



# Western NEWS

DECEMBER 4, 2008  
volume 35, number 7

For and about WMU faculty and staff

## December commencement scheduled

President John M. Dunn will preside over the granting of degrees to more than 2,000 students during three commencement ceremonies Saturday, Dec. 13, in Miller Auditorium.

The ceremonies will take place at: 9 a.m., College of Arts and Sciences and College of Engineering and Applied Sciences; noon, College of Aviation, College of Health and Human Services, and Haworth College of Business; 3 p.m., College of Education, College of Fine Arts, and Extended University Programs.

## Holiday reception slated for employees

A holiday reception for faculty and staff will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, in the Bernhard Center Ballroom. The event is being hosted by the WMU Board of Trustees and President and Mrs. John M. Dunn. Supervisors are asked to arrange schedules so that everyone who wishes to attend may do so.

## Trustees meeting set for Dec. 12

The next meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees will be held Friday, Dec. 12. The board usually meets in 157 Bernhard Center. Details and key agenda items will be posted online at [www.wmich.edu/news](http://www.wmich.edu/news) closer to the meeting date.

## Alterations made to faculty award

Faculty members should note that two changes have been made to the Faculty Research and Creative Activity Award.

There are no longer categories for funding level on the FRACAS application cover sheet (applications already submitted do not need to be resubmitted). Also, all award recipients are required to submit an external funding proposal within 18 months.

The application deadline for the current round of awards remains Friday, Dec. 5. Go to [www.wmich.edu/research/funding](http://www.wmich.edu/research/funding) for more information.

## Fetzer Center offers lunch with Santa

Special pricing on a festive buffet meal with Santa is being offered by the Fetzer Center Sunday, Dec. 7. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. The last seating will be at 1:30 p.m.

Children will be able to give their lists to Santa and in return, will receive a special gift. Reservations are required, and space is limited. Reservations can be made online at [www.wmich.edu/fetzer](http://www.wmich.edu/fetzer) or by calling 387-3232.

## Last Western News for fall semester

Today's issue of *Western News* is the last issue for fall. *Western News* will resume its regular publication schedule in the spring semester. During the hiatus, go to [www.wmich.edu/news](http://www.wmich.edu/news) to keep up with news and announcements. The *Western News* publication schedule appears in the "staff box" on page 2 of each issue.

## Grant helping researchers stem crop diseases

A multi-university team of researchers led by Kathleen Baker, geography, will use sophisticated weather forecasting methods to reduce crop disease with the help of a nearly \$1.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Baker is working to limit the effects of global change on crop diseases through modeling of disease risks under changing conditions. This new effort will apply her models to crop-specific disease prediction based on newly available weather forecasts. Daily updates of the long-range forecasts will be provided via Web-based delivery systems tuned to the needs of growers.

The researchers will be targeting plant diseases affecting crops in three regions of the country: leaf spot of peanuts in the Southeast in Georgia and northern Florida; Fusarium head blight of barley in the northern Great Plains; and late blight of potatoes in Michigan and the Great Lakes.

Institutional partners in the effort are the University of Georgia, South Dakota State University, the University of Idaho and Michigan State University. Assisting in the development of necessary cyberinfrastructure will be partners at Indiana University's School of Informatics and the San Diego Supercomputer Center.

The team's long-term goal is to reduce disease infestation and better manage the application of fungicides used to combat it. The result will be a win-win situation for farmers and the environment. The researchers hope their project will prove that similar systems could be developed to better manage diseases for other crops across the United States and internationally.



Our  
best wishes  
for a happy  
holiday season  
and a bright  
new year.

—John and  
Linda Dunn

## New MLK event set; project proposals due Dec. 11

A new outreach event to help area high school students and their parents take advantage of the Kalamazoo Promise scholarship program will be part of WMU's 2009 observance of the life and work of Martin Luther King Jr.

The University will sponsor a higher education open house starting at 1 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 11, in the Bernhard Center, where students and parents can learn more about the benefits of attending college and enjoy a free buffet dinner. Advance registration is requested.

Martha Warfield, associate vice president for diversity and inclusion, says the event is being held instead of a convocation this year to involve a broader range of campus and community members in the University's two-month-long MLK Celebration.

"The city's theme this year is 'Reclaiming Our Voice: Connecting With the Beloved Community,'" says Warfield, who directs the WMU Office of Diversity and Inclusion, which oversees the University's Kalamazoo Promise and MLK Celebration initiatives. "Our open

continued on page 4

# Around Campus

## WMU event salutes Louis Braille

The 200th anniversary of the birth of Louis Braille, creator of the Braille reading system, will be celebrated with a free public event from 3 to 6 p.m. today on the fourth floor of the College of Health and Human Services Building. Blindness and low vision studies will staff learning stations and offer special activities and giveaways. Representatives of the Portage Lion's Club will kick off their new project, "Braille Menus for Greater Kalamazoo."

## Einstein discoveries to be explored

The worlds of philosophy and science will come together today in a presentation on two of Einstein's discoveries. John Norton, director of the University of Pittsburgh Center for Philosophy of Science, will discuss "Two Moments in Einstein's Discovery of Special Relativity" at 4 p.m. in 3301 Friedmann.

## Egan stars with theatre students

Closing out its fall season with a bang, University Theatre will present "Late Night Broadway," a cabaret concert featuring Broadway star John Tracy Egan performing alongside graduating seniors of the musical theatre performance program. Productions take place at 9 p.m. today through Saturday, Dec. 4-6, in Williams Theatre at the Gilmore Theatre Complex.

## Rachel Carson is subject of play

"A Sense of Wonder," a one-woman play based on the life and works of the late-environmentalist Rachel Carson, will be shown at no cost at 7 p.m. tomorrow in the North Ballroom of the Bernhard

Center. The play, written and performed by Kaiulani Lee, has been touring the United States for more than 10 years, being the centerpiece of regional and national conferences on conservation, education, journalism and the environment.

## Brass concert is seasonal favorite

The Western Brass Quintet will present its 25th annual holiday program at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. The free holiday concert has become a celebrated seasonal tradition for audiences of all ages.

"Brass for the Holidays" features the internationally acclaimed Western Brass Quintet and an ensemble of WMU music students and faculty performing festive selections from the Renaissance, Baroque and other periods. The afternoon promises a great mixture of traditional holiday music, brass classics and contemporary favorites.

## Brickman to perform at Miller

Take a break from the hectic demands of the holiday season to spend a few hours with Jim Brickman. The platinum-selling recording artist, pianist and composer will be at Miller Auditorium for one performance at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11.

Brickman's 13th annual Holiday Homecoming Tour is filled with classic and contemporary favorites of the season. Joining the 30-city tour is Canadian vocalist and pianist Mark Masri, vocalist Anne Cochran and electric violinist Tracy Silverman. The trio has performed with Brickman every December for more than a decade.

## Book examines myth of war, manhood



Adams

Jon R. Adams, English, has written a book that examines the ways in which novels, plays and films about America's late-20th-century wars reflect altering perceptions of masculinity in American culture.

"Male Armor: The Soldier-Hero in Contemporary American Culture" exposes the myth of war as an experience that verifies manhood. Released in October by the University of Virginia Press, it finds a deep divide between popular images of war as it relates to manhood and the written record of war in literature and personal memoirs.

## Engineer serving as international fellow



Cameron

John Cameron, paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging, was one of only 11 pulp, paper, packaging and converting industry professionals named 2008 TAPPI Fellows.

TAPPI is an international association of professionals from those industries. It bestows fellowship status to individuals who have made extraordinary technical or service contributions to their industries or to TAPPI. Less than 3 percent of the organization's membership has attained the designation.

## Prof receives award for consulting



Farrell

Daniel Farrell, management, has received the Press On Award from the McDonald's Corp. in recognition of his consulting work for the company. The award was presented at McDonald's Supplier Summit Conference.

Farrell has served as a consultant to McDonald's, providing objective analysis and assessment of managerial programs for the food service company. The naming of the Press On Award affirms that persistence and dedication are important attributes in the long-term success of any business.

## Lectures spun into economics book



Kimmel

Jean Kimmel, economics, has edited and written the introduction for "How Do We Spend Our Time? Evidence From the American Time Use Survey." The book is a compilation of lectures delivered during WMU's 2006-07

Werner Sichel Lecture-Seminar Series.

Published by the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, it draws upon the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' annual American Time Use Survey. It is one of the first texts to give an economic analysis based on ATUS, which was unveiled in 2003 after years of study and preparation.

Kimmel now is working on a book with Rachel Connelly of Bowdoin College on maternal time use and how mothers' maternal time affects their other activities.

## WMU surpasses United Way campaign goal for 2008

Although WMU remained shy of its goal when this year's campus United Way campaign officially ended, students, faculty, staff and retirees came together to show their support for the greater Kalamazoo community and ultimately surpassed their \$225,000 target.

"Despite the uncertain financial times that have affected so many people, the University

community stepped up to the plate and chose to make a statement," says WMU President John M. Dunn. "Through its investments of time, energy and money to support United



Way, W M U said that people are our most important treasure and supporting our people is our priority—no matter what threatening clouds appear on the horizon."

Nearly 1,600 employees and retirees gave more than \$243,000 this year, and even students stepped up to get involved in the fund-raising efforts. Some 248 contributors were people who have never made such a commitment before and 300 increased the amount of their gifts compared to one year ago.

## 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.



volume 35  
number 7

EDITOR: Jeanne Baron. CONTRIBUTORS: Tonya R. Hernandez, 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. Fall 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).

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



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

## Make a Difference awards recipients announced

A dozen staff members have received the fall semiannual Make a Difference Award for 2008-09, along with \$250 and a commemorative certificate.

The recipients were honored at an awards reception Dec. 2 in the Bernhard Center's President's Dining Room.

They are: John "J.B." Barney, physical plant-maintenance services; Regina Buckner, University Libraries; Cindy Clegg, Sindecuse Health Center; Lisa Hotchkiss, residence life; Jessica Hutchinson, payroll; Stephan Keto, physical plant-landscape services; Judith Medendorp, special education and literacy studies; Frances Morrow, Sindecuse Health Center; Natalia "Cris" Obreiter, military science; Mary Ramlow, Evaluation Center; Vicki Thompson, admissions; and Kathryn Wright, geosciences.

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

Recipients are selected by a committee of their peers from the participating employee groups of AFSCME, APA, MSEA, POA and PSSO. Up to 15 staff members may be selected in each of two semiannual award periods. Semiannual winners are eligible for one of four annual awards, which carry a \$1,000 prize.

## Ken Miller shows off on Dancing with the Stars



WMU Trustee Kenneth Miller and dance major Anessa Smith were among the local celebrities who helped make "Dancing with the WMU/Kazoo Stars" fund-raiser for the Department of Dance a success. The event featured seven celebs, paired with dance students, competing for a grand prize. Organizers met their goal of collecting \$10,000 for student scholarships through the entertaining evening, which attracted an audience of 195 people. The dance contest was won by Kalamazoo Mayor Bobby

Hopewell, while WMU President John M. Dunn took second and Miller captured third. Portage Mayor Peter Strazdas, who serves as WMU's director of maintenance services, also participated in the contest. (Photo courtesy of the Department of Dance)

## Free computer training offered

The University began offering extensive online computer training for staff and faculty starting Dec. 1 through Lynda.com. Training can be accessed from any computer with high-speed Internet access any time of the day, seven days a week.

**Lynda.com** is an award-winning provider of educational materials, known for providing in-depth and frequently updated software tutorials.

It offers online training for more than 150 software programs, including Microsoft Word and Excel, Dreamweaver for Web sites, FileMaker Pro and many specialized applications. Go to [www.lynda.com](http://www.lynda.com) and look under the Products menu to see what's available.

WMU faculty and staff accounts are valid for three weeks and may be renewed for two additional weeks. Those with accounts may request usage reports for professional development verification.

Send an e-mail to [oit-lynda-admin@wmich.edu](mailto:oit-lynda-admin@wmich.edu) to request an account. For more information, go to [www.wmich.edu/ftc](http://www.wmich.edu/ftc) or call 387-5016.

## Annual holiday concert Dec. 6

The WMU Collegiate Singers, University Chorale, Men's Ensemble, and the all-women chorus, Cantus Femina, will present WMU's annual "Choral Christmas" at 4 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, in the First Presbyterian Church, 321 W. South St., Kalamazoo. Faculty organist Karl Schrock will be featured with a brass ensemble, percussion and more than 100 singers.

## Lipsey retirement reception set

Daisy Lipsey, accounts receivable, will be recognized for 25 years of University service during a retirement reception from 3 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, in the Oaklands.

## Obituary

**Lloyd Braithwaite**, a retired professor of criminology for more than two decades, died Oct. 23. He was 80. Braithwaite, who had been living and teaching in England since 1989, joined the sociology faculty in 1968 and retired in 1989.

**W. Chester Fitch**, former dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, died Oct. 3 at his home in Sun City, Ariz. He was 91.

Fitch also served WMU as an associate professor; director of the Center for Depreciation Studies at WMU, which he organized; and an assistant dean. He was a faculty member for 14 years, retiring in 1982.

**Julius Franks Jr.**, the last surviving member of WMU's first Board of Trustees, died Nov. 26. He was 86.

Franks, who retired after a 40-year career as a dentist in Grand Rapids, Mich., was appointed to the University's first board in 1964 and served until 1983. He was revered in his home community as a civil rights leader who helped integrate the city's neighborhoods and develop new housing opportunities for minorities.



Franks

## Exchange

**For sale**—Charming, 1,700-square-foot cape cod in quiet Westwood area. Three bedrooms, one a huge master suite; 1-1/2 baths; arched doorways; hardwood floors; central air; security system; fenced-in back yard; and breezeway to garage. Move-in ready condition. Newly remodeled kitchen, dining room and den/sunroom; most windows replaced; and fresh paint throughout. \$144,900. Call Carol at (269) 377-3226.

## Service

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

**40 Years**—Erlinda S. Rolls, University Libraries.

**35 Years**—Barbara V. Caras-Tomczak, Haworth College of Business, and Kenneth J. Fifelski, physical plant-maintenance services.

**30 Years**—Cora Jean Bickel, admissions; Laura L. Coville, physical plant-building, custodial and support services; Raymond G. Hallock, physical plant-maintenance services; Deborah L. Hughson, dining services-Bernhard Center; Alan D. Poling, psychology; and Alicia J. Yeagley, College of Arts and Sciences.

**25 Years**—Damodar Y. Golhar, management; C. R. Krishna-Swamy, finance and commercial law; and Matthew C. Steel, School of Music.

**20 Years**—Louann Green, West Hills Athletic Club.

**15 Years**—Diane K. Anderson, vice

**House sitter wanted**—For home near Kalamazoo Valley Community College during sabbatical leave from January to July 2009. Living area available to suitable person or small family for the cost of partial utilities (negotiable). Living area is a fully furnished walkout basement, including living room, bedroom and full bath, with access to a first-floor kitchen and laundry. E-mail [jane-jane.lo@wmich.edu](mailto:jane-jane.lo@wmich.edu) with references.

president for student affairs; Denise N. Brandt, dining services-Davis; Carol B. Case, physical plant-landscape services; William H. Fenn, physician assistant; Janos L. Grantner, electrical and computer engineering; Cynthia Halderson, Mallinson Institute; Todd K. Havener, public safety; and Daren T. Webb, Sindecuse Health Center.

**10 Years**—Robert E. Bunday, College of Aviation; Bryce Dickey, family and consumer sciences; Martha Haug, Center for Disability Service; Christine E. Hummel, Evaluation Center; Douglas D. Johns, information technology; Tamara M. Klinger, counselor education and counseling psychology; Margaret Pratt, physical plant-building, custodial and support services; and Rene L. Riggins, physical plant-building, custodial and support services.

**Five Years**—Thomas N. Edmonds, finance and commercial law; Kay G. Miller, Extended University Programs-Southwest; and Jun-Seok Oh, civil and construction engineering.



# On Campus with George Broomell



**WELL-CONNECTED WORKER**  
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

George Broomell has been in a lot of tight spots while working as a network programmer for the Office of Information Technology.

One of his main duties is to design and manage the growing network of 400 high-speed fiber optic cables that link WMU's buildings to one another. These cables form the "miniature" Intranet that the University community depends on to perform countless everyday tasks, from viewing a departmental Web page to accessing Banner, Kronos and GoWMU.

"Except for the engineering campus, all of these cables are underground rather than aerial," Broomell notes. "We use a lot of tunnels and crawl spaces to get cables into buildings. I know every building on campus from top to bottom."

Broomell also plays a limited role in keeping WMU's wireless network, cable TV and phone system humming. But he spends most of his remaining time focused on the telecommunication, networking and information technology needs of new buildings.

"I get involved in the design stage, then watch over the projects. Everything is different every time—there's no such thing as routine," he says. "The networking and computing world keep changing, so my job keeps changing. That's the challenge and also what keeps it interesting. It really does require creativity."

Broomell has bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering. He began his career as a civilian engineer, working shipboard on generators that power Navy vessels. He joined WMU's staff in 1988 as manager of networking, coming from a similar post at the University of Kentucky, where he earned his bachelor's degree.

"I essentially do the same job today. I engineer the physical infrastructure—the cables, routers, software and hardware—that allows computers to talk to one another," Broomell says. "It's a little like the electric power grid, and I'm one of more than 100 who keep the whole thing going. It's critical to the operations of the University."

Broomell enjoys reading as well as hiking, camping, canoeing and most outdoor activities. He and his wife, Nancy, live in Portage and have two children, a daughter who is in high school and a son who graduated from WMU with a degree in computer information systems. The couple met through contra (or country) dancing and are longtime members of a local contra dance group.

## MLK celebration

*continued from page 1*

house is a wonderful way for us to expand our ties to the local community, and it's consistent with the high value Dr. King placed on education."

As in past years, WMU is coordinating its activities with the Kalamazoo community's MLK celebration.

Along with WMU, the communitywide celebration is being co-sponsored by the city of Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo College, and first-time event partners Borgess Medical Center and Bronson Methodist Hospital.

Activities related to WMU's observance are being organized by the MLK Planning Committee, which is headed by Tony Dennis, Graduate College.

In addition to offering the open house, the committee is soliciting proposals for a series of on-campus discussions, workshops and other events focusing on King that will be scheduled from Jan. 12 through the end of February.

The deadline for applying for funding is Thursday, Dec. 11. The deadline also is Dec. 11 for submitting non-sponsored proposals and have them included in the committee's MLK celebration publicity materials.

To pre-register for the higher education open house, call 387-6313. Keep checking [www.wmich.edu/mlk](http://www.wmich.edu/mlk) for more information about that event as well as other events on- and off-campus being planned to honor King during 2009.

## Local South Pole explorer will receive honorary degree Dec. 13

A Kalamazoo man whose background includes exploring the South Pole, working with a number of federal agencies and a career as a science educator will receive an honorary Doctor of Science degree from WMU.



Hough photo by John Gilroy

Alumnus William S. Hough will be honored during the 9 a.m. commencement ceremony Saturday, Dec. 13, in Miller Auditorium. He first came to WMU in 1943 as a Navy serviceman enrolled in the V-12 Officer Training program.

Following World War II, he returned to study physics under the G.I. Bill.

Hough was part of a 1957 expedition and the first group to spend the winter at the South Pole. His team laid the groundwork for succeeding decades of research at the then-primitive U.S. Navy Amundsen-Scott South Pole base station by expanding the base to prepare for future expeditions.

For the initiative, Hough observed and recorded changes to the ionosphere and helped construct a 1,000-foot seismometer tunnel by digging through the ice by hand with a shovel and ice pick. The Hough Glacier was mapped by the U.S. Geological Survey from U.S. Navy air photos and named for Hough by the U.S. Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names in honor of the ionosphere studies he completed in 1957.

## Faculty duo launch new summer study abroad course

The role of geology in the civilization and culture of ancient and modern Egyptians is the focus of a new short-term study abroad program planned for May 1-16, 2009.

Robb Gillespie, geosciences, and Mustafa Mughazy, foreign languages, will teach the course, titled *Civilization and Geology in Egypt*. Supported by a grant from the Haenicke Institute, Gillespie participated in an Arabic summer program led by Mughazy to learn the ins and outs of leading a study abroad program.

Other faculty members interested in learning more about developing study abroad programs may contact Brett Berquist at [brett.berquist@wmich.edu](mailto:brett.berquist@wmich.edu) or 387-5890.



Gillespie



Mughazy