



Western NEWS

MAY 21, 2009
volume 35, number 15

For and about WMU faculty and staff

WMU Day waiting list now in force

Registration for the second WMU Day at the Capitol ended with 851 students, faculty, staff and friends of the University signing up. The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, May 27, on the front lawn of the state Capitol in Lansing.

WMU Day will feature interactive and hands-on exhibits and musical performances showcasing the talents and success of WMU students, faculty and staff.

Those who registered to receive free transportation to and from Lansing as well as a free lunch but can't attend are asked to contact Donna Marks at donna.marks@wmich.edu or 387-2072 to cancel their registrations. There is a growing waiting list of people who would like to take their place.

Event will affect campus traffic today

Road closures will re-route traffic from Waldo Stadium through downtown Kalamazoo today for the Girls on the Run Balance 5K run/walk. The detours will be in place prior to the start of the race at 6:30 p.m. and remain until 8 p.m. Nearly 2,000 girls will traverse 3.1 miles during the event, which starts and ends at the stadium.

Roadways being affected are: (lane closures) South, Burdick, Vine, Rose and Lovell streets and (road closures) in-bound Stadium Drive between Howard Street and South, Oakland Drive between Howard and Oliver Street, Westnedge Avenue between Michigan Avenue and Vine, Park Street between Crosstown Parkway and Vine, and South Burdick between Michigan and Lovell.

Advisory board members sought

WMU's Writing Center is seeking faculty and staff to serve on its advisory board. Board members will offer commentary on Writing Center policies and practices as well as outreach and program assessment efforts. Contact Kim Ballard at kim.ballard@wmich.edu or 387-4446 for details.

Trustees meeting slated for June 4

The next meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees will be held Thursday, June 4. Details and key agenda items will be posted online at www.wmich.edu/news closer to the meeting date.

Commercialization grants presented

The recipients of WMU's 2009 Technology Development Fund grants were announced in the spring issue of *Inquiry*. Awarded grants were: Richard Spates, psychology, \$19,000; Adam Milewski, geosciences, \$14,500; and Ala-al Fuquha, computer science, \$11,000.

Go to www.wmich.edu/research/technologytransfer for information about the fund or contact Michael Sharer at 387-8218. Go to www.wmich.edu/research and click News and Awards to read the spring *Inquiry*, which includes stories on two other research awards presented to 33 faculty members.

Strazdas to head revamped facilities structure

A veteran WMU administrator has been selected to lead a revamped physical plant structure that is charged with managing the entire life cycle of all of the campus's facilities.



Strazdas

Peter J. Strazdas will lead the newly realigned Facilities Management Department, which was formed in late April. The unit includes all areas that were previously part of the Physical Plant and Campus Facilities Development units and will encompass planning, engineering, project management and operations. The consolidation of all facility functions under one umbrella organization is expected to provide better coordination among all the functional areas that deal with campus facilities.

Strazdas, manager of the Physical Plant's maintenance services division since 1994, has been named associate vice president for facilities management. He is completing the transformation process with John Goes, who will retire at the end of this year after directing the Physical Plant for nearly 20 years.

"The new structure will deal with the complete life cycle of capital projects, from the visioning and design phases, all the way through the construction, ongoing maintenance, and eventual structural updating and retrofitting," said Lowell P. Rinker in announcing the change. "We've made wonderful progress toward such a seamless organization with John Goes leading the Physical Plant, and I am very pleased that Pete Strazdas has agreed to accept this substantial increase in the scope of his responsibilities."

Strazdas has played a lead role over the past dozen years in streamlining the University's energy management and operating procedures as well as in enhancing the use of technology

continued on page 4

WMU, University of Malta to launch new program

WMU and the University of Malta are preparing to launch a collaborative degree program that will tap the resources of both institutions to provide a master's level criminology program to be taught at that Mediterranean nation's flagship university.

WMU President John M. Dunn and University of Malta Rector Juanito Camilleri met May 5 at WMU to sign a memorandum of understanding outlining a new dual Master of Arts in Criminology, Law and Public Policy. The collaboration is designed as a novel international and interdisciplinary venture—a dual master's degree program based on contributions from two universities, one in North America and the other in the Mediterranean region of the European Union.

"Now we'll be working to make this agreement come to life," said Dunn during the signing ceremony. "We'll take what's on paper and make it a reality. This will be a world-class opportunity for students at both institutions ready to take advantage of a program that will give them a unique set of credentials."

The partnership is an opportunity for both schools to create a research and instructional environment based on differing cultural perspectives. It also will provide rigorous criminological training at the graduate level that will increase WMU's international engagement.



UM Rector Juanito Camilleri, left, and WMU President John M. Dunn. (Photo by Mike Lanka)

Engineering student first confirmed H1N1 virus case

An engineering student who traveled over the semester break has been confirmed to have the 2009 North American H1N1 virus, also known as swine flu.

The student fell ill May 13 and stopped attending class. He went to the Sindecuse Health Center to seek treatment May 15 and was tested for the virus by health center staff. The Michigan Department of Community Health confirmed his test was positive late May 18, and communicated the results immediately to the Sindecuse medical director. The confirmation brings to four, the number of known H1N1 cases in Kalamazoo.

After being treated at Sindecuse, the student recovered from typical flu symptoms at home in an off-campus Kalamazoo apartment and is now symptom free. Early May 19, WMU President John M. Dunn sent a message to members of the campus community, and WMU officials began to alert instructors and students enrolled in class with the infected student to be vigilant for any signs of flu.

The symptoms of H1N1 flu virus are similar to the symptoms of seasonal flu and include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. A significant number of people who have been infected with this virus also have reported

continued on page 4

Around Campus

Commercialization workshops set

Two programs remain in a three-part series of training workshops being held in the Fetzer Center that are designed for faculty and staff members wanting to learn about commercializing their research. The series began May 19 and is being sponsored by Biotechnology Business Consultants in Ann Arbor, Mich., and WMU's Office of the Vice President for Research and Office of Intellectual Property Management and Commercialization.

Attendees should come with their questions and will have the opportunity to schedule one-on-one appointments with each of the presenters in the afternoon following the training. Registration is required for the final two programs, which will take place from 9 a.m. to noon on back-to-back Tuesdays.

"Intro to Commercialization: Michigan-based Life Sciences" on May 26 is free and will explore commercialization options for early-stage life science companies. "Government Accounting and Grants Management" on June 2 costs \$50 and is designed for those unfamiliar with the accounting and management requirements associated with receiving federal dollars. To register, go to www.bioconsultants.com/training_schedules.html or call Kris Bergman at (734) 930-9741.

Wellness Wednesday event slated

The next Wellness Wednesday Workshop is titled "Strength & Stability" and will take place from 12:05 to 12:55 p.m. May 27 in 3014 Student Recreation Center. Preregistrations are required and may be made by calling 387-3543.

Entrepreneurship is subject of talk

A local entrepreneur will be the featured speaker in a presentation Friday, May 29, as part of the Keystone Community Bank Breakfast Speaker Series at WMU. Amy Knapp will discuss the inspiration, creation and success of her new business, Amy Knapp's Family Organizer, in a talk titled "Advantages of Operating a Small Business During Difficult Economic Times."

Her presentation begins at 8 a.m. in the Dean's Conference Room in Schneider Hall. The event begins with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. and is free and open to the public. Reservations are required and may be made by calling 387-5050.

Retirement reception scheduled

A retirement reception honoring Becky Roberts, millwright/maintenance mechanic in physical plant-maintenance services, for her 24-1/2 years of service to the University will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. Friday, May 29, in the Faculty Lounge of the Bernhard Center.

Sports staffer wins writing award

Matthew D. Holmes, intercollegiate athletics, has been named the recipient of an inaugural award presented by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association and United States Tennis Writers Association.



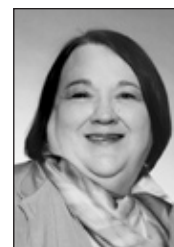
Holmes

Holmes, associate director of athletic media relations, took first place in the ITA/USTWA Sports Information Directors Writing Competition for a women's tennis-related story.

Holmes came to WMU in 2005 after two years with ESPN Radio in Indianapolis. He was promoted to his current position in 2007 and is close to completing a master's degree in sport management at WMU.

Academic advisor earns state honor

Marilyn S. Kritzman, faculty specialist in the School of Communication, has received the 2009 Outstanding Academic



Kritzman

Advisor-Primary Role Award from the Michigan Academic Advising Association.

Kritzman received the honor during the association's annual state conference May 11 for her "extraordinary dedication" to her students and colleagues as well as to the academic advising field. The association is an organization of college and university professionals concerned with the intellectual, personal, and career or vocational advising needs of students in Michigan.

A 1987 alumna of WMU's master's program in communication, Kritzman was appointed to her current position in 2002 to coordinate undergraduate advising and internships for the communication school.

Kritzman came to WMU in 1982 as a residence hall director and in 1991 was promoted to assistant manager of facilities for the Office of Residence Life. She was a special assistant to administrators in student affairs from 1999 to 2002.

Kritzman came to WMU in 1982 as a residence hall director and in 1991 was promoted to assistant manager of facilities for the Office of Residence Life. She was a special assistant to administrators in student affairs from 1999 to 2002.

Prof's projects aid war-torn Liberia

Susan Weinger, social work, is heading a project called "Micro Enterprise—Macro Impact in Liberia" to help citizens of the war-torn West African nation start small businesses that rent or create wedding dresses. Weinger says when one Liberian begins a business, the profits support an extended family.



Weinger

She and the student group she's collaborating with are seeking donations of good-quality, used and new wedding dresses, as well as wedding dress fabric, veils, beaded appliqué, lace and sewing machines.

Weinger has been to Liberia, serving as a consultant to a rehabilitation center. She also has sent used computers to the country, and two Internet café businesses have been developed as a result. Her direct contacts there help ensure the goods will go to the appropriate people. To learn more, e-mail elegant.liberia@gmail.com or call 344-0760.

The 18-member student Formula Racing Team placed 42 overall out of 91 teams that competed in the 2009 Formula SAE International competition May 13-16 at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, Mich. This was the first time in recent years that the team's high-performance racecar was able to complete all of the event's technical and performance challenges. (Photo by John Lacko)



volume 35
number 15

EDITOR: Jeanne Baron. CONTRIBUTORS: Tonya R. Durlach, Deanne Molinari, Thomas A. Myers, Cheryl P. Roland and Mark E. Schwerin. GRAPHIC DESIGN: Tammy M. Boneburg.

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. Summer session publication dates are **May 7 and 21 and June 4 and 18**. Items may be submitted by mail, fax (387-8422) or e-mail jeanne.baron@wmich.edu.

WMU is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer consistent with applicable state and federal laws.

Exchange

For sale—House in quiet Westwood neighborhood at 721 Fletcher Ave. Cape Cod with 1,700 square feet. Three bedrooms with huge master, 1-1/2 baths, remodeled kitchen, dining room, sun room/den, breezeway to garage and fenced-in backyard. Fresh paint throughout, new bathroom fixtures, most windows replaced, central air and security system. \$132,900. Call Carol at 377-3226.

Jobs

Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources Web site at www.wmich.edu/hr/careers-at-wmu.htm. Please note that applications must be submitted online by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included with each posting.



Education specialist appointed associate vice president for research

WMU has named a high-profile faculty member to serve as associate vice president for research, effective May 18.



Kohler



Ginsberg

Paula D. Kohler, special education and literacy studies, brings a wealth of funded research experience to the position, as well as a background in business administration, educational leadership, vocational education and special education.

In her new role, Kohler will be responsible for the Office of the Vice President for Research until WMU completes its national search for an administrator to head the office. She also will continue working on her own research, which focuses on identifying and analyzing students' post-school outcomes and effective secondary education practices, understanding effects of career development on post-school outcomes, and identifying and evaluating strategies for implementing and sustaining research-based practices.

Kohler replaces Leonard C. Ginsberg, who will be returning to the faculty after a brief sabbatical. Ginsberg was appointed associate vice president in 2004 and began overseeing the entire unit in mid-2005, when its vice president left to take over as executive director of WMU's Biosciences Research and Commercialization Center.

A WMU faculty member since 1999, Kohler served as interim chair of the Department of Special Education and Literacy Studies from 2005 to 2007. She has been a principal investigator and director of several major education-related research projects and centers funded by such organizations as the National Science Foundation and U.S. Department of Education.

Kohler is widely recognized for her research regarding effective transition practices for youth with disabilities. That work provides the foundation for work being done by the National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center, a federally-funded technical assistance and dissemination center that helps states and territories to improve the post-school outcomes of students with disabilities.

Her "Taxonomy for Transition Programming" is recognized around the United States as an effective model for planning, implementing and evaluating transition-focused education for students with disabilities.

In addition to serving as a consultant for numerous state and national organizations, Kohler has been called upon to advise U.S. government policy makers regarding disability studies and last year served on a panel providing input to the federal Office of Adult and Vocational Education.

Kohler earned a bachelor's degree in marketing from the University of Florida in 1972; a master's degree in educational leadership from the University of Central Florida in 1990; and a doctoral degree in special education from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1993.

Professional groups announce 2009 award winners

Six staff members have received 2009 awards from the Administrative Professional Association and the Professional Support Staff Organization, WMU's two non-bargaining employee groups.

The awards were presented during the annual APA/PSSO Awards and Spring Luncheon held May 15. Mary E. Ramlow, office coordinator in the Evaluation Center, served as emcee.

Receiving this year's APA awards were Ramlow, Outstanding Professional award; Kirk Sundling, CVIT manager in Extended University Programs, Outstanding New Professional award; and Gail L. Kurtz, investment officer in investments and endowment management, Tony Griffin Service Award. Receiving this year's PSSO Service Awards were Terri J. Culver, finance specialist in accounting, and Delores J. Minshall, MCS coordinator in information technology.

The final honor presented, the WMU Spirit Award, went to Amy J. Seth, director of recreational programs and facilities.



The 2009 APA and PSSO award winners are, from left, (standing) Ramlow, Kurtz, Culver, Sundling, Minshall, and (kneeling) Seth. (Photo by Tammy Boneburg)

Archaeology camp signup begun

WMU archaeologists are making history come alive at the site of Fort St. Joseph in Niles, Mich., with camp offerings in July for middle school students, educators and other interested adults.

Signup is under way for three summer camps that will offer hands-on training and learning at the premier public archaeology program in the Midwest.

Teachers can earn Continuing Education Unit credit as certified by the State Board of Education or graduate credits for their participation.

Camps include: an adult non-credit program July 13-17, a program for junior high school students in grades six through nine July 20-24, and a program for educators, including teachers, principals, librarians and aides, July 27-31.

The field school will take place near Niles, Mich. Each five-day program will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Availability is limited to 10 students each week, and a \$125 fee is charged.

Scholarships, Continuing Education Certificates and credit hours are available. The review of applications will begin June 8, and candidates will be notified of their acceptance by June 15 or until the program is filled.

Go to fortstjosephmuseum.org for complete details or to apply.

WMU gets \$500,000 from state Braille transcribing fund

A celebration that began Jan. 4 with an observance of the 200th anniversary of Louis Braille's birth in 1809, continues with a \$500,000 gift to WMU from the Michigan Braille Transcribing Fund.

The gift to the Department of Blindness and Low Vision Studies will be used to establish the Francelia Williams Wonders Endowment. The gift will provide at least one scholarship annually to qualified, full-time students who are majoring in blindness and low vision studies in the College of Health and Human Services. The endowment will benefit both students and the people with vision problems they serve, as have previous contributions from the fund.

The Michigan Braille Transcribing Fund is a non-profit, Braille-translating organization based in the Cotton Correctional Facility at the State Prison of Southern Michigan in Jackson, Mich.

The fund, which translates textbooks, manuals and other documents into Braille, began in 1962 as a volunteer effort by a few prisoners and now involves 40 inmates who train in complex Braille transcription and other technologies. The fund offers affordable, quality Braille to companies and school districts throughout the country and specializes in transcribing "hard-to-do" Braille, such as math, science, geography, spelling and social studies.

In 2005, the fund donated \$36,600 to the department to purchase 11 new Braille computers, and in 2003, the fund gave WMU \$160,000 for scholarship support, which was distributed as a series of \$8,000 awards to educate students in the teaching of Braille.

Obituary



Post

William E. "Wally" Post, a staff member and longtime instructor, died May 12 in Kalamazoo.

Post, a full-time database specialist in the Development Office since 2005, had taught part-time in the Department of Sociology since 1993.

He also ran his own market and social science research company, worked part-time for the WJ Schroer Co. in Battle Creek, Mich., and did computer consulting for the sociology department from 1995 to 2005.

Post earned an associate degree from Glen Oaks Community College in 1990, and bachelor's and master's degrees from WMU in 1991 and 1995, respectively. He also had completed all but his dissertation for a doctoral degree in sociology from WMU.

On Campus with Demetrios Nearchou



POWERFUL STAFF MEMBER
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

Demetrios Nearchou, a licensed master electrician in physical plant-remodeling services, came to the United States from Greece in 1988. Nearchou (pronounced neh-ARE-who) emigrated with his mother directly from Athens to Kalamazoo, joining a brother who already resided here.

He began his new professional life with residential and commercial electrical contractors, then operated his own company for seven years. Business slowed dramatically in 2002, so Nearchou applied for and landed a job as a second-shift electrician in WMU's maintenance division.

"When I was self-employed, I worked 60 to 70 hours a week and on weekends. But there was a lot of fluctuation," he says. "One of the best parts of my job at Western is that it's steady, 40-hours-a-week work. And I'm indoors during the winter."

Nearchou was laid off in 2004, but rehired in 2005 and assigned a few months later to remodeling services. Given the state of the national economy, he's maintaining his private company and electrical contractor's license—just in case.

Nearchou and three other electricians work on projects that units across campus hire remodeling services, a self-supporting unit, to do. Their activities revolve around trouble shooting or repairing electrical equipment and circuits (wiring), installing new circuits and fixtures, and providing power to the new technology that's continually being added to offices and buildings.

"You either read up on things or learn on the spot. That's what makes it so exciting—it's such a broad field, you never stop learning," Nearchou says. "The most challenging part is bringing the whole project together, from the drawing to completion. You have to work with everyone and try to accommodate what everyone has in mind."

Nearchou has worked on the security system in the Valley II residence halls, the Welcome Center in the administration building and numerous other projects.

He says his most interesting job to date occurred when the 100-unit Stadium Drive Apartments complex lost power. He and nearly every other maintenance electrician plus several managers were called out that cold evening to set up an emergency generator in the rain.

Nearchou lives in Kalamazoo and enjoys gardening, landscaping, grilling and playing basketball.

Strazdas to head revamped facilities structure continued from page 1

in managing facilities. During the period, campus building square footage has increased by 19 percent while at the same time, total energy consumption has decreased by 17 percent. In addition, the efficiency of response to building maintenance requests was increased through the use of an online paperless work-order system and equipping employees with handheld wireless devices linked to the University's software and databases.

"Western Michigan University has been a part of my entire working career," Strazdas says. "There are many dedicated people in the new integrated department, and I look forward to working with these professionals to manage our facility resources very carefully. We take our facility stewardship seriously, and our entire team will work together to improve efficiencies and customer service."

Strazdas has been a WMU employee since 1980. Before assuming his present duties at the Physical Plant in 1994, he was an engineering technology faculty member and later a construction administrator. For several years, he chaired the Michigan Construction Safety Standards Commission, which he served on by gubernatorial appointment, and since 2004, he has served as president of the Michigan Higher Education Facility Officers Association.

Engineering student first confirmed H1N1 case continued from page 1

diarrhea and vomiting. Studies have shown that people may be contagious from one day before they develop symptoms to up to 7 days after they get sick.

As a precaution early in the development of the current flu strain, Sindecuse implemented portions of WMU's preparedness plan and ensured that it screens and treats patients without spreading the flu.

- Sindecuse has hand sanitizers and paper masks for patients who come to the center with flu symptoms.
- The staff has set up a triage system to separate patients with flu symptoms from those without symptoms.
- The staff is prepared to perform rapid tests

for influenza and will send appropriate tests to the state laboratory for confirmation.

Sindecuse Medical Director Lisa Marshall says any student, staff or faculty member with flu symptoms should immediately isolate themselves from others and stay home. If flu symptoms become severe enough to seek treatment, they should visit Sindecuse or their family doctor.

Students, faculty and staff are being reminded of basic precautions such as hand-washing that will help prevent or slow the spread of influenza.

Go to www.obf.wmich.edu/safety/pandemic and www.wmich.edu/flu for more information.

VanRiper clinic urges employees to get their hearing screened

May is Better Hearing and Speech Month, and there's still time to make an appointment to schedule a hearing screening this month at the Van Riper Language, Speech and Hearing Clinic.

For employees and retirees enrolled in the University's Community Blue PPO Health Plan, screenings and other comprehensive speech and audiology services are covered at campus facilities under the WMU Health Services Plan.

An annual hearing checkup is recommended for people age 45 and up. In addition to WMU employees, the VanRiper clinic's services are available to residents throughout Southwest Michigan, from newborns to senior citizens.

The Van Riper clinic is located in the WMU Unified Clinics office on the fourth floor of the Kalamazoo Center for Medical Studies, 1000 Oakland Drive. To set up an appointment, call 387-8047.

The Unified Clinics participate in many insurance plans and offer services on a sliding pay scale as needed. In addition to treating hearing loss, individual clinics offer many health care services provided through clinical programs attached to the College of Health and Human Services. Go to www.wmich.edu/hhs/unifiedclinics for more information.