



Western NEWS

OCTOBER 8, 2009
volume 36, number 3

For and about WMU faculty and staff

Help needed for safety project

A WMU research team needs to borrow 2008 or 2009 hybrid vehicles, with or without their owners as drivers, for studies involving the detection of hybrid vehicles by pedestrians who rely on hearing rather than vision. Blind pedestrians also are needed to serve as participants in the study. Volunteers will receive compensation.

Borrowed vehicles would be needed for four- to five-hour periods on Oct. 17-18, with back-up dates being Oct. 24-25. Owners may volunteer to participate for one or both sessions, if needed. For more information or to volunteer, contact Robert Wall Emerson at robert.wall@wmich.edu or 387-3072 or Koorosh Naghshineh at koorosh.naghshineh@wmich.edu or 276-3431.

Ken Miller to give business talk

Kenneth V. Miller, a prominent local businessman and chair of the WMU Board of Trustees, will present a talk titled "Arcadia Commons West and Event Center—A Vision for a Regional Partnership and Development," at 5 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 15, in Schneider Hall. A question-and-answer period and reception in Miller's honor will follow the free, public talk.

Those planning to attend the presentation are encouraged to register by Friday, Oct. 9. To register, contact the college of business dean's office at monique.haley@wmich.edu or 387-5069.

Faculty award nominations due

Nominations are due Friday, Jan. 22, for the 2010 Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award. Go to www.wmich.edu/research/funding/distinguished.html for guidelines and nomination forms. Note that the content on that Web site has been revised as well as expanded.

The Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award is based on outstanding professional achievements. All current, continuing board-appointed full- and part-time persons with faculty rank are eligible. However, they must have at least seven academic years of service to WMU and may not receive the award twice. For more information, contact Ernst Breisach at ebreisach@sbcglobal.net or 344-1734.

Bronco Transit adds new service

In September, WMU's Bronco Transit began providing a new Downtown Express service that runs from main campus to the downtown Kalamazoo transit station every Friday. From there, passengers can hop on the Amtrak or take a bus to their destinations.

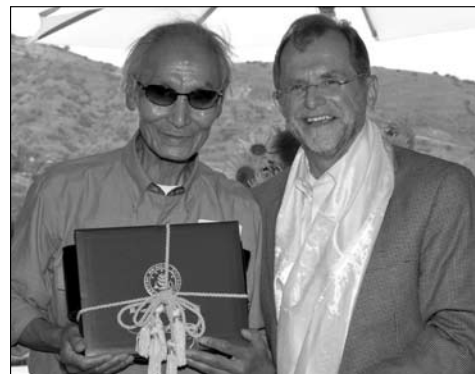
Return service from the transit station back to campus will only be offered on Sunday. As with all other Bronco Transit routes, the Downtown Express service is free to those with a Bronco ID Card. Go to www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2009/09/071.shtml for arrival and departure times.

University honors Dalai Lama biographer

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to science and humankind at large, WMU has granted an honorary doctor of laws degree to the official biographer of the Dalai Lama.

Tibet native Ngawangthondup Narkyid received the degree recently during a special alumni event in Poway, Calif., hosted by WMU alumnus Fred Lawrence and his wife, Regina. WMU President John M. Dunn was on hand to confer the degree, which had been approved in late 2008.

Narkyid, who earned a master's degree in linguistics from WMU in 1971, is a former Tibetan monk. As an acolyte of the Dalai Lama, he was sent to WMU to study linguistics from 1976 to 1986. He went on to become a devoted, well-traveled cultural emissary for the Tibetan government-in-exile, as well as a linguist, author, inventor, philosopher, scholar and advocate for world peace. Now in his early 80s, Narkyid has most recently been a consultant on Tibetan language and literature for the Dalai Lama.



Ngawangthondup Narkyid, left, and President Dunn, right. (Photo by Beverley Brooks)

WMUK conducts fund drive, expands programming



WMU's public radio station, WMUK, 101.3 FM, will launch a \$200,000 on-air fundraising campaign Saturday, Oct. 17, just weeks after it expanded its offerings through the new digital stream, HD2.

"Listeners can expect the programs they currently depend on, as well as new offerings from WMUK on HD2," says the station's Gordon Bolar, who encourages listeners to donate prior to the on-air portion of the fall drive.

Since Oct. 1, WMUK listeners with HD radio receivers have been able to choose between two different programs airing anytime of the day by tuning in to 102.1-FM. Those who don't

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Volunteers kick off 2009 campus United Way campaign

WMU officially began its annual United Way campaign the last week of September with an intimate kickoff rally, during which WMU President John M. Dunn, campaign chair Bob Beam and other committee members finalized details for the monthlong campus drive.

This year's campaign will run through Saturday, Oct. 31. The University has established a goal of \$240,000, which will contribute to the Greater Kalamazoo United Way's \$9.11 million overall target. WMU faculty, staff and retirees have already given more than \$60,000 in gifts and pledges.

"WMU is one of Greater Kalamazoo United Way's top five contributing organizations," Dunn says. "But, need is high, and it continues to grow. If each of us could give an additional \$1 or \$2 every week—five bucks here, 10 there—we could really extend our reach."

New this year, many faculty, staff and students will be eligible to win prizes. A grand-prize drawing will take place at this year's victory celebration, set for 4 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12, in the President's Dining Room at the Bernhard Center.

The story posted at www.wmich.edu/news contains details about prizes and eligibility. Contact wmu-united-way@wmich.edu for questions about making a pledge or donation, or to schedule a departmental United Way meeting.



Leaders of WMU's 2009 United Way campaign gather at this year's kickoff rally. (Photo by Tammy M. Boneburg)

Around Campus

Laramie Project event features prof

WMU will observe the worldwide premiere of "The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later" with a free, public reading of the groundbreaking epilogue Monday, Oct. 12. D. Terry Williams, emeritus in theatre, will direct the reading, which begins at 8 p.m. in Williams Theatre at the Gilmore Theatre Complex. For more information, call the ticket office at 387-6222.

Women's health series continues

A free teleconference series on gender-based health care for women is continuing from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in 2010 College of Health and Human Services Building.

The Tuesday, Oct. 13, program, "Evening Out the Playing Field: Gender Inequalities in Health Care Systems," will be presented by Mayra Buvinic from the World Bank. The final series program, "Hands On: Model Projects at Work in Africa," will be held Tuesday, Nov. 10.

Emeriti Council schedules program

"Find Your Ancestors, While You Still Have Time: Genealogy for Retirees" is the title of the next Emeriti Council informal talk. The program will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 14, in the Heinig Emeriti Lounge on the second floor of Walwood Hall's west wing.

It will feature Judy Halseth, emeritus in social work. Attendees will learn about resources and tools to conduct genealogical research as well as local resources and repositories for genealogy.

Panel to discuss financial reform

A panel of financial experts will discuss financial institutions and regulatory reform Friday, Oct. 16, in the Fetzer Center. The event begins with a complimentary breakfast at 7:45 a.m. Panelists will include Ajay Samant, interim business col-

lege dean. Judy Swisher, chair of finance and commercial law, will be one of the moderators. Those wishing to attend should contact Monique Haley at monique.haley@wmich.edu or 387-5069.

Disney College meets at WMU

The Walt Disney Co. will be on campus Monday, Oct. 19, at noon and at 6 p.m. in the Brown and Gold Room of the Bernhard Center to provide information about a paid fall semester internship for students at the Disney World amusement park near Orlando, Fla. Go to www.disneycollegeprogram.com for more information.

Passport processing help available

Free assistance with processing U.S. passports is available for WMU students, faculty and staff from noon to 5 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 21, in B2425 Ellsworth. For more information, contact Margaret von Steinen at margaret.vonsteinen@wmich.edu or 387-3993.

Graduate College sets open house

The annual Graduate Program Open House will be held from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 22, in the Bernhard Center's North Ballroom. The steps for entering into graduate study will be explained in a presentation at 5:30 p.m. in 213 Bernhard Center.

Open house attendees will be able to talk with representatives from WMU's graduate programs as well as staff from such units as financial aid and scholarships, the University Counseling and Testing Center, and the Graduate College. Refreshments will be served.

Free parking will be available in the ramp on West Michigan Avenue. For more information, contact the Graduate College by calling 387-8237 or 387-8212.

Graduate students sought to set new award criteria

Department chairs and program directors have the opportunity to recruit master's students to help set scoring criteria for a new cash award on campus and qualify these students for prizes up to \$1,000.

The University Assessment Steering Com-

mittee is asking for teams of master's students from a broad array of majors to develop scoring criteria for a new award that supports the efforts of graduate students engaged in research-related assessment.

Each master's program should nominate one student to participate in the Rubric Award Team Competition by Wednesday, Oct. 21. Students chosen to work on the criteria will be put on interdisciplinary teams of two to three members during a mandatory orientation from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 28, in the President's Dining Room in the Bernhard Center. Dinner will be provided free of charge.

For details or to make a nomination, contact Amy Curtis at amy.curtis@wmich.edu or 387-8447.

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.

Cubit family establishes endowment

Head football coach Bill Cubit and his wife, Nancy, have created the Cubit Family Athletic Endowment Fund for Academic Services, with a gift of \$50,000.



Cubit

Through the endowment agreement, the couple will establish a permanent fund to make available discretionary funds for academic services within the Division of Intercollegiate

Athletics.

"These young men and women come to Western Michigan University to receive a first-rate education and the effort put forth by the academic services staff on behalf of all our student-athletes is second to none," Cubit says. "I am very proud to be a part of this great institution and feel very lucky that Nancy and I are able to give back. It is the right thing to do."

State taps professor for court project

Mark Hurwitz, political science, has received a grant from the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society to research the



Hurwitz

history of the selection system for justices to the Michigan Supreme Court. He recently served as reporter for the American Bar Association's State Court Assessment Project.

Michigan's system of selecting its justices is unlike any other in the United States, as candidates are nominated at political party conventions but then run in a nonpartisan general election. Hurwitz plans to analyze the constitutional and statutory history of that unique system as well as the electoral outcomes it produces.

Hurwitz practiced law in New York City before earning a doctoral degree in political science. He joined WMU's faculty in 2005.

Doctoral student featured on 'Oprah'

Terera Trent, a doctoral student in the interdisciplinary Ph.D. in evaluation program was a featured guest on the Oct.



Trent

1 "Oprah" show. Trent also was featured in an Aug. 24 *New York Times* story by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists Nicholas Kristoff and Sheryl WuDunn.

Trent's story of following her educational dreams begins in her native Zimbabwe and is culminating at WMU. She enrolled in 2007 and is wrapping up her research on a systematic evaluation of HIV/AIDS in developing nations.

Now an official with the international aid agency Heifer International, Trent will be on campus in October for her dissertation defense and expects to receive her degree in December. Go to www.oprah.com/media/20090925-tows_tereraidream-education to watch an Oprah show video on Trent. Go to www.nytimes.com/2009/08/23/magazine/23Women-t.html?pagewanted=6 to read the *New York Times* story on Trent.



volume 36
number 3

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WESTERN NEWS (USPS 362-210) is published by the Office of University Relations, Walwood Hall, Western Michigan University, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5433, every other week during the fall and spring semesters and Summer I session. Periodicals postage paid at Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5165.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Western News*, Office of University Relations, Western Michigan University, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5433.

DEADLINE: Items to be considered for publication should be submitted to the Office of University Relations by 5 p.m. Friday the week preceding publication. Fall semester publication dates are **Sept. 10, Sept. 24, Oct. 8, Oct. 22, Nov. 5, Nov. 19** and **Dec. 3**. Items may be submitted by mail, fax (387-8422) or e-mail jeanne.baron@wmich.edu.

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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Human Resources slates training series for faculty, staff members

Human Resources has announced the return of its "Getting Back to the Basics" training series for the new academic year.

Starting this month and continuing through April 2010, HR staff and other WMU experts will provide monthly learning opportunities for supervisors of staff compensation system employees. This year's series will feature some new topics and more guest speakers. New topics include managing conflict, equity, discipline, legal risks and making good managers great.

The first session, "Basic Training," is set for Tuesday, Oct. 27, and designed for new

supervisors, managers or directors; those new to the University or new to the supervisor role; and other supervisors who want to review University policies and procedures.

The Employee Handbook will be discussed in detail and references also will be made from the Policies and Procedures Manual. Participants will have the chance to clarify interpretations, ask questions and get answers directly from HR staff. This session serves as basic training for sessions that will follow and is highly recommended.

Moving forward with feedback given by employees who participated this past summer, sessions will now last two hours. A special four-hour workshop also is scheduled for November. All sessions are free and will

be held at the Fetzter Center. Refreshments will be provided.

While all employees are welcome to register, sessions held during the academic year will be geared towards supervisors of staff compensation system employees. The first session concentrates on new supervisors, but the other six will be beneficial for experienced supervisors as well. HR recognizes the need for supervisor training and believes this series will be helpful.

Pre-registration is required for all sessions. Visit www.wmich.edu/hr/training/basics for more details or to register. Limited space is available. Direct questions to Nichele Moses at nichele.moses@wmich.edu or 387-3650.

WMU/CMU blood challenge set

This year's WMU/CMU American Red Cross Blood Challenge is set for a two-week period, Oct. 12-23. The 2009 goal is to collect 1,000 pints of blood.

Individual blood drives will be held at various sites around campus during the competition period, and donors will be eligible to win prizes. The first drive is Monday, Oct. 12, from 11 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. in the Bernhard Center.

Go to www.givelife.org for a complete list of blood drives at WMU and to schedule an appointment to give blood at one of the 10 drives being held. When making appointments, be sure to enter WMU when asked for a code.

New employee electronic transactions save time

Beginning Monday, Oct. 12, employees, retirees and student employees will have secure electronic access to much of their personnel records and information previously available to them only in paper form.

A new link, "Employee Self Service," at the top of the My Self Service channel of GoWMU, the University's secure intranet portal, will take users to several options under personal information, payroll and compensation, and benefits. Users will be able to make such electronic transactions as updating addresses and changing direct

paycheck deposit information.

Links to "WebCheck," "My W-2" and "My Benefit Elections" in the My Self Service channel will disappear and will be found in Employee Self Service under payroll and compensation, and under benefits. Past paychecks will be available online, but only through wmich.edu/payroll and only until the end of the year.

With the new secure system, employees, retirees and student employees will be able to make changes in their information at their convenience from anywhere with Internet access and submit the changes online, saving time and eliminating paper transactions.

A step-by-step reference guide for Employee Self Service was mailed to all regular and part-time employees and retirees at their home addresses and should arrive soon. Reference guides will be distributed through departments to all student and graduate assistant employees.

Go to wmich.edu/hr/self-service for more information.

Satellite sports medicine clinic opens in recreation center

The Sindecuse Health Center held a grand opening Sept. 29 for its satellite Sports Medicine Clinic in the Student Recreation Center. Faculty and staff members may use the facility for physical therapy and athletic training services on an appointment basis by calling 387-3248. Among those helping to stage the event were Ashley Thrasher, standing, and Marisa Brouse, reclining. The two are Sports Medicine Clinic graduate assistants and certified athletic trainers. The satellite clinic is housed in the WMU Athletic Training Lab, which serves the University's academic athletic training program. That location puts the facility close to weights and other equipment in the recreation center that are not available in the clinic room. Those who would benefit from such equipment will be referred to the satellite clinic and encouraged to sign up for a recreation center membership, which is a free but taxable benefit. (Photo by Jeanne Baron)



Service

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

40 Years—Dean K. Honsberger, university budgets.

35 Years—Annmarie Cox, Office of the Vice President for Business and Finance, and Pamela G. Liberacki, admissions.

30 Years—Maria A. Perez-Stable, University Libraries; Gladys M. Sims, Extended University Programs-Grand Rapids; and Catherine M. Walter, Facilities Management-associate vice president's office.

25 Years—Gary Somerville, public safety, Ronald A. Wester, information technology.

20 Years—Gary M. Custer, Lawson Ice Arena; Carol Mountjoy, financial aid and scholarships; and Carolyn J. Wiley, Dining Services-Valley #1.

15 Years—Crista Boyle, Dining Services-Valley #2; Kristine K. Dias, Facilities Management-landscape services; Sharon M. Dwan, Student Academic and Institutional

Research; Darlean Grant, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Ruth Hurd, admissions; Lorinda McKnight, biological sciences; Cathy M. Pietras, management; Dion VanAtter, intercollegiate athletics; and Kevin West, music.

10 Years—Joseph J. Guilfoyle, College of Aviation; Bart A. Haines, Facilities Management-maintenance services; James W. Kison, Graduate College; Nancy B. Mansberger, teaching, learning and educational studies; David P. Marlatt, art; Tracey L. Moon, Advocacy Office for Transfer Students and Military Affairs; Elizabeth M. Roe, College of Arts and Sciences; Gary L. Storteboom, Facilities Management-maintenance services; and Jacob Austin Zoch, College of Aviation.

Five Years—Anne M. Fry, College of Aviation; Julie Anne Koppers, Sindecuse Health Center; Anita J. Ludwig, Office of the Vice President for Legal Affairs; and Gloria A. Moon, financial aid and scholarships.

Obituaries

Willie Mae O'Neal, retired assistant professor of University libraries, died Sept. 25.

O'Neal came to WMU in 1988 and retired in 2007 after 19 years of service to the University. A memorial celebration was held Oct. 3 in the Galilee Baptist Church and interment followed in Riverside Cemetery.



Strong

Russell A. Strong, a former WMU advancement officer, died Oct. 2 in North Carolina. He was 85.

Strong retired from the University after working a total of 20 years during two separate periods. A state editor for the *Kalamazoo Gazette*, he came to WMU in 1951 as director of news and information.

Strong left the University in 1963 for a position at Michigan State University, then served at Davidson College, Wake Forest University, Wright State University and St. Andrews Presbyterian College.

In 1979, Strong returned to WMU as alumni director. Three years later, he assumed the post of director of research and senior development officer, a position he held until his retirement in 1988.

On Campus with Guy Barks



HAPPILY BEHIND THE SCENES
(Photo by Deanne Puca)

As early as middle school and throughout high school, Guy Barks wanted to work in theatre, after some early experience working behind stage and setting up props. Though he began his college career at WMU in the mid 1970s studying aviation and technology, it was the job he landed as a student in 1974 at Miller Auditorium that set the stage for his new career.

Barks has been behind the curtain at Miller for more than 30 years and currently serves as technical director. His responsibilities include determining and coordinating everything from lights, sound, props and rigging to hospitality, transportation and hotel rooms for performers and their staffs.

"In the hospitality area, we sometimes have requests for foods that are difficult to find locally. People are used to a specific food and even a specific brand," he says.

A wall full of pictures of performers adorns the Miller Auditorium "Green Room," the room actors visit to relax and prepare for their shows. Barks has met all of them and more, and some are more demanding than others.

"I've been surprised both ways. You think someone is going to be a certain way because of his or her reputation. You can never predict a star's personality from what you perceive on the stage, television or movies," he says. "Everyday is different. I don't know how anyone could be bored in this job."

The most challenging show for him so far was the "Phantom of the Opera," which pulled in with 28 trucks full of staging, lighting and effects. About 70 local people were needed to work the show, while a typical Broadway show averages 45 workers.

Working backstage is something Barks always aspired to do.

"I love live theatre, but I never wanted to be in front. When you pull off that cue and the audience roars, you feel a part of it. I still get goose bumps," he says.

Despite his love of theatre, Barks admits that it's rare for him to sit in the audience. "I enjoy it, but I have a different eye and am looking to see if they pull things off. I come out of shows and am talking about it from a totally different perspective."

A native of Kalamazoo, Barks now lives on one of the Pine Lakes in Barry County. He volunteers with Full Circle, a singles support group, and is a facilitator for Kalamazoo's Coping with Divorce program. During his free time, he enjoys reading and walking his two dogs, one of which is a blind Chinese Shar Pei and the other a long-haired Chihuahua-Pomeranian mix "with an attitude," according to Barks.

WMU schedules seasonal flu, meningitis vaccination clinics

The Sindecuse Health Center has scheduled its fall vaccination clinics for seasonal flu and meningitis.

Starting today, vaccinations also are being administered in the Sindecuse Health Center each weekday except Thursday from 8 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 4 p.m. On Thursdays, vaccination times remain the same except morning hours begin at 9 a.m.

Separate vaccinations to protect against the H1N1 flu virus will begin in mid to late October, when Sindecuse expects to receive its first supplies of H1N1 vaccine. Details will be announced online on WMU's home page and via e-mail and other University communications.

The seasonal flu and meningitis vaccination clinics are open to WMU students, faculty and staff members and their eligible dependents, and retirees and emeriti. The following clinics have been scheduled:

- Thursday, Oct. 8, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

in 1219 Aviation Education Center at the College of Aviation complex at the W.K. Kellogg Airport in Battle Creek, Mich.

- Tuesday, Oct. 13, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Student Commons on the main level of the College of Health and Human Services Building.

- Thursday, Oct. 15, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the upper level of the Sindecuse Health Center. This clinic will have special accommodations for retirees and emeriti.

- Tuesday, Oct. 20, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in 157 Bernhard Center.

- Tuesday, Nov. 10, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the indoor tennis court area of the Student Recreation Center during the WMU Health and Wellness Expo.

Credit card payments will be accepted only at Sindecuse. Meningitis vaccinations cost \$108, although individual insurances might cover all or part of this cost.

Flu shot costs vary. WMU employees and

their dependents who are not eligible for University benefits will pay \$25 for a seasonal flu injection. Depending on individual retiree insurances, the cost of seasonal flu shots may or may not be fully covered.

Special arrangements have been made by the Office of the Vice President for Business and Finance and Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs to fund the full cost of seasonal flu shots administered to benefits-eligible employees and their dependents.

For more vaccinations details, visit www.sindecuse.com or call 387-3287.

Health care forum slated

Issues related to health care in Michigan as well as the nation will be discussed during a Health Care Forum from 3 to 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 23, in 2000 Schneider Hall.

WMU's C. Dennis Simpson, Specialty Program in Alcohol and Drug Abuse, will moderate the event. Panel members will be: Elizabeth Burns, president of the Kalamazoo Center for Medical Studies; WMU's William Fenn, physician assistant; Mark Gaffney, president of the Michigan AFL-CIO; Rep. Robert Jones; Rep. Kate Segal, vice chair of the state House subcommittee on health; and former Rep. Joe Schwartz.

WMUK

have an HD receiver can go to www.wmuk.org and listen to the new programs.

The new offerings include music from the satellite service Classical 24 and news from the BBC World Service. The station also is offering "The Story," an interview show, at 9 a.m. weekdays and "The World," a news magazine, from 3 to 7 p.m. weekdays.

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WMUK's fall fund drive will feature on-air pledge hours reduced by more than 55 percent during pledge week. The effort will also feature two "skinny days"—Tuesday and Wednesday—with only one hour of pledging in the mornings and afternoons.

Contributions may be made online at www.wmuk.org or by mail.