



# Western NEWS

FEBRUARY 19, 2009  
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For and about WMU faculty and staff

## Levin to meet with campus members

U.S. Sen. Carl Levin will visit campus Friday, Feb. 20, to hold an informal meeting with students and answer questions from members of the campus community.

Levin will appear at noon in the Fetzer Center's Kirsch Auditorium. After brief remarks about the federal government's response to the economic crisis, he will take questions from those in attendance.

## Volunteers needed for goalball event

Volunteers are being sought to help stage the 2009 Bakos Memorial Goalball Tournament on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 28-March 1, at WMU.

Up to 80 volunteers are needed to hold the annual contest. Volunteers do not need prior knowledge of the sport. To volunteer, e-mail [sdgordon78@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sdgordon78@sbcglobal.net) or [lukusp@gmail.com](mailto:lukusp@gmail.com) or call 337-3276 or 278-7307.

## Dance group plans trip to Detroit

Partners in Dance is sponsoring a trip to see the American Ballet Theatre perform Kenneth MacMillan's "Romeo and Juliet" at the Detroit Opera House Sunday, March 15.

The registration and payment deadline is Monday, March 2. Seating is limited, and reservations will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Go to [www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2009/02/045](http://www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2009/02/045) for details.

## Alumni award nominations due soon

The deadline for the WMU Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumni Award is Friday, March 6. The award—the association's most prestigious honor—is given annually to a maximum of three people.

Nominees must have earned at least one degree from WMU and have achieved a high level within their chosen fields of endeavor. For more information, go to [www.wmich.edu/alumni](http://www.wmich.edu/alumni) and click "Awards."

## Appropriations hearing scheduled

President John M. Dunn will testify and the University will act as host when the Michigan House Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education holds a hearing on campus from 10 a.m. to noon Monday, Feb. 23. The hearing will be held in 2008 Richmond Center.

## Tax preparation help available

Information about CINTAX, a tax return preparation system for international students and scholars, is accessible online through WMU's international admissions and service Web site. Go to <http://international.wmich.edu> and click the "CINTAX" button on the right side of the page.

## Western News to go on spring break

The *Western News* will be going on spring break March 1-7 and will resume its bi-monthly publication schedule March 12. The deadline to submit items for that issue is 5 p.m. Friday, March 6.

## University community mourns Haenicke's passing

A service to honor the life of Diether H. Haenicke, WMU president emeritus, is set for 2:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26, in Miller Auditorium. A reception will immediately follow the service in the Richmond Center for Visual Arts.



Haenicke, who died Feb. 15 at age 73, was WMU's fifth president. He first served from 1985 to 1998, then returned for the 2006-07 academic year as interim president during the search that resulted in John M. Dunn being named to lead the University.

Members of the campus community and public may write messages to the Haenicke family in condolence books that are available at two campus locations through Friday, Feb. 20. The books will be available for signing from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. each day in the lobby of the Bernhard Center and at the Information/Circulation Desk of Waldo Library.

Haenicke battled a heart condition for many years. He died at Bronson Methodist Hospital, where he was being treated for complications from a head injury that occurred when he suffered a cardiac arrest in December. Following emergency brain surgery Feb. 12, he declined quickly, according to his family.

In a message to the WMU community, Dunn called Haenicke "one of the University's greatest treasures" and noted that he was "a giant among his contemporaries" who was unwavering in his commitment to intellectual rigor and excellence. "While we will miss him and his quick wit and infectious laugh," Dunn wrote, "his footprint on this campus will remain forever."

U.S. Rep. Fred Upton echoed those sentiments in a condolence message and noted the bond he had with Haenicke. "His commitment, logic and steady humor kept us going in good times and bad," Upton wrote. "I will truly miss his insight, friendship and guidance. We have all lost a supporter of the greater good."

During Haenicke's original 13-year presidency, WMU experienced significant growth in research, private support and enrollment. The University conducted a successful \$62 million capital campaign and several major buildings were constructed, while other major



Haenicke, who was born and raised in Germany, took a personal interest in advancing both international programs and international student enrollment. (Photo by John Lacko)

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## Study affirms city's medical school potential

An in-depth feasibility study by a team of nationally known consultants has confirmed that a medical school operated by WMU in partnership with Bronson Healthcare Group and Borgess Health is not only feasible, but could put the Kalamazoo area on an important growth trajectory.

The assessment was publicly unveiled Feb. 5 during a Faculty Senate presentation by WMU President John M. Dunn after nearly nine months of detailed study involving a broad spectrum of potential stakeholders, including the leadership of the three principal organizations, business and political leaders in the region, and members of the medical community.

Academic health consultants and physicians Stephen Larned and Ethel Weinberg unequivocally answered "yes" to the study's basic question of whether the three organizations have the capability to successfully run a medical school.

Dunn told the Faculty Senate that the positive assessment lays out a compelling enough case to take the medical school concept to the next level by working on a business plan and forming committees charged with looking at the critical issues of finance, facilities, governance and accreditation requirements.

WMU, Borgess and Bronson commissioned the Larned & Weinberg report after a positive preliminary study was done by another firm. The new study is a more detailed assessment that can also be used to begin the strategic planning process for a medical school.

Important findings of the report revolve around the firm's recommendation that rather than focus on establishing a stand-alone medical school, the community should focus on establishing an academic health center that would "provide the highest quality in patient care, medical education and research."

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# Around Campus

## TotalTech expo begins today

Everyone is invited to stop by the Bernhard Center today and tomorrow, Feb. 19-20, to check out the newest computers and gadgets—and enter to win prizes—at the TotalTech store's TechNOWlogy Expo.

The event runs from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. today and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday in the TotalTech store, which is located inside the WMU Bookstore, and in Textbook Alley, which is located on the lower level of the Bernhard Center. Go to [wmich.edu/totaltech](http://wmich.edu/totaltech) for details.

## WMU to host National Guard event

WMU is hosting an event today by the Michigan National Guard to help communities in the state learn about the needs of military members returning from deployments and help integrate services for them and their families. It is being held from 1 to 4 p.m. in 213 Bernhard Center. Contact [karen.blaisure@wmich.edu](mailto:karen.blaisure@wmich.edu) for details.

## Faculty seminar taking place Feb. 20

Faculty members are invited to attend a seminar on sustainable business practice that addresses the triple bottom line of economic vitality, environmental accountability and social responsibility. It is set for 2 to 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20, in 3350 Schneider and features Susan Santone, founder and executive director of Creative Change Educational Solutions.

## Renewable energy is program topic

Brion and Kathy Dickens, supporters of renewable energy projects in Michigan, will speak at 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, in

1301 Wood as part of the Frostic Environmental Studies Series.

The Dickens heat their home with a biomass boiler, have their own wind turbine and have an electric car that charges off their windmill. They have garnered more than \$1 million to support renewable energy projects.

## Talk focuses on cost of disasters

A series of lectures looking at the economics of disasters, both natural and man-made, continues with a presentation at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25, in 3508 Knauss. Hal Cochrane, a senior research scientist and fellow at the Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere at Colorado State University, will address "The Economics of Disaster: Retrospect and Prospect."

## Iranian author to share stories

Best-selling Iranian author Firoozeh Dumas will share an evening of humor and unique commentary on multicultural issues in America during a visit Thursday, Feb. 26. "An Evening With Firoozeh Dumas" will be from 6 to 9 p.m. in the North Ballroom of the Bernhard Center.

## Next Keystone series speaker set

Rebecca Pierce, editor of the Kalamazoo Gazette, will be the featured speaker Friday, Feb. 27, as part of the Keystone Community Bank Breakfast Speaker Series. Pierce's talk, "For Those of You Who Can't Read," begins at 8 a.m. in the Dean's Conference Room in Schneider. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 387-5050.

## Science teachers resolve debate

A trio of WMU researchers have discovered that in the academic debate over whether young science students learn more



Cobern

through experimenting or direct instruction, there's little difference.

William Cobern, David Schuster and Renee Schwartz, physics and biological sciences, have found that neither teaching approach provides a significant advantage for middle school science students.



Schuster

The three, all members of WMU's Mallinson Institute for Science Education, presented their findings at the American Association for the Advancement of Science Annual Meeting Feb. 12-16 in Chicago.



Schwartz

They have been studying middle school instruction through a three-year project supported by a \$400,000 National Science Foundation grant.

## Writer's work focuses on migrants

Karen Vocke, English, will be the keynote speaker for the 2009 Rural Sites Network Conference to be held Friday and Saturday, March 13-14, in Kalamazoo's Radisson Plaza Hotel. The Rural Sites Network links the nation's rural teachers together through the sites of the National Writing Project.



Vocke

During the network's 2009 conference, attendees will explore the guiding ideas about reading, writing and thinking in today's rural schools. Vocke, who teaches language, literacy and pedagogy in the English education program, is the author of the 2008 book about meeting the unique educational needs of migrant students that is titled "Where Do I Go from Here?"

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## Trombone player wins major award

Stephen Wolfenbarger, music, has won the 2009 International Trombone Association Award. The award recognizes the highest



Wolfenbarger

level of creative and artistic output in such areas as performance, composition, arranging, teaching, conducting, research and service. Recipients also are considered to have made important and outstanding contributions to the trombone community and demonstrated dedication to their professions.

Along with the Humfeld Award for Teaching Excellence, the ITA Award is one of the two highest honors presented by the International Trombone Association each year. Wolfenbarger, who serves as brass/percussion area chair, will travel to Denmark to receive the award at the International Trombone Festival in June.

## Web-related workers invited to seek advice, meet monthly

The Webmasters' User Group is open to all permanent, temporary, contract and student employees who have design or publishing responsibilities for WMU Web pages.

The group hosts a Web site that includes a full range of online Web design and publishing resources as well as a mailing list through which members can pose questions and share information. It meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 9 a.m. in the Stewart Tower conference room.

Interested Web workers may join the list by writing to [oit-web@wmich.edu](mailto:oit-web@wmich.edu) with their names, departments and the URLs for the WMU Web sites for which they are responsible. Go to [www.wmich.edu/wug](http://www.wmich.edu/wug) for more information.

## Exchange

**Wanted**—Console piano and bench in moderate or better condition. Delivery requested. Will negotiate price based on condition, but \$500 is upper end of our price range. Call 342-1747 and ask for Cindy.

**For sale**—House in quiet Westwood neighborhood at 721 Fletcher Ave. Five minutes from WMU. Cape Cod with 1,700 square feet. Three bedrooms with huge master, 1-1/2 baths, dining room, sunroom/den, breezeway to garage, fenced-in backyard, central air and security system. Remodeled kitchen, fresh paint throughout, new bathroom fixtures and most windows replaced. \$136,900. 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](http://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.



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**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. Spring session publication dates are **Jan. 8 and 22, Feb. 5 and 19, March 12 and 26, and April 9.** Items may be submitted by mail, fax (387-8422) or e-mail [jeanne.baron@wmich.edu](mailto:jeanne.baron@wmich.edu).

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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

## Science career day slated

Got a question? Ask an expert.

That's the idea behind a campus career event Wednesday, Feb. 25, for those transitioning into science-related fields.

Called Strategies for Success, the event is open to the general public and will take place from noon to 2 p.m. in 208-210 Bernhard Center.

There will be an hour-long program from noon to 1 p.m. that will begin with opening remarks by Robert Miller, WMU associate vice president for community outreach.

Then, presentations will be made by four students who either graduated from or attended WMU and are pursuing science-related careers. The event has been structured to provide an opportunity for attendees to interact with the presenters.

For more information, call event organizer David Huffman, chemistry, at 387-2865.

## Miller, Tolbert to lead board of trustees for 2009

Kenneth V. Miller and Larry Tolbert, both of Kalamazoo, were elected Feb. 4 to serve one-year terms as chair and vice chair, respectively, of the WMU Board of Trustees. Miller was elected to a second term as board chair, while Tolbert replaces Trustee William J. Martin of Battle Creek, who remains on the board.

Miller, who was appointed a trustee in 2002, earned both a bachelor's and a master's degree in business administration from WMU and serves as a director of the WMU Foundation. He owns the Millennium Restaurant Group and is vice president and chief operating officer of Havirco, a Kalamazoo investment management firm that he has co-owned since 1983.

Tolbert, who was appointed a trustee in 2005, earned a bachelor's degree in political science from WMU. He is a marketing representative and secretary of health, welfare and pension funds for the Heat and Frost Insulators and Asbestos Workers, a labor organization covering West Michigan and parts of mid-Michigan.

Other board officers elected to one-year terms were WMU staff members Betty A. Kocher, secretary to the board; Lowell P. Rinker, treasurer and assistant secretary; and Janice Van Der Kley, assistant treasurer.



Miller



Tolbert

## Japanese university honors Professor Emeritus Michitoshi Soga



Josai University in Saitama, Japan, granted an honorary doctorate this past fall to Michitoshi Soga, emeritus in physics. Soga, center left, and his wife, Ryoko, center right, attended Josai's commencement to accept the degree. Soga worked tirelessly for decades to build relationships and linkages in Japan by setting up programs with Japanese universities, hosting Japanese students attending WMU, and helping to build a Japanese alumni network. He joined the WMU physics faculty in 1968 and transitioned to a half-time teaching load in 1986 while serving half time as an administrative officer for the Office of International Affairs. Soga retired from teaching in 1993 and worked full time in the international office until his retirement in 1996. (Photo courtesy of the Haenicke Institute for Global Education)

## Make a Difference staff award nominations due

Nominations for the spring round of Western Michigan University's semiannual Make a Difference awards are due by Saturday, Feb. 28.

Make a Difference is a campuswide peer-to-peer program that recognizes WMU staff members for their outstanding accomplishments and daily investment of energy and creativity.

It features semiannual and annual awards that go to employees who provide exceptional services to the University.

Every fall and spring, semiannual awards are presented to a maximum of 15 people. Those selected for the accolade are presented with a \$250 prize and certificate, and recognized at a special reception. They also are eligible to be nominated for one of four annual Make a Difference awards that carry a \$1,000 prize.

Employees may receive the semiannual award more than once but may not win more than one of these awards each academic year. The annual award, which may be received only once, goes to each year's four most outstanding semiannual award winners.

Make a Difference Award nominations are

accepted for individuals from the following five employee groups: Administrative Professional Association; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; Michigan State Employees Association; Police Officers Association; and Professional Support Staff Organization.

Nomination forms are available year round at [wmich.edu/makeadifference](http://wmich.edu/makeadifference). Nominations may be submitted online, by e-mail to [make-a-difference@wmich.edu](mailto:make-a-difference@wmich.edu) or by campus mail to Mail Stop Code 5217.

## Obituary



Mazer

**Gilbert Earnest Mazer**, emeritus in counselor education and counseling psychology, died July 20, 2008, in Spring Hill, Fla., it was recently learned. He was 81.

Mazer came to WMU in 1965 and retired in 1990 after 25 years of service. He was an expert in Adlerian psychology, survey research and evaluation, research design, test

## Midterm grading valuable

Faculty members are reminded that the period for submitting midterm grades began Feb. 16 and will continue through Sunday, March 8.

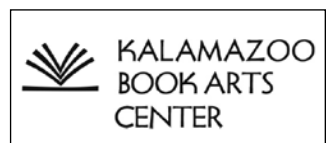
Midterm grading can play an important role in WMU's student success initiatives, said Timothy J. Greene, provost and vice president for academic affairs, in a recent e-mail to academic deans, chairs and directors.

"First, our students, especially new students, really appreciate the feedback on how they are doing in their courses. It helps them better understand their progress, reinforces good study habits and allows for early mid-course corrections," Green noted.

## Papermaking event scheduled

The WMU Friends of University Libraries has scheduled a papermaking demonstration and tour from 5:15 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25, in the Kalamazoo Book Arts Center.

The demonstration will be presented



by nationally recognized book artist Jeff Abshear, director of the Book Arts Center, which is located at 326 W. Kalamazoo Ave. in the Park Trades Center building.

The nonprofit center offers classes in book printing and binding, printmaking, hand papermaking, and creative writing. It was established by a group of artists and writers to create a workshop and learning center to further book design and its related arts.

Go to [www.wmich.edu/library/friends](http://www.wmich.edu/library/friends) or [www.kalbookarts.org](http://www.kalbookarts.org) to learn more.

construction and critiquing, and personality testing and analysis.

After retiring from the University, Mazer moved to South Carolina and later to Florida. He taught at the University of South Carolina from 1992 to 1994, then worked for five years as an independent contractor for the U.S. Department Veterans Affairs, doing psychological testing and evaluations.

Mazer served in the U.S. Army during World War II and was a gifted artist who served as a member and board member of several arts organizations.



## On Campus with Victoria Janson



A QUESTION OF INSIGHT  
(Photo by Deanne Molinari)

Victoria Janson has reviewed hundreds of projects crafted by faculty across campus, so she knows WMU's reputation as a top research institution is well deserved.

A research compliance coordinator since 1999, Janson focuses on research that involves questioning people, often about sensitive information. That makes it her job to assure that the questions being asked provide the most insightful results without unleashing additional problems for the researcher.

"It's my job to help them find less-risky or safer ways to collect data," Janson says. "We almost always find a way to make it happen. The hardest part is showing people why something won't work."

Janson administers WMU's 13-member Human Subjects Review Board. She's been on both sides of the compliance process, with her own work undergoing review when she was a pharmacology lab researcher at Vanderbilt University.

Federal regulations in the late 1970s established review boards for institutional research for all work conducted through federal grants. WMU expands that requirement to include all research projects, grant-funded or not.

"We have people from different walks of life, so it's likely we see research in different ways and offer different suggestions," she says of the University's human subjects board, which by design is academically and racially diverse and includes both men and women. "It's things researchers don't usually think of. In my experience, people are grateful to have someone to point out an issue before they begin the research."

The work is interesting and varied, Janson adds.

"In this job, I've gotten to know people from all different departments. Meeting people and learning about their projects is very rewarding," she says. "We're involved in the front end, but very often don't find out how it turned out."

Janson lives in Richland, Mich., with her 92-year-old great-aunt and next door to her parents. She has two grown daughters and five grandchildren.

She enjoys birding with her father, a hobby he started with her when she was growing up but that she became more involved with as an adult. The pair primarily travels in Michigan, searching and recording various species of birds.

Another of her hobbies is Nordic walking, hiking along trails using two ski-type poles to help with stabilization and provide an upper-body workout.

### Signup begun for this summer's translation institute

WMU is offering a four-week summer program for those learning Arabic, Chinese, French or Japanese who want to improve their translation skills while working on their language proficiency. Review of applications to participate will begin on Sunday, March 15, and continue until positions are filled.

Hosted by the Department of Foreign Languages, the Summer Translation Institute will run during the first four weeks of Summer II Session, June 25 to July 24. It is open to students from WMU or other colleges or universities, high school teachers, professionals or government officials who rely on translation or foreign languages as part of their careers or native speakers who want experience translating to English.

Translation—the moving back and forth between two languages and cultures—is a skill not typically developed in the classroom. The summer program combines theory, business and practice and already has attracted interest from potential students as far away as Saudi Arabia.

Go to [wmich.edu/languages/summertranslation](http://wmich.edu/languages/summertranslation) for more information.

### Study affirms city's medical school potential \_\_\_\_\_ continued from page 1

Such an academic center would be made up of interdependent components that would take advantage of existing strengths as well as newly developed areas of focus. Those would include a medical school, cutting-edge clinical care, a research emphasis and graduate medical education.

Other preliminary or working recommendations call for the medical school to develop its curriculum after broad input from the local medical community and with significant thought given to how medicine will be practiced in the future. In addition, instead of relying on state funding, it is recommended that the school operate solely from private gifts, tuition, income from the clinical enterprise and ultimately, research grants.

"This is a time-sensitive opportunity that has come to us at a difficult economic time," says Dunn. "But this may well be a transformational opportunity for our community and region. We owe it to ourselves and those who follow us to fully examine the potential and move decisively. Borgess, Bronson and the University have developed a real partnership to take us to this point, and all three entities will continue working together toward a final decision."

A Web site at [www.kzoomedschool.org](http://www.kzoomedschool.org) provides complete information about the medical school initiative.

### WMU community mourns

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facilities were renovated and expanded. WMU also raised its stature as a research institution and earned approval to establish a campus chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest and most prestigious honor society.

A lifelong advocate of study abroad, Haenicke's passion for the topic was celebrated in 1998, when WMU gathered its international operations under one umbrella organization, which is now named the Diether H. Haenicke Institute for Global Education.

That same year, Haenicke returned to the faculty. He officially retired from the University in 2004, but agreed to take the helm as interim president in 2006. During his second presidency, he reinvigorated the institution's reputation for student service and embraced the communication aspect of technology, returning to private life in 2007 with more than 1,000 Facebook "friends."

Arrangements for the Haenicke service are being handled by Betzler Life Story Funeral Home of Kalamazoo. Detailed information about the service will be posted at [www.lifestorynet.com/memories/45444/](http://www.lifestorynet.com/memories/45444/) as it becomes available. Go to the site to sign a guest book, recount your memories of Haenicke, upload photos to share and obtain the family's suggestions for memorial donations.