



Western NEWS

NOVEMBER 13, 2008
volume 35, number 6

For and about WMU faculty and staff

WMU still shy of United Way goal

The University remains shy of its \$225,000 United Way campaign goal. Although the campus campaign has ended, President John M. Dunn and campaign chair Bob Beam have announced that they will continue to accept pledge cards.

Additional or replacement pledge cards can be obtained by contacting wmu-united-way@wmich.edu and pledges and one-time donations can be sent to the Office of the President, Mail Stop 5202.

Referrals needed for 36 job openings

Faculty and staff are invited to refer qualified potential applicants for one of this year's 36 orientation student leader positions. Potential applicants may learn more about the job during informational meetings that have been scheduled in the Bernhard Center at 8 p.m. today in 157 and 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 25, in 204. To refer a potential applicant, contact the Student Orientation Coordinator team at SOC-team@wmich.edu or 387-2167. Go to www.wmich.edu/fye for more information.

New indemnification policy OK'd

A new presidential policy regarding protections for employees who report threats or threatening behavior went into effect Nov. 7. The Faculty-Staff Indemnification Policy reaffirms the role of employees in securing campus safety and security, outlines employee responsibilities in such situations and pledges the backing of the University for employees fearful of being vulnerable to civil suits as a result of reporting such information in good faith to the appropriate office.

WMU joining in local sweater drive

WMU is participating in West Michigan's Mister Rogers' Neighborhood Sweater Drive, which is being sponsored by WGVU in Grand Rapids and Member First Mortgage. The drive will end Friday, Dec. 5.

It seeks donations of new or gently worn sweaters or other warm clothing, such as coats, hats, sweatshirts and mittens. All donations collected at drop boxes around campus will go to the Kalamazoo Salvation Army and be distributed at no cost to selected people in the local area.

A drop box is located outside the Registrar's Office, and other boxes should be distributed soon. For more information about box locations, contact Elena Gaudio at elena.gaudio@wmich.edu or 387-2351. Go to www.wgvu.org for more information about the drive.

Next Western News is last for fall

The Thursday, Dec. 4, issue of *Western News* will be the last issue published this fall. The deadline to submit items for the issue is 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 28, earlier if possible due to the Thanksgiving break. *Western News* will resume its regular publication schedule Thursday, Jan. 8.

Three named 2008-09 Fulbright Scholars

Three WMU faculty members will be working overseas as Fulbright Scholars this year, while three foreign Fulbright Scholars will be working at WMU.

The Fulbright Scholars Program has awarded grants to a total of 23 Michiganders to conduct research or lecture overseas. Twenty-one are faculty members at 12 of the state's universities and colleges and two are not affiliated with a higher education institution. Among Michigan's research universities, only the University of Michigan, with five, has more faculty members named Fulbright Scholars this year. WMU and Wayne State University have three each and Michigan State University has two.

WMU's Fulbright Scholars are:

- Michael J. Barcelona, chemistry, who left in September to work on an environmental sciences project at the University of Alcalá de Henares in Spain and will return in January 2009. Barcelona is researching freshwater resource damage as well as ways to mitigate seawater intrusion in Mediterranean coastal aquifers.

- Stephen G. Covell, comparative religion and director of WMU's Soga Japan Center, who will be working on a religious studies project at the University of Tokyo from May 2009 to May 2010. Covell will be researching the activities of Yamada Etai, a leading Buddhist priest in postwar Japan, particularly as they relate to new religious movements, the Vatican and the Chinese Buddhist Association.

- Wilson J. Warren, history, who left in September to lecture on American history at Doshisha University in Kyoto, Japan and will return in July. Warren is lecturing on using authentic approaches to understand U.S. working-class history.



Barcelona



Covell



Warren

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WMU's academic, athletic prowess showcased in Detroit



Left photo: The University's successful WMU in Detroit week culminated Nov. 8 with the football team winning over the University of Illinois at Ford Field. **Right photo:** A large pre-game exhibit on the Ford Field concourse showcased many WMU programs and services for Detroit-area alumni, prospective students and friends attending the game. (Photos by Mike Lanka)

\$4 million literacy grant helping 350 area children

WMU researchers have been awarded a three-year grant of a little more than \$4 million to fund a literacy program that will touch the lives of some 350 preschool children in the Kalamazoo area.

The U.S. Department of Education grant will fund the Promising Beginnings program and is similar to an earlier program, the Early Reading First program, that began in Battle Creek in 2006 and also was funded by the Department of Education.

The two projects are being overseen by

Esther Newlin-Haus, project director and principal researcher in the College of Education, and Kristal Ehrhardt and Shaila Rao, special education and literacy studies. The primary goals are to enhance the literacy instruction skills of early childhood teachers, to improve early literacy outcomes for young children, particularly those at risk of later academic problems, and to create centers of excellence in early literacy instruction.

Both the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo projects involve a partnership with Head Start.

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Around Campus

WMU hosts regional ethics bowl

Nearly 40 students from nine colleges and universities in Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin will be in Brown Hall Saturday, Nov. 15, to compete in the Upper Midwest Regional Ethics Bowl. The 32 top-scoring teams in the regionals will compete for the national championship in March.

The on-campus ethics bowl is being co-sponsored by WMU's Center for the Study of Ethics in Society, School of Communication, Lee Honors College and Department of Philosophy. Go to <http://ethics.iit.edu/eb/index.html> for more competition information.

Week focuses on global education

This year's International Education Week will run from Monday through Friday, Nov. 17-21. The WMU celebration is being organized by the Haenicke Institute, and nearly all events are free, open to the public and taking place on the University's main campus. Go to www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/events for a complete list of events.

Lecturer to discuss Ethiopian Jewry

Guest lecturer Zion Uness will discuss "The Journey of Ethiopian Jewry" in a free, public lecture at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 17, in 210 Bernhard Center. Uness was born in Ethiopia and served in the infantry of the Israeli Defense Forces.

World financial crisis is talk topic

Bill Johnston, president, director and chairman of the Greenleaf Companies, will discuss "The Financial Crisis from the World to Kalamazoo" at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19, in Schneider Hall. The free, public talk is part of the 2008-09 Ha-

worth College of Business Distinguished Speaker Series. A question-and-answer period and reception in Johnston's honor will follow the presentation. To register, contact the dean's office in the Haworth College of Business at kim.guess@wmich.edu or 387-5050.

New G.I. Bill to be explained

A comprehensive seminar on the Post-9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2008 is set for 2 to 4 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 20, in the Bernhard Center's Brown and Gold Room. The free public event is being hosted by the Advocacy Office for Transfer Students and Military Affairs, in conjunction with the Military and Veteran Student Association.

Several representatives from the Battle Creek V.A. will present information during the seminar, titled "The New G.I. Bill—New Questions and Answers." It is especially targeted to veteran students, prospective and current military, and WMU faculty, staff and administrators who will be most directly impacted by the new legislation's changes in policy and compensation.

To reserve a seat or obtain more information, contact Eric McConnell at eric.mcconnell@wmich.edu or 387-0740.

Emeriti to present holiday program

The next Wednesdays II program sponsored by the Emeriti Council is "Holiday Stories Presented by Students From the Department of Theatre." The program will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 3—a week earlier than usual—in Walwood Hall. Light refreshments will be served in Walwood's west wing lobby.

December good time to think about snow removal, closures

Winter hours will soon begin for WMU's snow removal crews, who must plow, shovel, scrape and de-ice more than 23 miles of roads, 100 acres of parking, 39 miles of walks, 200,000 square feet of steps and ramps, and hundreds of doorways.

Winter weather rarely results in a decision to close WMU. But when there is a shutdown, news of the decision is posted on

the University's home page at www.wmich.edu and emergency information line at 387-1001. Then closure details are given to local television and radio stations.

Official closure of the main campus means that WMU's branch campuses are also closed. However, closure of a branch campus does not automatically mean that the main campus will shut down as well.

Those with special needs and requests regarding weekend or other special activities should call 387-8557, as snow and ice removal schedules can be adjusted if sufficient lead time is provided. Questions or concerns after normal business hours should be directed to public safety at 387-5555.

Exchange

Service provided—House cleaning by person with 30+ years experience. Discount for WMU employees and retirees. References available. For estimate, call 349-4861.

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.

Prof receives coveted NEA grant



Angles

Jeffrey Angles, foreign languages, has received a \$20,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to translate the memoirs of one of the most prominent poets in Japan. This is the second grant for Angles, who directs

the WMU's Japanese language program, to translate "Twelve Perspectives," the 1970 memoir of Mutsuo Takahashi.

Originally published in Japanese, the work tells of the poet's youth and coming of age against the backdrop of the rise of the Japanese empire and World War II.

Angles was one of just seven recipients of the NEA's highly coveted \$20,000 grants, out of a total of 13 NEA grants awarded this year. Established by Congress in 1965, the NEA is an independent agency of the federal government and the nation's largest annual funder of the arts.

Historian co-writes new book



Borish

Linda J. Borish, history, is one of three authors of "Sports in American History: From Colonization to Globalization." The book journeys from early America to the present to give readers a compelling grasp of the historical evolution of

American sporting practices. The co-authors are Gerald R. Gems from North Central College and Gertrud Pfister from the University of Copenhagen in Denmark.

The new text is a comprehensive resource on sports history, providing coverage of sports by historical periods, from the indigenous tribes of pre-modern America through colonial societies to the status of sports in the United States today.

Unlike other related books, it includes an examination of how women, minorities and ethnic and religious groups influenced U.S. sporting culture.

Business study looks at rural areas



Frazier

Barbara Frazier, family and consumer sciences, has been awarded a three-year, \$500,000 grant to study the impact of local retailers on rural communities. Frazier is a co-principal investigator on the project along with Linda Niehm from

Iowa State University and Leslie Stael from Ohio State University.

The grant, which was awarded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperative National Research Initiative, will allow Frazier and her fellow researchers to identify ways in which the retail sector in rural communities contributes to and enhances economic development.

A key to getting the grant is an outreach piece integrated into the study that will result in the creation of a course that will help students understand the role of small businesses in rural communities—while engaging them in rural, small business entrepreneurialism.



volume 35
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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 **Sept. 4, Sept. 18, Oct. 2, Oct. 16, Oct. 30, Nov. 13** and **Dec. 4**. Items may be submitted by mail, fax (387-8422) or e-mail jeanne.baron@wmich.edu.

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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

WMU Board of Trustees accepts 10 employee retirements, two faculty resignations

WMU trustees approved the retirements of two faculty members and eight staff members at their Nov. 7 meeting in Detroit. Trustees also changed one faculty member's retirement date and accepted the resignations of two other faculty members.

Both of the faculty members who are retiring are doing so with emerita status. Their names, positions, years of continuous service and effective dates of retirement are: Josephine Barry Davis, teaching, learning and educational studies, 11-1/2 years, effective April 19, and Annette C. Skellenger, blindness and low vision studies, 10-1/2 years, effective April 25. In addition, the previously announced retirement date with emeritus status for Richard G. Cooper, occupational therapy, was changed to April 18, 2010, after 33 years of service.

The staff members retiring are: Sandra R. Bastian, information technology, 13-1/2 years, effective Oct. 31; Georgia Kerby Bryan, Registrar's Office, 30-1/2 years, effective Oct.

15; Ronald G. Canard, physical plant-maintenance services, 34 years, effective Sept. 30, 2008; Edward H. Holloway, Universities Libraries, 14 years, effective Sept. 30, 2008; Dale B. Latulippe, blindness and low vision studies, 10-1/2 years, effective Dec. 14; Daisy Lipsey, accounts receivable, 25 years, effective Dec. 31; Gail L. MacNellis, College of Fine Arts dean's office, 36-1/2 years, effective March 31; and Maria H. Da Silva McGurn, College of Arts and Sciences, 35-1/2 years, effective Dec. 31.

The faculty members resigning are: Mo-



Barry Davis



Skellenger



Canard



Latulippe



Lipsey



MacNellis



Da Silva McGurn

zhdeh B. Bruss, associate professor of family and consumer sciences, effective Dec. 31, and Mohsen Guizani, professor of computer science, effective Aug. 10, 2008.

WMU researcher publishes work on giant flower, genes

The giant flowers of the tropical *Rafflesia* resemble and smell like rotting flesh. But that isn't what interests Todd Barkman, biology.

Barkman and his research team are studying the evolution of the flowers, which are found in the jungles of Southeast Asia. The study is another piece toward their harnessing the genes that control growth in more useful plants.

Their findings were published in the Oct. 14 issue of *Current Biology*, one of the top biology journals in the world. Barkman was lead author of the paper, titled "Accelerated Rates of Floral Evolution at the Upper Size Limit for Flowers."



Co-researcher Trond Schumacher studies a *Rafflesia* flower in Sumatra, Indonesia. (Photo courtesy of Todd Barkman)

The co-authors included seven international researchers who studied the flower. Other authors included Seok-Hong Lim, a 2006 WMU graduate, and Trond Schumacher of the University of Oslo in Norway.

"*Rafflesia* evolved from small-flowered ancestors very rapidly in just the last few million years," Barkman says. "With our findings, it may be possible to find what gene

makes these flowers so large and use that knowledge to help modify crops or other horticulture plants."

He plans a six-month sabbatical spring semester to return to Malaysia and continue his gene work.

Faculty grants to be discussed

The Haenicke Institute is hosting luncheons this month to inform faculty members about a discovery grant that is available for those interested in gaining first-hand experience of what it is like to develop and lead a summer study abroad program.

The luncheons are planned for noon to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 18, and Wednesday, Nov. 19, in the Bernhard Center. Tuesday's luncheon will be in 204 and Wednesday's in the President's Dining Room.

The grant provides funding to participate in a predetermined set of discipline-appropriate short-term programs.

A complimentary lunch will be provided to all faculty who RSVP to Beth Van den Hombergh at beth.vandenhombergh@wmich.edu or 387-4824.

Go to www.wmich.edu/studyabroad for comprehensive program profiles, including program dates. Go to <http://international.wmich.edu/content/view/1082/453/> to see the grant application. For more information, contact Brett Berquist at brett.berquist@wmich.edu or 387-5890.

Service

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

30 Years—Linda Jones, physical plant-maintenance services, and Cynthia Town, University Counseling and Testing Center.

25 Years—Daisy Lipsey, accounts receivable; Gregory G. Roseboom, physical plant-utilities; and Cindy L. Zimmerman-Wingate, accounting.

20 Years—Brenda A. Brewer, history; Rosanna F. Metoyer, Auxiliary Enterprises; Penelope S. Schellenberg, ombudsman office; and Perry L. Scrivener, University Libraries.

15 Years—Connie L. Peruchietti, Fetzer Center.

10 Years—Karen Bowling, dining services-Valley #2; Diane Briggs, dining services-Burnham; Donna Lee DeVries, physical plant-building, custodial and support services; Mary E. Escobedo, University Counseling and Testing Center; Jayne P. Fraley-Burgett, Lawson Ice Arena; Scott M. Keeler, physical plant-maintenance services; Harold L. Landen, physical plant-maintenance services; Stephan

L. Macomber, physical plant-maintenance services; Pamela K. Ponicki, dining services-Bernhard Center; Michelle L. Ray, dining services-Burnham; Kim D. Sadler, physical plant-building, custodial and support services; Nathan S. Stonerock, physical plant-building, custodial and support services; Leta Ann Thurmond, physical plant-building, custodial and support services; Rebecca Winkle, dining services-Valley #1; and Stephen R. Winkquist, Mallinson Institute.

Five Years—Cynthia E. Bradley, communication, and Jennifer L. Farland, Haenicke Institute.

Poinsettia sales support PSSO

The Professional Support Staff Organization is sponsoring its annual poinsettia sale and accepting orders through Monday, Nov. 24. Poinsettias are \$9 each and available in six colors.

The plants may be picked up between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, in 159 Bernhard Center. Go to www.wmich.edu/pssso for more information and an order form.

Obituary



Ebert

Frances "Fran" Ebert, a successful longtime coach, died Nov. 7 in Scotts, Mich. She was 78.

Ebert came to WMU in 1964. She founded the softball program, serving as its head coach for nine years, and also served as head women's basketball coach for 18 years.

The softball field was renamed in her honor. Ebert's other accolades included being inducted into the WMU Athletics Hall of Fame and into the MAC Hall of Fame.

An associate professor emerita of health, physical education and recreation, she retired from coaching in 1982 and from the University in 1990.

Scheduling of services is pending, and more information will be posted at www.wmubroncos.com as it becomes available.

On Campus with John Disbro



SEEING TREES, NOT THE FOREST
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

"Western is like a giant garden," says senior arborist John Disbro. "The work is never done. You just stay reasonably behind."

A state-certified nurseryman, Disbro came to WMU in 1986 as the University's first arborist. He earned a bachelor's degree in horticulture with an emphasis in landscape design and architecture from Purdue University and was the 32nd Michigander to become a certified arborist through the International Society of Arboriculture.

Disbro's main responsibilities focus on small-scale landscape design and tree and shrub care, which includes pruning, diagnosing and treating problems, planting trees, and removing trees. He also fields tree-related calls from University employees, assists with snow removal during bad winters and collects some of the raw data for a tree database maintained by the physical plant's geographic information systems unit. More than 4,000 trees are in the database, which will be used to develop a self-guided tree tour for the campus.

"One of my favorite activities is planting trees. It's positive for the environment and for people's psyche," Disbro says. "But people need to understand that these aren't pieces of sculpture. They're living things, and they should be treated as such."

This fall, Disbro is planting about 50 new trees, mostly to replace those that are in decline or, as is the case with many ash, haven't survived. This is where his knowledge and creativity really shine. He easily rattles off the technical names of rare as well as common trees, confidently pointing out which soils and locations will serve them best and how each one will enhance the landscape and nearby buildings.

"The most challenging part is trying to get everything done in a timely manner. There's just an inevitable amount of things that need to be done. Some can be done during the growing season and some can't," he explains. "But I really like this job. The people at Western are very good to work with, and there's always a lot going on."

Disbro lives in Kalamazoo Township with his wife, Anita. They have one daughter and one son. During his off hours, Disbro takes on landscaping jobs, and enjoys reading, drawing and growing vegetables as well as landscaping his own gardens. "I also lift weights, especially in winter," he says, flashing a wry smile. "Given the kind of work I do here, I have to make sure my back is strong."

Registration begun for EUP Open Learning courses

Extended University Programs is offering undergraduate Open Learning courses.

The online (e-learning) courses have a time line outside of the normal semester schedule and have open entry and exit dates. Students have up to six months to complete these self-paced courses, beginning from their selected start date, unless they have financial aid or are an international student.

Spring 2009 semester registration is now under way for Open Learning courses, which are offered through Academic Technology and Instructional Services. Registration will remain open until April 24 for currently admitted WMU students. Two courses are being offered for the spring semester: Drug Use: Personal and Social Impact (ADA 2250) and Legal and Illegal Drugs (ADA 3200). Additionally, plans call for non-WMU students to be able to begin registering early in spring semester.

Fulbright grants

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The Fulbright Scholars visiting WMU are:

- Happy Siphambe, a WMU alumnus from the University of Botswana.
- Yingjing Wang from the Nanjing University of Science and Technology.
- Patricia L. Zoungrana from the University of Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso (formerly Upper Volta).

Additional courses from the departments of Family and Consumer Sciences and Comparative Religion are in development. Students can select their desired start date from Jan. 5, 2009, the first day of spring semester classes, to April 24, 2009, the last day of spring semester classes.

Before registering, financial aid recipients must contact the financial aid office and international students must contact the international student admissions office, as their completion dates may differ. Undergraduate EUP courses cost \$297.46 per credit hour and are assessed a \$20 per course technology fee.

For more information, call Teri Cleveland at 387-4199.

Literacy grant

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The Kalamazoo program also partners with Learning Village and the YWCA Children's Center and has a community component in partnership with the Kalamazoo Public Library, Hispanic American Council and Parent to Parent of Southwest Michigan.

The program will provide extensive professional development, foster family involvement and community partnership efforts and help develop print-rich environments at participating centers to improve school readiness.

Of the Kalamazoo children involved, 76 percent are eligible for free or reduced lunches and 10 percent are English language learners who speak Spanish, Arabic and various Asian languages.

Dance department fund-raiser—Area celebrities will be paired up with WMU dance students to vie for the top prize in the "Dancing with the WMU/Kazoo Stars" fund-raiser for the Department of Dance at 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 15, in Williams Theatre at the Gilmore Theatre Complex. Former WMU faculty member Tony Calucci, right, returned to campus to prepare the troupe for its big performance. Calucci, a coach for ABC's "Dancing with the Stars" TV series, helped President John Dunn, center, rehearse with the assistance of dance major Ashley Howard, left. Call 387-5830 for event tickets and reservation information.
(Photo by John Lacko)

