



# Western NEWS

OCTOBER 22, 2009  
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For and about WMU faculty and staff

## Dean candidates to give public talks

Two candidates for dean of the College of Education will give public presentations next week. Both presentations will be held from 2 to 3 p.m. in 2020 Fetzer Center, with receptions following from 3 to 4 p.m.

Each candidate will speak on the topic, "Leading a Diverse College of Education and Human Development in the 21st Century: Opportunities and Challenges." Visit [www.wmich.edu/provost](http://www.wmich.edu/provost) to view the candidates' curriculum vitae.

The first talk will be Tuesday, Oct. 27, by John J. Wheeler, associate dean and director of doctoral studies for the College of Education at Tennessee Tech University and an expert in special education. The second talk will be Thursday, Oct. 29, by Kevin R. Kelly, interim dean of the College of Education and professor of educational studies at Purdue University.

## Still time to register for race/walk

Runners, walkers and volunteers can register online until 11:59 p.m. today for the Homecoming Campus Classic 1K and 5K run/walk Saturday, Oct. 24.

Visit [www.wmich.edu/race](http://www.wmich.edu/race) to register online or obtain details about registering in person from 4 to 8 p.m. tonight in Kalamazoo's Gazelle Sports store, and in 105 Bernhard Center from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 23, as well as 7 to 8:30 a.m. Oct. 24.

## United Way effort hits halfway mark

With just two weeks left in this year's campus United Way campaign, the University is still some \$100,000 or 40 percent short of its goal. Employees who get their pledge cards in now are eligible to win prizes, including Miller tickets, a personal training package and gift certificates.

Those who increase their giving by \$50 over last year's contribution and return their pledge cards to the president's office by 5 p.m. Thursday will be eligible for weekly drawings to be held each Friday afternoon. Visit [www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2009/10/046.shtml](http://www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2009/10/046.shtml) for more information.

## Holiday parade help being sought

The University needs donations of WMU souvenirs and small individually wrapped candy to be handed out along the parade route of the 2009 Kalamazoo Holiday Parade Saturday, Nov. 14. Employees, retirees, students, alumni and friends also are invited to help out by volunteering to decorate WMU's float and walk in the parade.

This year's theme for the University's float entry is "Grab the Reins." A location and time for decorating the float will be announced at a later date. For more information, to make a contribution or to volunteer, contact Carrie Soule at [carrie.soule@wmich.edu](mailto:carrie.soule@wmich.edu) or 387-6005 or Vicky Meinema at [vicky.meinema@wmich.edu](mailto:vicky.meinema@wmich.edu) or 387-4230.

## WMU getting \$1 million for green project

WMU is slated to receive \$1 million in federal funding to support its Green Manufacturing project, which will assist businesses throughout West Michigan in creating more energy efficient and sustainable processes and products.

U.S. Rep. Fred Upton, who sponsored the funding in the House, made the announcement Oct. 19 at the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences campus. He was joined by President John M. Dunn and John Patten, chair of manufacturing engineering and director of the WMU Center for Manufacturing Research.

### Green Manufacturing

WMU's Green Manufacturing project draws upon existing research and development centers at the University. Faculty researchers and students will collaborate with area manufacturers, especially smaller businesses, to help them build greater energy efficiency into manufacturing processes and promote recycling of



Speaking at the green project announcement were, from left, Rep. Fred Upton, WMU faculty member John Patten and WMU President John Dunn, right. (Photo by Laura Decker)

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## Homecoming, Family Weekend to draw thousands



Thousands of people will be on campus this week for Homecoming and Family Weekend events.

The University's annual Family Weekend is being conducted in conjunction with this year's Homecoming celebration, which carries the theme "Brown & Gold, Never Grow Old." The Family Weekend program Friday through Saturday, Oct. 23-25, gives WMU students and their families and friends a chance to visit campus and enjoy several activities planned just for them.

Most of the most popular public events being staged for Homecoming will take place at the end of this week. They include the Campus Classic, Western Games, National Pan-Hellenic Council Marchdown and Homecoming football game. In addition, reunions, open houses and other special events for members of the WMU community and their families have been scheduled, along with entertaining shows, concerts and athletic competitions.

Students are helping celebrate Homecoming by staging three free events. Friday, Oct. 23, will feature the wild and wacky Western Games at 11 a.m. by Goldsworth Valley Pond and the Soap Box Derby at 2 p.m. on Gilkinson Avenue by the Sindecuse Health Center. Saturday, Oct. 24, will feature the National Pan-Hellenic Council Marchdown step show at 6 p.m. in Miller Auditorium.

Saturday's festivities will culminate in Waldo Stadium with the 2 p.m. football game between the University at Buffalo and WMU. The day will start at 8:15 a.m. with the 11th annual Campus Classic 1K and 5K run/walk and kids' fun run through main campus and feature numerous organized tailgates, including the Alumni Association Homecoming PepFest at 11:30 a.m.

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

## Annual Fund's faculty, staff campaign well under way



Faculty and staff members like Janice Maatman, left, public affairs and administration, were among many employees who were visited during the first week of school by Julie Gladstone, right, and other Annual Fund student staff members. The students were delivering donation materials for the Annual Fund's 2009-10 faculty and staff campaign, as well as a sweet gift to thank employees for previous donations to the University. Donations to this year's Annual Fund campaign are still being accepted and may be designated or unrestricted. Visit [www.wmich.edu/foundation](http://www.wmich.edu/foundation) for more information about the fund. (Photo courtesy of WMU Annual Fund.)

# Around Campus

## Chinese film to be spotlighted

Changes in Chinese films during the reform period following Mao will be discussed Sunday, Oct. 25, by a leading administrator from China's Beijing Film Academy.

The lecture, titled "The Change of the Conception about Family in Contemporary Chinese Film," will be presented just before the film "House of Flying Daggers" is screened. Both events are free and open to the public and will take place from 3 to 6:30 p.m. in the Little Theatre. A reception will follow the movie.

## Festival features free concerts

The University's Tuba and Horn Festival kicks off Thursday, Oct. 29, with a free performance by the Virtuoso Horn Duo. The festival will continue through Friday, Oct. 30, culminating in a second concert featuring festival participants.

Both performances begin at 8:15 p.m. in the Dalton Center Recital Hall and are open to the public free of charge.

The festival is open to anyone who is interested in learning more about the horn, tuba or euphonium. All tuba and euphonium enthusiasts from the community and beyond are welcome and encouraged to bring their instruments.

Visit [http://homepages.wmich.edu/~lfoulk/horn\\_day.html](http://homepages.wmich.edu/~lfoulk/horn_day.html) for more information.

## Annual Haunted Hall opens Oct. 29

WMU's Haunted Hall will be crawling with ghouls and ghastly creatures Thursday through Saturday, Oct. 29-31, giving visitors three nights of fright and fun.

This year's Haunted Hall tours will be offered from 8 to 10 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday in Eldridge-Fox Hall. A Kids Korner, recommended for children age 13 and younger, will be open from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

The per-person entry fee is \$5 or two canned goods, which will be donated to the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission and Big Brothers Big Sisters.

## State constitutional convention subject of Keystone Bank talk

The possible overhaul of Michigan's constitution will be the topic Friday, Oct. 30, when John W. Allen, a partner at Var-num LLP, speaks as part of the Keystone Community Bank Breakfast Series.

Allen's presentation is titled "Coming Soon to a Ballot Near You—the Michigan Constitutional Convention: Opportunity in Restructure or Pandora's Box?" It will take place in the Dean's Conference Room in Schneider Hall.

The event begins with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Reservations are required and can be made by calling the dean's office at 387-5050.

## News media to be examined in ethics presentation

The role of a free news media and whether freedom of the press actually promotes democracy will come into sharper focus in a presentation Thursday, Oct. 29, as part of the Center for the Study of Ethics in Society's fall series.

The session, titled "A Free and Undemocratic Media?" will feature Stephen J.A. Ward, director of the Center for Journalism Ethics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Ward's talk starts at 7 p.m. in 2028 Brown Hall and is co-sponsored by the Society of Professional Journalists.

Ward will explore whether a free press is necessarily a democratic press and whether a liberal theory of the press assumes too easily

that a diversity of free voices promotes a just and flourishing democracy.

Next up in the series will be a talk on "Diversity, Democracy and Dialogue in a Human Rights Framework." Set for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 3, in 2028 Brown, the lecture will be presented by Carol Gould from Hunter College of the City University of New York. It will focus on the growing awareness of the power and scope of globalization in its various dimensions as well as the growing importance of institutions of global governance.

## Exchange

**For sale**—Condo/townhouse at Parkview Hills. Two bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths, gas fireplace, many updates. \$124,900. Call 349-5101.

**For sale**—1981 Chevy C20 pickup truck, 3/4 ton with automatic transmission. Rebuilt transmission, new front shocks, new muffler and exhaust pipe, good brakes. Has oversize 3/16" steel bed with small crane. Wooden sides and steel protective frame for rear window. Engine is 305 cubic inch V-8 with 127,000 miles. Mainly used for hauling firewood. Asking \$1,800. Contact [philip.micklin@wmich.edu](mailto:philip.micklin@wmich.edu) or 345-6541.

## 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.

## NSF funds gender-related study

Priscilla Lambert, political science and the Soga Japan Center, is heading WMU's portion of an NSF research project titled



Lambert

"Gender and Constitutions: A Comparative Analysis of the Effect of Gender Provisions." Druscilla Scribner from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh is heading that institution's portion of the project, which received a three-year, \$312,000 National Science Collaborative Grant.

The two co-principal investigators and their research teams will combine a cross-national analysis of 100 countries with more-detailed country case studies on provisions, laws and enforcement. In addition, they will perform in-depth analyses of 15 countries in five world regions as well as close qualitative analyses of six key countries in southern Africa and South America.

Lambert lived and studied in Japan for more than five years, and she conducts research in such areas as Japanese employment and family policy, the policy-making process, and comparative social policy.

## Profs' work aiding internationalization

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded a \$175,000 Business and International Education competitive grant to



Luqmani

three faculty members in the Haworth College of Business. The two-year grant will be used to support the activities of Project EDGE—Enhancing and Developing Global Expertise.



Quraeshi

The funding was awarded to project co-directors Mushtaq Luqmani, marketing chair, Zahir A. Quraeshi, marketing and director of Haworth's new Global Business Center, and Roger Tang, accountancy and the Upjohn Chair in Business Administration.



Tang

Project EDGE is being implemented under the aegis of the Global Business Center, which builds on the college's efforts to internationalize its curriculum, faculty and students and to better understand international business practices.

A related project aim is to strengthen the competitive edge of WMU academicians and southwest Michigan businesses through an improved understanding of the complexities of conducting business in Southeast Asia, especially as it relates to exporting, sourcing and supply-chain initiatives.

Specifically, the grant funding will support activities such as curricular enhancements, research, seminars, exchange programs with foreign universities, specialized study abroad tours, an international conference and a global business lecture series.



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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

## Three recognized for teaching, service

The College of Fine Arts has singled out three employees to receive its annual WMU awards.

Stephen Wolfinbarger, music, received the Dean's Teaching Award, which recognizes the priority placed on high-quality teaching and dedication to students' learning. This honor goes to one faculty member annually for superior contributions as a teacher-artist or teacher-scholar.

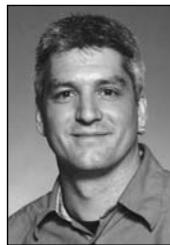
Stephen Zegree, music, received the Fine Arts Outstanding Service Award, which recognizes ongoing and short-term professional service that is outstanding and deserving of special commendation.



Wolfinbarger



Zegree



Abbott

Additionally, staff member Kevin Abbott, information technology, received the first Fine Arts Service Honor Award, for his contributions to technological advancements that ensure the success of the college's theatre and dance productions as well as its many other public events.

## Forums continue on proposed Academic Affairs Strategic Plan

John Jellies, president of Faculty Senate, will continue moderating a series of forums on the proposed Academic Affairs Strategic Plan for WMU.

The final three forums will be held 1 to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13, in 157 Bernhard Center; noon to 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 30, in 1025 Brown; and 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 4, in 208 Bernhard Center.

All faculty and staff are encouraged to attend one or more of these sessions to share their comments and suggestions.

Comments and suggestions may also be sent to the provost's office at [office-of-the-provost@wmich.edu](mailto:office-of-the-provost@wmich.edu). Visit [wmich.edu/provost/strategicplan](http://wmich.edu/provost/strategicplan) for more information.

### Human Resources

Open enrollment will begin Monday, Oct. 26, and continue through 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6, for health insurance as well as Flexible Spending Accounts.

Open enrollment for health insurance is available for AAUP faculty; MSEA, POA and benefits-eligible non-bargaining employees; and retirees from those groups.

During open enrollment, employees and retirees have the option of adding eligible dependents to their health insurance. Elections made during the period are effective Jan. 1. Detailed information was mailed to home addresses of employees and retirees the week of Oct. 12. Visit [www.wmich.edu/hr](http://www.wmich.edu/hr) to review that information.

Employees who wish to participate in an FSA in 2010 must enroll or re-enroll during the open-enrollment period. FSAs offer an opportunity to use tax-free dollars to pay for dependent care expenses or qualified medical expenses not covered by insurance.

Current and new participants must submit an FSA enrollment form to Human Resources by the deadline. The form is part of the BASIC Flex enrollment booklet and available at [www.wmich.edu/hr](http://www.wmich.edu/hr) or in Human Resources, 1300 Seibert Administration Building.

## Suicide Prevention Program helps save lives

With the motto "Save a Life," WMU's Suicide Prevention Program is working hard to help students as well as educate the campus community about its services.

Delores Walcott, University Counseling and Testing Center, notes that WMU's employees are at the front-line when it comes to interacting with students, and they can do a lot to show students WMU's caring side.

A good way to start is for employees or offices to participate in a basic online or in-person training program to learn about suicide prevention and how to intervene with individuals struggling with mental health concerns.

"We would like your continued support in being lifesavers here at Western. You can demonstrate your caring and support in many different ways," Walcott says. "Visit our Web site at [www.uctc.wmich.edu/prevention](http://www.uctc.wmich.edu/prevention), where you'll find important information. You can also sign up for training, attend advisory board meetings to learn more about our efforts, add our logo to your home page or Facebook sites, or become a volunteer."

For more information, e-mail [suicidepreventionprogram@wmich.edu](mailto:suicidepreventionprogram@wmich.edu) or visit the Suicide Prevention Program Web site.



Members of the Suicide Prevention Core Team include, from left: (sitting) Kathy Lewis Ginebaugh, Karen VanDeusen and Delores Walcott, and (standing) students Cynthia Beevers, Lauren Frye and Allison Etta Buller. (Photo by Tammy M. Boneburg)

## Preparations for WMU's decennial accreditation visit on track

WMU is at the mid-point of preparations for its decennial accreditation visit by the Higher Learning Commission, and the process's public comment period is fast approaching.

A team of about 15 HLC reviewers will visit campus Oct. 18-20, 2010, to determine how well WMU meets the criteria for continued accreditation. The University's self-study steering committee and its seven subcommittees have been working since Oct. 6, 2008, preparing for the visit.

The next phase of the process involves compiling chapters for WMU's self-study report. A draft of that document will be available for public comment in February, and the final report will be submitted July 1, 2010.

The self-study steering committee and its subcommittees are collecting data that the HLC review team has requested as evidence that WMU is accomplishing its mission and goals relative to five commission criteria: mission and integrity; preparation for the future; student learning and effective teaching; acquisition, discovery and application of knowledge; and engagement and service.

The requested evidence supports the individual self-study chapters that the subcommittees are completing this fall semester, and gives the subcommittees a chance to note WMU's strengths as well as opportunities available to the University.

WMU has been accredited by the North Central Association continuously since 1915. The last self-examination and subsequent site visit in 2001 were part of the regular reaccreditation process that occurs every 10 years.

The HCL is an independent corporation and one of two commission members of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, which was founded in 1895 as one of six regional institutional accreditors in the United States. The commission accredits, thereby granting membership in the commission and in the North Central Association to degree-granting educational institutions in the 19-state North Central region.

Visit [www.wmich.edu/appa/accreditation/hlc.html](http://www.wmich.edu/appa/accreditation/hlc.html) for more information.

### Obituaries



Ponchillia

Susan Ponchillia, blindness and low vision studies, died Oct. 12 in Kalamazoo. She was 55.

Ponchillia was a WMU faculty member for 28 years. She was renowned for her work with the natives of

Tlicho, a nation in subarctic Canada, who deal with a high rate of vision loss.

Her research took Ponchillia and her husband Paul, emeritus in blindness and low vision studies, to the arctic region repeatedly during the past 20 years.

A memorial service will take place at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24, in the First Presbyterian Church in Three Rivers, Mich.

Evelyn R. Williams, a former staff member, died Oct. 4 in Kalamazoo. She was 89.

Williams came to WMU in 1959 and retired in 1979 after 19-1/2 years of service to the University. At the time of her retirement, she was a senior accounting clerk in accounts receivable.

## On Campus with Charlotte Giscombe



ENERGIZED BY DEDICATION TO STUDENTS  
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

Charlotte Giscombe has a lot on her plate since being named director of TRiO Student Success Programs, a four-person office funded by the Department of Education.

TRiO SSP works with income-eligible undergraduates who are the first in their families to go to college and with undergraduates who have disabilities, helping them transition to higher education and then working with them all the way to graduation.

Formerly known as the Student Support Program, TRiO SSP consists of a director, an office coordinator, an academic services coordinator, a program services coordinator, three student office workers and 18 student mentors and tutors.

"We take a holistic approach to working with students, and we're like a family. We provide professional services and advising, but our students can also come here to talk about personal issues or hang out," says Giscombe, who built TRiO SSP's program services mentoring initiative. "Where we've done a really good job is in retention. Some of our procedures and processes could be a good tool for others on campus."

The professional staffers advise TRiO SSP students, train and supervise student employees, and annually teach three First-Year Seminar courses along with one Career Exploration Development course. But Giscombe, who had been program services coordinator since coming to WMU 12 years ago, also is learning the ropes of overseeing the entire office, managing its \$1.5 million budget, awarding grant aid to more than 40 students and representing her unit at support-services meetings across campus.

Plus, the office's quadrennial federal grant must be renewed this year, so much of her time is spent on grant-related training, data collection and writing. In addition, both the academic and program services coordinators are new hires. Also, the office coordinator recently took a job with the Seita program, so Giscombe is picking up the slack in that post while going through the process of filling the vacancy.

"I'm really on my roller skates. The biggest challenge is finding a spare moment as compared to deciding what I'm going to do today," says Giscombe, noting that she already earned a master's degree from WMU while working full time and completed a doctoral degree here this past December.

Prior to coming to WMU, Giscombe was an accountant and also taught accounting and computer classes. She and her husband have two grown children. She enjoys gardening, reading, bike riding and working out at WMU's West Hills Athletic Club.

## University Libraries introduces changes

Since the fall semester opened, University Libraries has announced several changes to enhance services or efficiency.

Most recently, Waldo Library began midnight to 3 a.m. study hours Sundays through Thursdays through the end of fall semester, with the library closing at 6 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

Other important changes include:

- A new library catalog with features such as facets to narrow searches, a favorites list and exporting records to RefWorks. The old catalog is still available by searching

the "Classic" catalog.

- A new Recreational Browsing Collection housed on Waldo Library's lower level that contains popular magazines, national and international newspapers, and new books.

- The moving of its collection of more than 6,000 instructional videotapes and DVDs from Sangren Hall to Waldo Library.

Visit [www.wmich.edu/library/film](http://www.wmich.edu/library/film) for details about the instructional video collection and [www.wmich.edu/library](http://www.wmich.edu/library) for more information about other services.

## WMU getting \$1 million for green project continued from page 1

materials to further reduce costs. About 25 companies in Battle Creek, Kalamazoo, Benton Harbor-St. Joseph, Grand Rapids and Muskegon have already expressed interest in participating, according to Patten.

"I am especially proud with this project," Dunn said, "because it highlights one of the longtime strengths of WMU, which is applying the latest knowledge and technology to create practical solutions of immediate and long-term benefit."

"Companies realize that being green is good for their bottom line to ensure their longevity," said Patten, who added that the project will help preserve existing jobs and foster creation of new ones.

The funding for WMU is part of a larger appropriation that passed in both the House

and Senate. "I am expecting the president to sign the bill, perhaps as early as this week," Upton said.

### Hybrid car earns award

In related news, a consortium of clean energy advocates has recognized Patten's converted plug-in hybrid car for its innovative approach to clean transportation technology.

Patten received the Clean Transportation Technology Innovation Award at the 2009 Michigan Clean Transportation Expo and Awards ceremony in late September. The honor recognizes his research and development of the 2004 Prius converted to a plug-in hybrid that is charged by a wind turbine. The vehicle can drive up to 40 miles on electricity before using any gas.

## Dance fundraiser slated

Local celebrities will be paired up with WMU dance students to vie for the top prize in the "Dancing with the WMU/Kazoo Stars" fundraiser Friday, Oct. 30.

Hosted by the University's Department of Dance and Partners in Dance, the event will feature a star-studded cast hoping to tango, trot and waltz its way to \$10,000 in scholarship money for the next generation of WMU dance students.

Choreographer and former WMU faculty member Tony Calucci recently returned to campus to prepare the troupe for its big performance. Calucci has been a coach for ABC's popular "Dancing with the Stars" TV series, and has put his talent to use to create a show-stopping ballroom routine for each couple.

Celebrity contestants include Tim Greene, WMU provost; Steve Hawkins, WMU men's basketball head coach; Raymond Harvey, Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra music director; Robert Jones, state representative; and Carolyn Williams, retired probate judge.

The dancing will begin at 8 p.m. in Miller Auditorium. Tickets are \$75—\$50 of which is tax deductible—and includes hors d'oeuvres and dessert. The evening will include live music, dance instruction, entertainment and a ballroom exhibition.

For more information or to reserve a seat, contact the Department of Dance at 387-5830.