializes in issues such as national security, defense planning, and irregular warfare and counterterrorism.

The speaker will be Fred Pearson, professor of political science at Wayne State University and director of its Center for Peace and Conflict Studies.

This year, the Great Decisions Foreign Policy Lecture Series offered by the World Affairs Council of Western Michigan will feature eight talks at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids. Go to www.worldmi.org for costs and other details.

Sindecuse sets up ergonomic room for faculty, staff

If you have difficulty with your chair or desk, or if your neck or back are becoming sore as you work, the Sindecuse Health Center may be able to help. It has a variety of seating solutions from Haworth and Steelcase for you to try.

Make a Difference Award nominations due Feb. 28

Nominations for the spring round of WMU's semiannual Make A Difference awards are due by Sunday, Feb. 28.

Make a Difference is a campuswide peer-to-peer program that recognizes staff members for their accomplishments and daily investment of energy and creativity. It features semiannual awards every fall and spring that go to a maximum of 15 people as well as annual awards that go to a maximum of four people.

Those selected for one of the semiannual awards receive a certificate and \$250 prize and are recognized at a special reception. They may win the award more than once, but are limited to one per academic year.

To be eligible, nominees must provide exceptional services to the University and be members of the Staff Compensation System, AFSCME, MSEA or POA.

Nomination forms are available year round at www.wmich.edu/hr/makeadifference/nom-forms.htm and may be submitted online, by campus mail to Mail Stop 5217 or by e-mail to Make-A-Difference@wmich.edu.

Retirement reception

The University community is invited to attend a retirement reception for Sabine Hayes, Dining Services, from 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 31, in the Gilmore Alumni House.

Hayes retired Nov. 30 as the head cook for the Bernhard Center. At the time of her retirement, she had contributed 23 years of service to WMU.

Board of Trustees approves sabbatical leaves for 35 faculty members in 2010-11

During a Dec. 9 conference-call meeting, the WMU Board of Trustees granted sabbatical leaves for 35 faculty members.

All of the sabbaticals will take place in the 2010-11 academic year.

Nineteen faculty members were granted sabbaticals for the full academic year and will be on leave during both the spring and fall semesters.

The remaining 16 faculty members were

granted sabbaticals for half the academic year and will be on leave during either the fall or spring semester.

Those granted full-year sabbaticals, along with their academic units, are: Brooks Applegate, educational leadership, research and technology; Pnina Ari-Gur, mechanical and aeronautical engineering; Kathleen Baker, geography; Valery Bliznyuk, materials science and engineering; Jose Antonio Brandao, history;

Allison Downey, teaching, learning and educational studies; James Kiddle, chemistry; Ok-Kyeong Kim, mathematics; Priscilla Lambert, political science; Mahendra Lawoti, political science; Yuri Ledyayev, mathematics;

Jennifer Machiorlatti, communication; Jun-Seok Oh, civil and construction engineering; William Olsen, English; Carl Ratner, music; Jianping Shen, educational leadership, research and technology; Joseph Stoltman, geography; Daneen Wardrop, English; and Takashi Yoshida, history.

Those granted half-year sabbaticals, along with their academic units and the semesters they will be on leave, are:

Robert Anemone, anthropology, fall 2010; Judah Ari-Gur, mechanical and aeronautical engineering, fall 2010; Jody Brylinsky, health, physical education and recreation, spring 2011; John Cameron, paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging, spring 2011;

Barbara Frazier, family and consumer sciences, fall 2010; Damodar Golhar, management, spring 2011; Emily Hauptmann, political science, spring 2011; Kathryn Hillenbrand, speech pathology and audiology, spring 2011; Alan Kehew, geosciences, fall 2010; Inayat Mangla, finance and commercial law, fall 2010;

Stephen Newell, marketing, spring 2011; Dasha Nisula, foreign languages, fall 2010; Mark Orbe, communication, fall 2010; Mary-Louise Totton, art, fall 2010 and fall 2011; Karen Vocke, English, spring 2011; and Xiaojun Wang, foreign languages, fall 2010.

Obituary

Jeannette Fisher, a longtime member of the University Libraries staff, died Dec. 29.

Fisher was archives curator in University Archives and Regional History Collections. She came to WMU in 1970 and retired at the end of 1985 after nearly 16 years of service to the University.

She was married to John M. Fisher, emeritus in paper and printing science and engineering, who died March 1, 2009, in Kalamazoo.

On Campus with Lisa Knutson



ENTERPRISING TEAM
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

Many staffers aren't aware of the wide array of units and services that fall under Auxiliary Enterprises, a self-sufficient part of the business and finance division.

As director of marketing and creative development for AE, Lisa Knutson knows them well. Knutson joined AE in 1996 as a temporary employee helping out with marketing, and a year later was brought on full time. Her duties have changed drastically over the years, especially as they now focus on the Web.

Her office completed about 700 projects last year for AE's 13 departments: the WMU Bookstore, Bronco Transit transportation service, Fetzer Center, Lawson Ice Arena and Gabel Natatorium, Miller Auditorium, Oaklands, West Hills Athletic Club, Vending and Laundry Services, and Coating, Paper, Printing and Recycling Pilot plants.

"The reason we've been able to accomplish so much is because I have an excellent and talented staff. They can take an idea and run with it," Knutson says. "It's really the team environment that makes things run so smoothly. We work very well together."

Handling the traditional marketing needs of so many departments is more than enough to keep Knutson and her staff of two professional employees, two student workers and one intern busy. But her team does a lot more than produce brochures, ads, banners and the like. It also provides electronic marketing, video and Web development services to AE units as well as lends Web support to the University's sustainability and travel committees and to several business and finance units, including payroll, budget, logistical services and environmental safety.

"It's fun. There's a lot of variety and it changes daily. But that can also be challenging," Knutson says. "You're going from one thing to the next, so you can't concentrate on one aspect of the job but must juggle a number at once. Time is an issue, too. We have such a creative staff, and so many ideas that we'd love to implement."

Knutson started her career in a corporate marketing department in Minnesota, where she worked for three and a half years. When she announced that she was moving to Michigan, the marketing department decided to take her skydiving as her going-away present. Once in Michigan, Knutson landed a marketing manager position for a non-profit company, which she served for a year and a half before coming to WMU.

An art minor, Knutson dabbles in drawing and enjoys participating in a book club. She lives in Kalamazoo with her husband, Kevin, who is director of academic advising for the College of Arts and Sciences. The couple has two daughters, ages 8 and 11.

WMU joins 351 other schools in recycling competition

WMU is participating in RecycleMania 2010, a nationwide recycling competition among more than 350 colleges and universities.

The 10-week competition runs through Saturday, March 27, with the goal of increasing awareness of and participation in campus recycling and waste reduction programs.

"Recycling and waste reduction are critical to sustainability, and sustainability is an essential element as we plan for the future

of our University," says WMU President John M. Dunn.

"Given the prospects for the economy and our budget, wise use of our resources is both socially responsible and vital to our future."

WMU participates in three of five concurrent RecycleMania competitions.

- Per Capita Classic—the original competition—measures total materials recycled per person.

- Waste Minimization measures the total amount of waste, including recycled material, per person. WMU was 21st out of 148 schools in 2009 in lowest amount of waste per person.

- Grand Champion ranks schools factoring both recycling and waste reduction.

RecycleMania began in 2001 as a competition between Miami and Ohio universities to improve recycling in their residence and dining halls.

By 2003, when WMU residence halls joined the competition, there were eight participating schools. Since 2006, WMU's rating has been based on recycling and waste reduction efforts across the entire campus.

In addition to 352 colleges in this year's competition, another 162 are participating—but not competing—by providing data about recycling on their campuses.

Arbor Day group recertifies University as Tree Campus

In mid-December when most people were thinking about Christmas trees, landscape services staffers were thinking about the wide variety of trees growing on campus.



That single-minded focus continues to bear fruit for the University, which was re-certified recently by the Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree Campus USA. The designation is similar to the foundation's popular Tree City USA honor.

"These schools have made a major commitment to protecting, caring for and adding to their campus forests," says John Rosenow, founder of the Arbor Day Foundation.

"The results of this commitment will have a lasting, positive impact, not only on campus but in the overall community."

The Arbor Day Foundation began its Tree Campus program in fall 2008. The inaugural class is made up of 30 schools from across the nation.

WMU and the University of Michigan are the only members of that class from Michigan.

Visit the landscape services Web site at www.pp.wmich.edu/lss for more information.

University program named best

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become skilled professionals and leaders in America's service agencies.

The AH program at WMU is part of the undergraduate minor in nonprofit leadership. It is housed in and supported by the School of Public Affairs and Administration. Janice Maatman serves as director of nonprofit education programs.

Completion of the minor requires 18 credit hours of course work, plus the internship and service required for AH certification.

The University also offers an 18-credit-hour Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Leadership Administration as well as a concentration in nonprofit leadership within the 39-credit-hour Master of Public Administration program.