



# Western NEWS

JUNE 18, 2009  
volume 35, number 18

For and about WMU faculty and staff

## Two commencement ceremonies set

WMU has scheduled two commencement ceremonies for Saturday, June 27, in Miller Auditorium. The first ceremony will be at 9 a.m. for the colleges of Education and Fine Arts, Extended University Programs, and the Haworth College of Business. The second ceremony will be at noon for the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Aviation, Engineering and Applied Sciences, and Health and Human Services.

## Survey seeks input on Sangren update

WMU is seeking input on the Sangren Hall renovation. The brief survey will be available online until June 19 for public comment. Go to [www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2009/06/021.html](http://www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2009/06/021.html) for details.

## WMU intensifies efforts to publicize No Worker Left Behind programs

The University has intensified its efforts to publicize availability of its programs under Michigan's No Worker Left Behind program, launched by Gov. Jennifer Granholm in 2007 to support education and retraining for certain high-demand occupations.

WMU has purchased print and online advertisements in public media and launched a Web site at [www.wmich.edu/noworker](http://www.wmich.edu/noworker) specifically to address questions from those who qualify for the program. The Web site identifies more than 35 bachelor's, master's and certificate programs that qualify, with more University programs being added each week.

## Two new road closures announced

Two campus roads near Read Fieldhouse have been closed for reconstruction until Wednesday, July 1. Closed are South Dormitory Road and South Hays Road from South Dormitory to Western Avenue.

Affected buildings include Davis, French and Zimmerman halls and the fieldhouse. Also closed because of the work on South Hays is access to two major parking areas, Lot 16 and Lot 94, located west of the fieldhouse.

## Financial consultations available

Employees may go online to schedule appointments for personal consultations with TIAA-CREF and Fidelity investment and retirement advisors. Consultations are usually held on campus in the Bernhard Center on prearranged days. Go to [www.tiaa-cref.org](http://www.tiaa-cref.org) and click Meetings and Counseling or to [www.fidelity.com/atwork/reservations](http://www.fidelity.com/atwork/reservations) to schedule an appointment.

## Western News now going on hiatus

Today's issue of *Western News* is the last issue for the summer. *Western News* will resume its regular publication schedule in the fall semester. During the hiatus, go to [www.wmich.edu/news](http://www.wmich.edu/news) to keep up with WMU news and announcements.

## Math reform work earns national notice

The Core-Plus Mathematics Project, a long-term WMU effort to develop and help implement a high school mathematics curriculum that will meet the nation's current and future needs, has won the praise of a nationwide organization made up of high-profile corporate CEOs, agency chiefs and university presidents.

The U.S. Department of Education previously named CPMP an exemplary program, and this month the Business Higher Ed Forum recognized it online at [www.strategicedsolutions.org](http://www.strategicedsolutions.org) as June's featured program and as one that can make a difference in the nation's schools.

The forum is made up of Fortune 500 CEOs, prominent college and university leaders and foundation leaders, who are "working to advance innovative solutions to our nation's education challenges in order to enhance U.S. competitiveness."

CPMP is a high school mathematics curriculum that has been in development and evaluation at WMU since 1992 with funding from the National Science Foundation. Directed since

its inception by Christian R. Hirsch, mathematics, CPMP was originally developed as a three-year mathematics program to prepare all students for college and the workplace.

The project has been integrating fundamental concepts and skills in algebra and functions, geometry and trigonometry, statistics and probability.



Hirsch



Samples of Core-Plus publications

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## Sindecuse, WMU part of model preparedness community

The Sindecuse Health Center and WMU are part of one of seven coalitions around the country that have been designated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as a "2008 Model Community Linking EMS and Public Health."

The CDC's Terrorism Injuries: Information, Dissemination and Exchange announced the designation last year as part of its model community program, which identifies towns, counties and similar "communities" that model how emergency medical services can work with other safety and public health agencies in times of disaster.

Carol Eddy, Sindecuse, says that during crises, local hospitals, emergency departments and first responders play a vital role on the front lines of emergency care. The role of

public health is also critical, and the model community program is one way to identify communities where there are strong public health and medical partnerships working together to respond to large-scale crises.

"Some of the kudos for this honor should go to the Sindecuse emergency preparedness team and countless others across campus for their diligence in disaster preparedness planning," Eddy says.

Sindecuse and WMU are members of Michigan's 5th District Medical Response Coalition. The Region 5 coalition serves Michigan's nine southwestern counties and is housed in the University Medical and Health Sciences Center building on WMU's Oakland Drive Campus. It includes hospitals, public health departments, emergency

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## Two initiatives named state innovation finalists

WMU's outreach to students who have aged out of foster care and its dual-enrollment engineering initiative with Kellogg Community College are among the statewide finalists for the 2009 Innovation Michigan program sponsored by Michigan Business Review.

The two WMU efforts are among 39 innovative initiatives that will be featured in a special supplement to the publication July 16. That evening, the 2009 Innovation Michigan Exposition will be held at Grand Valley State University's Pew Campus in Grand Rapids, and eight of the 39 finalists will be named winners of the 2009 Innovation Michigan Award.

The annual exposition recognizes the development or use of innovative products and services in Michigan. The event, now in its fourth year, was opened up to entries from across the state for the first time this year.

WMU's Foster Youth in Higher Education/Seita Scholars initiative is a Universitywide effort designed to combat historically low rates of college attendance and graduation rates among young people who have aged out of the foster care system. Now moving into its second year, the program offers free tuition to qualified students and makes academic support services and year-round housing available as well.

The joint program between KCC and WMU will provide students with the best of both worlds by offering them joint admissions, efficient and flexible class scheduling, and the freedom to move seamlessly from the community college to WMU on their way to earning an associate degree at KCC and then a bachelor's degree at WMU.

# Around Campus

## Youths flocking to WMU's campus

Hundreds of new Broncos as well as visitors will be at WMU over the summer months attending a variety of academic, music and sports camps. As you encounter them, take a minute to welcome them to campus.

Some of the camps taking place include high school career camps for aviation and engineering from June 15-18, and fine arts and health and human services from June 22-25; the six-week Upward Bound Program summer component from July 7-Aug. 14; and the 58th high school summer music camp July 12-25. There also is a series of football, tennis and other sports camps slated throughout the summer.

## International physics conference set

Some 1,000 scientists and students worldwide will be on campus next month to attend the XXVI International Conference in Photonic, Electronic and Atomic Collisions. The event will be held Wednesday through Tuesday, July 22-28, and is being co-chaired by Nora Berrah and John Tanis, physics.

Two public talks have been set for 7:30 p.m. in Shaw Theatre. Pat Dehmer, deputy director for science programs in the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Science, will speak Thursday, July 23, on "Facing Our Energy Challenges in a New Era of Science." William Phillips, physicist and leader of the Laser Cooling and Trapping Group at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, will speak Friday, July 24, on "Time, Einstein and the Coolest Stuff in the Universe." Visit [www.icpeac2009.physics.wmich.edu](http://www.icpeac2009.physics.wmich.edu) to register or obtain more information.

## Annual BTR Park Bike Race slated

WMU's Business Technology and Research Park will be transformed into a venue for intensely competitive cycling Saturday, July 11, during the fourth annual BTR Park Bike Race. There will be separate events throughout the day for racers of every age and ability level, including an 11:30 a.m. WMU Tour de Kids race. Go to <http://kalamazoobicycleclub.org> for links to the 2009 criterium flyer and the online registration site.

## Service—July

The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service during July. Those with August service anniversaries will be posted on the Human Resources Web site and listed in the first fall issue of *Western News*.

**30 years**—Carl C. Dezi, Physical Plant-building custodial and support services; George H. Jarvis, Physical Plant-power plant; Gail Anderson Kurtz, Office of the Associate Vice President of Finance; Pamela S. Rups, information technology; and Terri L. Simmons, Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

**25 years**—Carol R. Dedow, public safety.

**20 years**—Melissa M. Bloomquist, payroll, and Leonard Lamberson, industrial and manufacturing engineering.

**15 years**—Celene M. Jackson, biological sciences; Troy E. Leinaar, Physical Plant-power plant; and James L. Schultz, Extended University Programs.



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## Cancer-related study nationally noted

Kelly Ackerson, nursing, and the University of Michigan's Stephanie Preston are drawing international attention for their



Ackerson

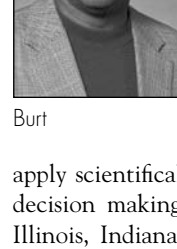
review of 19 studies that explore the attitudes of nearly 6,000 women.

Their research findings are published in the June issue of the UK-based *Journal of Advanced Nursing* and have been picked up by other science publications and Web sites, including [scienceblog.com](http://scienceblog.com), [researchgate.net](http://researchgate.net), [bio-medicine.org](http://bio-medicine.org), *Science Daily*, *Senior Journal* and *United Press International*.

Ackerson and Preston found that fear plays a major role in whether women decide to go for cancer screening, but health-care providers underestimate how much women need to know and wrongly assume that they will ask for information if they want it. The two call for nurses as well as public health messages to better promote screenings.

## Educator tapped for regional board

Walter L. Burt, educational leadership, research and technology, has been named to the board of directors of REL-Midwest, one of 10 Regional Centers funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Educational Sciences.



Burt

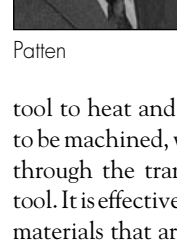
REL-Midwest is a nonpartisan resource that provides expert advice to help educators and policymakers

apply scientifically valid research to their decision making in Michigan as well as Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

Burt came to WMU in 2004. Previously, he was project manager for California's Stupski Foundation, coordinating districtwide system changes to public schools in New Haven, Conn., and Paterson, N.H. He also has served as superintendent and assistant superintendent for Michigan school districts in Pontiac, Flint and Grand Rapids.

## Engineer garners innovation award

John A. Patten, chair of manufacturing engineering, was recognized with an innovation award at the 2009 Annual Conference of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers June 7-9 in Philadelphia. He was recognized for developing an innovative micro-laser-assisted machining process.



Patten

Called µ-LAM, the process uses a laser coupled to a cutting tool to heat and thermally soften material to be machined, with the laser beam passing through the transparent diamond-cutting tool. It is effective for machining non-ferrous materials that are hard and brittle, such as ceramics and semiconductors.

Patten directs the Manufacturing Research Center and is one of WMU's best-known renewable energy advocates. He has created a plug-in hybrid car out of his Toyota Prius and was instrumental in getting the wind turbine installed on the Parkview Campus.

# Trustees OK four retirements, sign off on other personnel items

The retirements of four staff members were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees at its June 4 meeting.

Board members also acknowledged a change in one faculty member's retirement date, signed off on another faculty member's return to the faculty and accepted the resignations of two additional faculty members.

The staff members retiring are: Lyman "John" Goes, director of the Physical Plant (now Facilities Management), 39-1/2 years, effective Dec. 31; William C. Johnson, custodian in Physical Plant-building custodial and support services, 10 years, effective June 30; Donna C. Mearing, director of University Curriculum, 13 years, effective Aug. 16; and Kevin J. O'Donnell, lead skills train-

ing specialist in the Center for Disability Services, 15 years, effective June 30.

In addition, the previously announced faculty retirement date for Gary L. Wegenke, dean of the College of Education and professor of educational leadership, research and technology, was extended. Wegenke will now retire with emeritus status April 30, 2010, after 12 years of service.

The faculty member returning to teaching is Kathryn Lewis-Ginebaugh, who is



Goes



Mearing



Wegenke



Lewis-Ginebaugh

stepping down as assistant director of the University Counseling and Testing Center, effective June 30.

The faculty members resigning are: Carmen Corneiles-Domanico, faculty specialist II-lecturer in the College of Education, effective April 22, and Joyce Walker, assistant professor of English, effective April 25.

## Make a Difference program announces top four staffers

Four exceptional employees have received WMU's annual Make a Difference award, which comes with a \$1,000 prize, and they will be honored at a luncheon scheduled for Thursday, July 16.

The 2008-09 award recipients are: Cheri Edgar, office coordinator in business information systems; Deborah Goostrey, building services coordinator in the College of Health and Human Services; Stephan Keto, grounds supervisor in Physical Plant-landscape services; and Mary Ramlow, office coordinator in the Evaluation Center.

This prestigious annual award is reserved for WMU's most outstanding staff employees—those who reach far beyond their assigned responsibilities to give generously and creatively of their time and talents, making the University an even finer place to work and study.

Make a Difference is a campuswide recognition program for staff members. Each year, it presents semiannual awards in fall and spring. Out of the semiannual winners, only four may receive the annual award.



Miller Auditorium and University Theatre have announced their 2009-10 season lineups.

The auditorium's 41st season schedule features a mix of Broadway favorites as well as music, dance and comedy from around the world. The season will kick off Sept. 25 with comic Jeff Foxworthy and conclude April 21 and 22 with 2004's Tony Award-winning Best Musical, "Avenue Q."

Other Broadway Series shows on tap are "The Wedding Singer," "Disney's Beauty and the Beast," and "The Rat Pack is Back!" The Broadway Plus Series includes "Cirque Dreams Illumination" along with the return of "Menopause the Musical."

Additional shows will feature appearances by personalities such as Garrison Keillor and Jeff Corwin; concerts by groups such as the Glenn Miller Orchestra, Sweet Honey in the Rock and the Oak Ridge Boys; and performances by accomplished dance groups such as the Ballet Folklórico de México and Moscow Festival Ballet.

The University Theatre's 103rd season will be bringing provocative dramas, classic musicals, and Shakespearean and contemporary comedies to the stage.

The new season will begin with an impassioned look at the lives of contemporary Iraqi women from Sept. 24-Oct. 4 in "Nice Parts of Desire" and end April 8-18 with the gospel play "Tambourines to Glory." The latter play will include the final faculty curtain call for

Von Washington, theatre, who will be retiring from WMU in spring 2010.

Rounding out the season will be "The Tectonic Project," "Five Women Wearing the Same Dress," "Carousel," "Late Night Broadway," "Eurydice," "As You Like It" and "Chicago."

Both Miller and University Theatre offer ticket discounts for faculty and staff members. Go to [www.millerauditorium.com](http://www.millerauditorium.com) and [www.wmich.edu/theatre](http://www.wmich.edu/theatre) for more information.

## University's governing board approves promotions of 50 faculty members

The WMU Board of Trustees approved the promotions of 50 faculty members at its June 4 meeting.

Twenty-two faculty members were promoted to the rank of full professor, 20 to associate professor, one to master faculty specialist and seven to faculty specialist II.

All of the new promotions are effective with the beginning of the 2009-10 academic year.

## Professor

Eskander Alvi, economics; Bruce E. Bejcek, biological sciences; Steven E. Butt, industrial and manufacturing engineering; Christine A. Byrd-Jacobs, biological sciences; Paul Clements, political science; Charles E. Crawford, sociology; Kristal E. Ehrhardt, special education and literacy studies; Igor Fedotov, music; Randle J. Gedeon, University Libraries; James A. Henry, social work; Antonio M. Isea, Spanish; Allison J. Kelaher-Young, teaching, learning and educational studies; Kate M. Kline, mathematics; Ho Sung Lee, mechanical and aeronautical engineering; Debra L. Lindstrom-Hazel, occupational

therapy; Elena B. Lisovskaya, sociology; Tianshu Liu, mechanical and aeronautical engineering; Timothy J. Michael, health, physical education and recreation; John B. Miller, chemistry; Alan I. Rea Jr., business information systems; John M. Spitsbergen, biological sciences; and Yvonne Unrau, social work.

## Associate professor

Ala I. Al-Fuqaha, computer science; Jeffrey M. Angles, foreign languages; JoAnn L. Atkin, marketing; Andrea L. Beach, educational leadership, research and technology; Daniel Jay Berkow, theatre; Allison Downey, teaching, learning and educational studies; Chad Edwards, communication; Steve Feffer, English; Gregory A. Flamme, speech pathology and audiology; Pavel G. Ikononov, industrial and manufacturing engineering; Edwin A. Martini, history; Lisa C. Minnick, English; Ilana Nash, English; Sherine O. Obare, chemistry; Carolyn R. Pavlik, dance; Cynthia J. Pietras, psychology; Kapseong Ro, mechanical and aeronautical engineering; Renee Schwartz, biological sciences; Helen M. Sharp, speech

pathology and audiology; and Zijiang James Yang, computer science.

## Master faculty specialist

Miriam P. Coleman, business information systems.

## Faculty specialist II

E. Bryce Dickey, family and consumer sciences; Thomas N. Edmonds, finance and commercial law; Marilyn S. Kritzman, communication; Sandra R. Murphy, social work; Jodie G. Palmer, teaching, learning and educational studies; Mary Peterson, speech pathology and audiology; and Neal T. Turner, finance and commercial law.

## Flu information updated online

The Web site at [www.wmich.edu/flu](http://www.wmich.edu/flu) continues to be updated as needs arise.

Keep checking the site over the summer months to stay current on WMU's ongoing pandemic preparedness planning and monitoring of the spread of the H1N1 virus.

The site includes numerous links, such as those for WMU flu statistics, WMU news stories, the Sindecuse Health Center, and state and national health agencies.



# On Campus with Kevin Dowd



HELPING RESEARCHERS AVOID THE ROUGH  
(Photo by Deanne Molinari)

After crunching numbers all week for the University as a grant and contract specialist, Kevin Dowd likes to relax with a game of golf—disc golf, that is.

The game, which is similar to traditional golf with a ball but played with Frisbees and baskets, is something Dowd learned while attending Ohio State University and still plays today. He began teaching a class on disc sports this summer in the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation. He also was a tournament director for the 2008 Disc Golf Championship.

"A typical hole is 300 feet, and most courses have 18 holes," Dowd says. "So we play at a lot of parks. Kalamazoo has eight courses within 45 minutes of it, and we're in the proposal process to have one at WMU."

A native of Bay City, Mich., Dowd moved to Florida, when he was 18, then attended college in Columbus, Ohio. He earned a bachelor's degree in finance and came back to Michigan in 2005 to take a job in WMU's Department of Business Information Systems. He worked in that office for a year and a half and also had a brief stint in student financial aid and scholarships before landing his current position in March 2007.

Working in the grants and contracts office, which reports to the associate vice president for finance, makes for an interesting and varied job. Dowd primarily coordinates the financial administration of research-oriented grants and contracts and helps faculty and staff meet the guidelines that come along with such sponsored research.

"We're looking at financial, contractual and regulatory requirements to ensure compliance with federal, state, agency and University regulations, policies and procedures," Dowd says, noting that he's juggling from 70 to 100 projects at any given time. "Basically, we do all the behind-the-scenes stuff for a grant that doesn't have to do with the research."

Summer is among the busiest times, as faculty members have more time to conduct research, the fiscal year starts July 1 and WMU does a compliance audit of its major federal programs. "It gets busy, but there's great teamwork in our office," Dowd says.

When not in the office, he spends time with his two-year-old daughter, Maia; works on a master's degree in business at WMU; and enjoys running, being outdoors, attending summer festivals and riding his custom Harley Davidson road bike.

## Math reform work continued from page 1

ity, and discrete mathematics. A flexible fourth-year option also is available to help prepare calculus- and non-calculus-bound students to excel in college-level mathematics classes.

With its curriculum supported by textbook publishers Glencoe/McGraw Hill, CPMP has been implemented in more than 1,000 schools in 45 states. Four recent and independent program evaluations show it boosts achievement on standardized tests and improves quantitative thinking skills among students using it, as compared to those in more traditional math programs. A second edition of the *Core-Plus Mathematics* series was recently published.

The Business Higher Education Forum set out a year ago to identify clearly effective educational programs that would help them and others improve their education philanthropy. It also maintains a Strategic Solutions resource site on which the Core Plus Mathematics Program is featured this month. Forum members include the leaders of such organizations as Boeing; the College Board and the American Council on Education; Columbia, Cornell and Ohio State universities; IBM, Pfizer, State Farm and the Wallace Foundation.

## Exchange

**For sale**—Unique 1920s two-story single-family home in Stuart Neighborhood. Sits on fenced, private "oasis" off Kalamazoo Avenue near WMU and Kalamazoo College. 1,350 square feet, three bedrooms, 1.5 baths, sunroom, dining room, sunny living room and full, dry basement with laundry facilities. Many upgrades and renovations, including new kitchen and half bath, and central air conditioning. Affordable, must-see home. Call 323-1966 or 381-3827.

**For sublet**—Visiting scholar subletting a top-floor Pines West apartment near Moors Bridge and Romence roads from Aug. 1 to Sept. 30. Two-bedrooms with good-size living room. Quiet and clean complex, laundry facilities in each building, clubhouse, outdoor swimming pool, tennis court, discounted fitness membership. \$615 plus

utilities, but price is negotiable. Visit [www.pineswestapts.com](http://www.pineswestapts.com) for details. Contact [yingjing.wang@wmich.edu](mailto:yingjing.wang@wmich.edu) or 532-1025 or 873-1504 before Wednesday, July 1.

## Sindicuse, WMU preparedness

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management services, law enforcement and others who collaborate to assure and improve emergency and medical responses to all types of disasters.

Region 5 was singled out for "establishing and implementing effective strategies that enhance collaboration and strengthen the relationship between public health and emergency care, thereby serving as an example to other communities to promote the improvement of daily operations and disaster preparedness nationwide."

## WMU Board of Trustees grants tenure to 23 faculty members

The WMU Board of Trustees approved the tenure of 23 faculty members at its June 4 meeting.

The tenured appointments for all 23 are effective with the beginning of the 2009-10 academic year.

New tenured faculty and their disciplines are:

Ala I. Al-Fuqaha, computer science; Jeffrey M. Angles, foreign languages; JoAnn L. Atkin, marketing; Andrea L. Beach, educational leadership, research and technology; Daniel Jay Berkow, theatre;

E. Bryce Dickey, family and consumer sciences; Allison Downey, teaching, learning and educational studies; Chad Edwards, communication; Steve Feffer, English; Gregory A. Flamme, speech pathology and audiology;

Pavel G. Ikononov, industrial and manufacturing engineering; Edwin A. Martini, history; Lisa C. Minnick, English; Ilana Nash, English; Sherine O. Obare, chemistry; Carolyn R. Pavlik, dance;

Cynthia J. Pietras, psychology; Troy Place, industrial and manufacturing engineering; Kapseong Ro, mechanical and aeronautical engineering;

Renee Schwartz, biological sciences; Helen M. Sharp, speech pathology and audiology; Bade Shrestha, mechanical and aeronautical engineering; and Zijiang James Yang, computer science.