



Western NEWS

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For and about WMU faculty and staff

Trustees set meeting dates for 2009

The WMU Board of Trustees has a 2009 schedule that includes meetings on Wednesday, Feb. 4; Thursday, Sept. 17; and Friday, Nov. 6. The board also plans to meet in April, June and July. Those dates will be announced later. Meetings usually take place in the Bernhard Center.

Kaml named interim EUP official



Kaml

Craig Kaml has been named interim associate provost for Extended University Programs and will lead that unit while the University conducts a national search for a new associate provost to oversee WMU's branch campuses and distance education initiatives. Kaml's appointment was announced this week by Provost Timothy Greene.

Kaml has served since 2007 as director of distance education, a department in EUP that includes Academic Technology and Instructional Services. Prior to that, he had served as director of ATIS since 2002. Kaml replaces Dean Darrell Johnson, who left WMU last month to accept a position at Ohio State University.

W-2 forms available through GoWMU

Copies of 2008 W-2 forms became available through the My Self Service channel in GoWMU beginning Jan. 20. For those employees who do not retrieve the electronic version, copies will be mailed to their homes no later than Jan. 31. By clicking My W-2 in your My Self Service channel, you also can view, print or e-mail copies of your W-2 forms from 2005, 2006 and 2007. Send questions to payroll-dept@wmich.edu.

Venue change for WMU, MSU game

The Nov. 7 football game between WMU and Michigan State University, originally slated for Ford Field in Detroit, will now take place at Spartan Stadium in East Lansing, Mich. The date will remain the same for the game, which is a non-conference road contest for the Broncos.

The economic landscape was vastly different when the original contract was drafted, Athletic Director Kathy Beauregard says. "...in light of the current climate, it is in the best financial interest of all parties involved to move the venue of this game."

Grants, contracts training announced

Grants and Contracts' spring training schedule is now available on the Web and includes a new session on using GLOW, or General Ledger Operating Web. Go to www.obf.wmich.edu/grants-contracts/trainingregistration_schedule to reserve a seat. For more information, contact grants-services@wmich.edu or 387-4707.

Architects recognize visual arts facility

WMU's Richmond Center for Visual Arts has been named the winner of the 2008 Honor Award from the Detroit chapter of the American Institute of Architects. The award was announced at the group's annual gala late last fall.

"The beauty and exceptional nature of the Richmond Center are apparent to those of us using the building, and it's affirming that the architectural profession recognizes its grace, function and quality," says Margaret Merriam, dean of the College of Fine Arts.

Praising the craftsmanship and attention to detail apparent in the structure, judges in the annual competition called the center "a strong structural and architectural form which accommodates a sense of movement and provides strong linkages to its surroundings."

"It is truly an honor and privilege to receive an award for the design of the Richmond Center," says Bob Varga of SmithGroup, principal designer of the facility. "The project



Key players in the Richmond Center project on hand for the Honor Award presentation included, from left, Chris Purdy, project manager; Bob Varga, principal designer; WMU Dean Margaret Merriam; and Russ Sykes, SmithGroup principal. (Photo courtesy of Detroit AIA chapter)

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Government reform expert employs research in Iraq



Mingus

Matthew S. Mingus, public affairs and administration, will take a break from the college classroom and put his knowledge to work by serving as an advisor to develop Iraqi local and provincial governments for the next year.

Mingus, a 2005-06 Fulbright Research Chair at the University of Ottawa's Centre on Governance, will serve as a governance advisor for the U.S. Department of State in Iraq for 2009. He left Jan. 21 to start mandatory training in the Washington, D.C., area and should be on the ground in Iraq by mid-February. He expects to return to his campus teaching career in April 2010.

Mingus, a 10-year veteran of the WMU faculty and director of the School of Public Affairs and Administration, will take a yearlong unpaid leave to take a post with the embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team based at Camp Taji in Iraq. His fellow team members include U.S. Foreign Service officers and specialists in political affairs, governance, agricultural and economic development, education, health, and the rule of law.

"I'll return with a better understanding of world conflict, at the very least," Mingus says. "I'm looking forward to a break from academia and particularly the chance to put some of my research ideas on democratic reform to the real-world test."

Mingus says that his team's purpose will be to develop a strong sense of local control and to help local officials advocate for their needs at the national level, through the develop-

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WMU faculty, staff take part in MLK Day activities



WMU faculty and staff were well-represented at area MLK National Day of Service activities this past Monday. The day's participants included communication Professor Mark Orbe, center in ObamaZoo T-shirt, and WMU students, who volunteered at the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission. (Photo by Thom Myers)

Around Campus

Merling Trio celebrates CD release

The Merling Trio, WMU's acclaimed strings and piano ensemble, will perform at 8:15 p.m. Friday, Jan. 23, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. The event is a CD-release concert for "Postcards in e" and comes at the same time that the trio is celebrating its 20th anniversary. Tickets are available at the door or in advance from the Miller Auditorium Ticket Office.

Competition to attract top students

Nearly 500 of the brightest high school seniors from around the country will gather at WMU from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24, for the 26th annual Medallion Scholarship Competition. Most of the competition and related activities will take place in the Bernhard Center, the Fetzer Center, Schneider and Wood.

Film looks at debt-ridden America

"Maxed Out: Hard Times, Easy Credit and the Era of Predatory Lenders," a documentary that created a stir with its telling portrayal of debt-ridden American society, will be shown at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 26, in 1025 Brown.

An after-film discussion led by Norman W. Hawker, finance and commercial law, will follow at 8 p.m. The film's screening is part of the WMU Ethics Center Film Series. The next film in the series is "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly," which will be shown Feb. 23.

Study abroad fair targets business

The personal and professional benefits of studying and working abroad while earning academic credit will be discussed during WMU's Business Abroad Fair from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 29, in 2150 Schneider.

WMU personnel on hand will be students who have studied or worked abroad, professors who coordinate programs and courses around the world, and study abroad advisors. Also participating will be representatives from non-WMU study- and work-abroad programs conducted worldwide.

Social Justice lectures start Jan. 26

The third annual Social Justice Lecture Series opens Monday, Jan. 26, with a talk on "Free for All: The Case of Free Public Higher Education in the United States" by Adolph Reed from the University of Pennsylvania. All the lectures are from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Fetzer Center's Putney Auditorium. This year's theme is "Knowledge, Power and Social Justice: Educating Children Placed At-Risk." The series will continue with presentations on Feb. 9 and 16, March 9, 23 and 30 and April 6.

What do bacteria say over dinner?

How one of the tiniest life forms on Earth communicates will be discussed during a presentation called "Bacterial Dinner Conversations" from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 5, in 1220 Chemistry Building. The talk will be given by Michael Whitely, WMU's 2009 Bach Visiting Lecturer.

Gold Company salutes Motown

Gold Company will celebrate the hits that launched a musical revolution in two special tribute concerts featuring a special appearance by Kalamazoo's own Motown stars, the Velvelettes. "Gold Company Celebrates Motown and Beyond" will begin at 2 and 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, in Miller Auditorium.

Historian pens work on East Germany

Eli Rubin, history, has written a book that focuses on the history of East Germany through its production and use of plastic. Published in November by the University of North Carolina Press, "Plastics and Dictatorship in the German Democratic Republic," investigates links between communism and the retooled post-war chemical industry as they relate to the consumer population of East Germany.



Rubin

Rubin, an assistant professor at WMU, is a fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in Berlin and a visiting scholar at the Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung. His book is available online at uncpress.unc.edu, barnesandnoble.com, boarders.com and amazon.com.

Professor honored for service

Jack Ruhl, accountancy, has won an award for his assistance to hospice, which provides



Ruhl

services for patients and their families facing life-threatening illness. Ruhl is the 2008 recipient of Hospice Care of Southwest Michigan's Holt Award for his efforts in providing client care, companionship and family respite to hospice clients. The award is the highest honor that the organization gives to volunteers.

Ruhl began volunteering with hospice in 2003 and was cited in part for consistently serving the organization and its clients nearly every week since his very first day. In addition to serving on the Ethics Committee and raising funds, he has worked with 26 different clients and made 279 visits to these clients, driving 3,473 miles and putting in 587 volunteer hours or an average of 2.1 hours per visit.

Emerita co-writes health-related book

Shirley N. Sparks, emerita in speech pathology and audiology, is co-author of



Sparks

"The Art and Practice of Home Visiting: Early Intervention for Special Needs Children and Families." The book was penned with Ruth E. Cook and published by the Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co. in 2008.

It was developed especially for today's working environment, and is the modern home visitor's complete introductory text to early intervention for children with disabilities and their families.

The 304-page work builds on the authors' extensive academic backgrounds and practical experience in the field of early intervention. It gives readers a fresh approach to home visiting that's culturally sensitive, family centered and designed to help each unique family reach their specific goals.

Sparks, who remains active in her field, made a presentation on home visiting at the American Speech-Language Association convention in November 2008. She retired from WMU in 1991 after 15 years of service and lives in Cupertino, Calif.

Inauguration chance to promote government jobs

Crowds of more than 2,500, mostly students, came together at Miller Auditorium Jan. 20, to witness Barack Obama's historic inauguration the 44th U.S. president.

Career and Student Employment Services sponsored the opening of the auditorium for free viewing of live coverage of the momentous inauguration events and also staged a

special WMU program for students.

The program was made possible through a grant from the Partnership for Public Service in Washington, D.C., which is allowing career services to promote federal employment as a career option for WMU students.

Numerous governmental careers and internships are available through such options as the Student Educational Employment and the Student Career Experience programs, as well as AmeriCorps and Peace Corps.

For more information, contact Career and Student Employment Services.

Exchange

Services provided—House sitting, dog sitting, house cleaning, elder care (such as running errands and providing meals). Available 24 hours a day. References available. Call 998-1349.

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.



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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Nearly \$500,000 in energy costs avoided during winter recess

Building temperature setbacks and other measures taken during the winter recess helped the campus avoid nearly \$484,440 in energy costs.

With the campus closed from noon Dec. 24 until Jan. 5, campus Physical Plant employees went to work dialing down thermostats campuswide. In some 70 percent of campus buildings—74 locations—the work could be done automatically, using a campus building automation system that includes 3,000 thermostats and 90,000 monitoring points.

Vice President Lowell Rinker, business and finance, says just two employees working in WMU's state-of-the-art energy management center were able to work the system and accomplish the savings in automated areas.



In the remaining 30 percent of buildings, thermostats were manually adjusted and nonessential equipment shut down for the closure period.

Once students left in mid-December, temperatures in residence halls were set back to 62 degrees. Offices, labs and classroom spaces were dialed down to 55 degrees over the 12 days of closure, although in areas where ongoing research required higher temperatures, those adjustments were made.

Rinker says the University did not budget for the costs avoided, expecting the closure period to produce significant results. Since 1988, WMU's budget plan has been to avoid these costs and thereby reinvest in additional cost-avoidance technology.

Traveling seminar helping to make workplaces around campus safer

Following the horrific shooting incident at Virginia Tech in April 2007, two staffers in the Department of Public Safety have been presenting a seminar to the campus community that addresses workplace violence and emergency preparedness.

Andrew Bachmann, police officer, and Cam Vossen, emergency management administrator, jointly present "WMU Emergency Planning, Campus Safety and You" to requesting units and groups. The seminar usually lasts between 45 and 60 minutes.

Their presentation includes an overview of WMU's emergency plans, campus safety and personal preparedness information, a 20-minute video, a debriefing, and time for discussion and audience questions.

Started as a campus awareness program, the seminar was expanded this past July to include the video "Shots Fired: When Lightning Strikes," which stresses developing a survival mindset and offers strategies for surviving an active-shooter situation.

Bachmann and Vossen kicked off the expanded seminar with a pilot presentation in July 2008 to 17 staff members in Academic Technology and Instructional Services. Since then, the duo has made 64 presentations to 1,232 WMU employees and students.

Their audiences have run the gamut from the president's senior leadership team, Provost's Council, College of Arts and Sciences Deans Council, and Academic Forum to landscape services, University Libraries, First-Year Experience program classes, and bargaining and non-bargaining employee groups.

"The immediate response and positive feedback have been great," Vossen says. "During the debriefings, we often hear that most people find it empowering to learn about ways to personally respond. Thinking about 'what would I do if' situations prior to being involved in an incident can make a world of difference."

Both Bachmann and Vossen stress that being involved in an active shooter situation is similar to the chance of being struck by lightning during one's lifetime—about 1 in 5,000. Importantly, they note, survival mindset strategies also can apply to fires, tornados and other more likely situations.

For more information or to schedule the seminar, contact Cam Vossen at cam.vossen@wmich.edu or 387-0678. Visit www.esem.wmich.edu for more information about WMU's emergency preparedness, health and safety activities.

Aviation dean leaving academia

Aviation Dean David M. Powell is leaving the University for a position in the private sector, and the departure will trigger a nationwide search for his replacement.

Powell, who has led the College of Aviation since 2007, has accepted a position as chief operating officer with Flight Training Services International. A new interim leader for the college will be appointed soon.

Students to manage \$500,000 foundation portfolio

A select group of students has been hired to manage a \$500,000 portfolio of WMU Foundation funds and will gain remarkable hands-on experience in their major field of study.

The group will act as the large cap manager of the portfolio. Members of the student-managed investment fund competed for the opportunity by enrolling in an upper-level course in the Department of Finance and Commercial Law in the Haworth College of Business.

This learning approach will better prepare students for investment careers by allowing them to direct the fiduciary management of investment assets.

Students will manage the portfolio under the guidance of alumnus Len Harrison, a principal at LVM Capital and a chartered financial analyst, who is teaching the class. Decisions to buy, sell or hold will be made by a vote of the students, and fund performance will be reported each semester.

Board of Trustees grants numerous sabbatical leaves

The WMU Board of Trustees granted sabbatical leaves for 36 faculty members at its Dec. 12 meeting.

Those granted sabbaticals and their titles or academic units are: Leonard C. Ginsberg, associate vice president for research; Jon R. Adams, English; Julie Apker, communication; Sisay Asefa, economics; Robert J. Bensley, health, physical education and recreation; Peter Blickle, foreign languages; James M. Butterfield, political science; Vincent Desroches, foreign languages; Margaret H. Dupuis, English; Nancy Eimers, English;

G. Michael Grammer, geosciences; David A. Guth, blindness and low vision studies; Charles R. Henderson, physics; Tricia Hennessy, art; Sarah Hill, anthropology; Jon D. Holtzman, anthropology; Chiayang James Hueng, economics; Catherine Julien, history; Steven Kohler, director of environmental studies; Tetyana S. Koshmanova, teaching, learning and educational studies; Ronald B. Larson, marketing; Steven N. Lipkin, communication; David M. Lyth, industrial and manufacturing engineering; Niloufer Mackey, mathematics; Stephen B. Malcolm, biological sciences; Arthur R. McGurn, physics; Yirong Mo, chemistry;

Jennifer Palthe, management; Dewei Qi, paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging; Muhammad A. Razi, business information systems; David W. Rudge, biological sciences; Christopher J. Schmidt, geosciences; Wuwei Shen, computer science; Mary Ann Stark, nursing; Jeffrey Strom, mathematics; and Victor Cunrui Xiong, history.

Obituary



Shaw

John "Jack" F. Shaw, celebrated track and field coach for 32 years, died Friday, Jan. 9, at Bronson Methodist Hospital in Kalamazoo. He was 70.

Shaw was inducted into the WMU Athletic Hall of Fame in 1997 after leading the Bronco men's track and field team to six Mid-American Conference outdoor championships and five MAC cross country titles.

He joined the University in 1970, and during his career was named MAC Coach of the Year in outdoor track six times, five times in cross country and once for indoor track. A four-time recipient of the Central Collegiate Conference Coach of the Year award, in 1995 he also was named NCAA District IV Coach of the Year.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the WMU Foundation. Indicate in the memo section of the check that it is designated for the Jack Shaw Memorial fund and mail to: WMU Foundation, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo MI 49008-5403.

On Campus with Karen Lamons



SMOOTHING THE WAY
(Photo by Deanne Molinari)

Karen Lamons knows first impressions can make a big difference—especially to new students moving into the residence halls. Study, social and sleep habits can make or break roommate relationships, and these tend to be the most frequent concerns Lamons deals with in her job as assignment supervisor for the Office of Residence Life.

For the past two years, Lamons has worked to make roommate matches work smoothly so students live and study in a positive environment.

"I can't imagine making someone live where they are completely unhappy. The most important thing is getting issues resolved so students can focus on what they came here for," she says. "I tell all students the same thing—nothing is forever. There are always opportunities during the semester to make changes or move."

Being a parent herself has helped Lamons relate to issues when families have concerns. She and her husband, Joe, have four children, a daughter who is a freshman at WMU and teenage triplets.

"Being a mom helps because we talk a lot to parents. I can see their side of it and be sympathetic and a good listener," Lamons says.

Issues arise year round, but the summer is the most chaotic because that's when residence life receives housing contacts and fields thousands of calls. Students sometimes make her job more difficult by posting unflattering photos or content via Internet social networking communities like Facebook and My Space. She advises students to tone it down so others don't jump to conclusions about their character.

"This generation tends to post their most outrageous photos," Lamons says. "But if you have someone looking at your page who doesn't know you, you're going to be judged by those photos."

A resident of Richland, Mich., Lamons grew up in the Richland and Comstock areas. Before coming to WMU, she worked as a paraprofessional for eight years at Gull Lake Community Schools. She also took time off to raise her family and attended the Bronson School of Nursing. Now she's considering returning to school at WMU to earn her bachelor's degree.

A self-professed "bleacher mom," Lamons says she spends most of her free time traveling between her children's sports practices and games. A favorite hobby of hers is knitting, a skill taught to her by another parent while warming the bleachers.

Nominations sought for employee, supervisor awards

Some 4,000 student workers at WMU and their supervisors will be recognized during Student Employee Appreciation Week, Monday through Friday, Feb. 16-20.

The observance pays tribute to WMU's largest employee group for the many ways its members contribute to the University. This year's theme is "Grab the Reins of Your Future." Activities slated include announcement of the student employee and supervisor of the year.

Nominations are being accepted through Friday, Feb. 6, for the Belleville Student Employee of the Year award and the student Supervisor of the Year award. The 2009 recipients will be announced during a reception from 3 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, in the Bernhard Center's West Ballroom.

Career and Student Employment Services, which sponsors Student Employee Appreciation Week, encourages all faculty and

staff members to submit nominations for the two awards and to thank their student workers in some way during this special appreciation week.

Go to www.wmich.edu/career and click "Nominate a Supervisor or Student for Employee Appreciation Week" to access the nomination forms. Go to www.wmich.edu/career/docs/seaw%202008%20certificate.doc to download a certificate-of-appreciation template that can be used to honor student employees.

Upon request, career services will provide small appreciation gifts, while supplies last, and a list of suggestions for ways to thank student workers. Gift requests must be received by Feb. 6.

For more information, or to obtain a gift request form or recognition ideas list, contact Brenda Case-Parris at brenda.case-parris@wmich.edu or 387-2745.

Government reform expert continued from page 1

ment of local civil society organizations and infrastructure. This team covers the areas in the Province of Baghdad that are north and west of the city of Baghdad.

Mingus was recognized last year as one of the nation's top-50 emerging scholars in his field. His research has focused on democratic reform, cross-border security, and potential convergence of the Canadian and American systems of government.

WMU's School of Public Affairs and Administration has a track record of helping to build infrastructure in Iraq. Doctoral alumnus Mark Reece is there training Iraqi police, and Kristi Gruizenga, who earned a master's degree in public administration, served there as a Foreign Service officer at the U.S. Embassy.

Student workers being hired

International Admissions and Services is now recruiting international student orientation leaders for fall 2009. This is an excellent opportunity for students to learn how to build cultural bridges and experience intercultural teamwork.

Leaders hired for the fall 2009 semester will also be eligible to work during the spring and summer I 2010 terms, as needed. They will work with a large group of newly admitted international students and must be available 24 hours per day during the program.

Leaders are paid \$500 for the fall 2009 orientation. The deadline to apply is 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 9. Go to <http://international.wmich.edu/content/section/9/177> for eligibility information and an application form.

Architects recognize

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represented a true collaboration between WMU and SmithGroup that resulted in an outstanding design solution that embodied the spirit and mission of the art school."

Completed in 2007, the Richmond Center is a 44,000-square-foot structure that houses WMU's Frostic School of Art and a variety of public exhibition spaces. It completes the West Campus arts village that consolidates WMU's visual and performing arts. SmithGroup did the architectural work and CSM Group of Galesburg, Mich., was the construction management firm.