



# Western NEWS

October 2, 2008  
volume 35, number 3

For and about WMU faculty and staff

## Trustees approve AAUP contract

The WMU Board of Trustees voted Sept. 24 to approve a new three-year contract with the University's faculty union, the WMU chapter of the American Association of University Professors. Trustees approved the contract by a vote of 5-2. The contract effective date is Sept. 6, 2008.

The new agreement includes an across-the-board increase of 3 percent in each of the three years of the contract plus a research/scholarly/creative activities supplement each year that is based on median salary within faculty rank. Modifications to the existing health care plan also were part of the agreement.

## Fidelity investment sessions slated

Confidential investment consultations with David Williams of Fidelity will be held in 207 Bernhard Center between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Oct. 7, Nov. 11, Dec. 8 and Jan. 6. Go to [www.fidelity.com/atwork/reservations](http://www.fidelity.com/atwork/reservations) to schedule an appointment. If you are unable to register on the Web, contact Richard Schaper at [richard.schaper@wmich.edu](mailto:richard.schaper@wmich.edu) or 387-3580.

## Legislature acts on Sangren project

Late Sept. 25, the Michigan Legislature gave final approval to a capital outlay bill that includes \$11.7 million for the first phase of renovations to Sangren Hall. The bill was signed by Gov. Jennifer Granholm Sept. 29. Now, WMU will need to match the funds with \$3.9 million of University funds to reach the \$15.6 million total cost of the first phase of the renovation project.

Ultimately, the total renovation project will be a \$56 million retooling of Sangren, the 44-year-old facility that houses the College of Education and is WMU's largest and most heavily used classroom building.

## Plagiarism workshop scheduled

"Turnitin.com Plagiarism Detection" will be presented as part of the Cool Tools Workshops at 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 3, in 1354 Ellsworth Hall. All faculty and graduate instructors are welcome. No reservation is needed. For the complete workshop schedule, visit Faculty Development on the Web at <http://atis.wmich.edu/facdev/> and click "Cool Tools Workshops."

## International group calls for papers

A call for papers has been issued to WMU faculty and staff for the 39th International Conference to be held at the Fetzer Center June 3-7, 2009. The conference, "Civilization (Cultures) in a Time of Crisis and Change," is being sponsored by the International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations. For more information, go to the conference Web site at [www.wmich.edu/iscsc](http://www.wmich.edu/iscsc) or contact ISCS President Andrew S. Targowski, business information systems, at [targowski@wmich.edu](mailto:targowski@wmich.edu) or 387-5406.

## Homecoming to rock campus, Kalamazoo

WMU is treating the University community and public to a host of exciting activities during this week's Homecoming celebration, Monday through Sunday, Sept. 29-Oct. 5.

Among the activities slated are a 5K and 1K run/walk, the wild and wacky Western Games, and a variety of shows, concerts and athletic competitions.

The highpoint of the 2008 Homecoming celebration, which revolves around the theme "Rock on Western," will be the football game at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 4, against the Ohio University Bobcats.

Students will help celebrate Homecoming by staging two annual public events Friday, Oct. 3. The Western Games will take place at noon at the Intramural Soccer Fields by the Goldsworth Valley Apartments while the soap box derby will begin at 3 p.m. on Gilkinson Avenue near the Sindecuse Health Center.

Hundreds of University and community members will kick off Saturday's activities by enjoying the annual Campus Classic race/walk, either as participants, volunteers or spectators.

Many Bronco alumni, fans and friends will rev up for the Homecoming football game

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## Still time to register for annual Campus Classic

The Homecoming Campus Classic race/walk is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, and those wishing to take part in the Saturday, Oct. 4, event as volunteers or participants can still register to join the fun.



From 4 to 8 p.m., racers and walkers may pick up their packets or register tonight at Gazelle Sports in downtown Kalamazoo or Friday, Oct. 3, in 105 Bernhard Center. Registration also will be open from 7 to 8:30 a.m., just prior to the event, in 105 Bernhard Center.

Volunteers may register online until noon Friday and in person until 7:30 a.m. on event day. Volunteers will be treated to a light breakfast in the morning and brunch after the Campus Classic.

Go to [www.wmich.edu/race](http://www.wmich.edu/race) to register or obtain more information.

## Three receive 2008 Distinguished Alumni awards

A prominent teacher-entrepreneur, researcher and businessman have been selected by the WMU Alumni Association to receive its most prestigious honor, the Distinguished Alumni Award.

The award was established in 1963 to recognize graduates of WMU who have achieved a high level of success in their professions. The 2008 recipients will be recognized at a reception and dinner Friday, Oct. 3.

They are: Richard Koehn, president and chief executive officer of Sentry Animal Care Inc. in Salt Lake City; Nick Triantafillopoulos, director of polymer innovation for the Akron Technology Center of OMNOVA Solutions Inc.; and Charles Valluzzo, CEO of McDonald's of Baton Rouge, La.

Koehn heads SentrX Animal Care, a start-up company devoted to delivering cutting-edge animal care products. He earned a bachelor's degree from WMU in 1963 and a doctorate from Arizona State University in 1967, then went on to teach at the University of Kansas for three years.

Triantafillopoulos is an internationally recognized expert in coating process technologies and rheology. He earned a bachelor's degree in physics from the University of Athens in 1979 and bachelor's and master's degrees in paper science and engineering from WMU in 1981 and 1985, respectively.

Valluzzo is one of McDonald's largest franchise holders, overseeing 53 stores as CEO of McDonald's of Baton Rouge. He graduated from WMU in 1962 with a Bachelor of Business Administration in marketing.



Koehn



Triantafillopoulos



Valluzzo

# Around Campus

## Today is Business Career Day

More than 110 organizations will arrive on campus today for Business Career Day, which runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Bernhard Center and is open to the public. Planned and managed by Alpha Kappa Psi and the WMU Career Center at the Haworth College of Business, it is designed for WMU students, alumni and members of the public interested in business careers. The fair is expected to attract more than 2,000 job seekers.

## National paper meeting slated

The Paper Technology Foundation is holding its 49th annual meeting today in the Fetzner Center. The event is expected to attract high-ranking paper industry executives from across the country.

## Japanese writer visiting campus

Hiromi Ito, one of the foremost writers of contemporary Japan, will give a presentation at 4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 3, on the 10th floor of Sprau Tower. Her presentation, titled "Living Between Languages: A Conversation and Bilingual Reading with Hiromi Ito," is free and open to the public.

## Obama documentary to be screened

Award-winning filmmaker and WMU alumnus Bob Hercules will present his latest creation, a documentary on Sen. Barack Obama's trip to Africa, at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 3, in 1025 Brown Hall. The presentation is free and open to the public and will be followed by a question-and-answer session with Hercules.

Titled "Senator Obama Goes to Africa," the documentary was shot and produced by Chicago-based filmmakers Hercules and Keith Walker and captures Obama's return to his family's roots on an emotional journey to Africa. Hercules and Walker also produced the acclaimed "Forgiving Dr. Mengele," which was previewed at WMU last year.

## Emeritus road warrior to give talk

John Geisler, emeritus in counselor education and counseling psychology, will recount the history of what is now known as U.S. 12 at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 8, in Walwood Hall's Heinig Emeriti Lounge. The talk is titled "From Moccasins to Main Street: A Droll, Quixotic, Quaint, Erratic and Whimsical History of the Sauk (Native American) Trail in Michigan Through Its Various Iterations."

## Tech, public policy focus of talk

The United States is the most technologically sophisticated society that has ever existed, but this also means it's the most technologically dependent, according to a visiting scholar who will be speaking at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 8, in D-109 of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences Building.

William Wulf, AT&T Professor of Computer Science at the University of Virginia, will explore the kinds of science and engineering concepts he thinks people should know during his free, public presentation on "Responsible Citizenship in a Technological Democracy."

## Ethics author receives national award

Sandra L. Borden, communication, won the 2008 Clifford G. Christians Ethics Research Award for her book "Journalism as Practice: Macintyre, Virtue Ethics and the Press." In addition to winning the prestigious national award, she also was one of three finalists for the 2008 Tankard Book Award.



Borden

The Christians Award recognizes scholarship highlighting important theoretical issues in the areas of ethics, mass communication theory and the relationship between media and technology and culture. It is given annually by the Carl Couch Center for Social and Internet Research.

Borden has been a faculty member since 1997. She is co-director of the WMU Center for the Study of Ethics in Society, a member of the WMU Research Ethics Resource Center advisory board and the faculty sponsor for the WMU Ethics Bowl Team.

## Geologist selected as fellow of GSA

Alan Kehew, geosciences, has been selected a fellow of the prestigious Geological Society of America in recognition of his work



Kehew

on glacial geology and the glacial events that helped shape the northern Great Plains. Kehew will be recognized for his contribution to science at the GSA annual meeting Saturday, Oct. 4, in Houston.

The citation also mentions his work in groundwater and environmental geology, which has been a major focus of his work at WMU and in his textbooks, "Geology for Engineers and Environmental Scientists" and "Applied Chemical Hydrogeology."

Kehew came to WMU in 1986 and was chair of the Department of Geosciences from 1995 to 2002. The Michigan chapter of the American Institute of Professional Geologists named him the state's Outstanding Geologist of the Year in 2007.

## Professor wins award for publications

Jiabei Zhang, health, physical education and recreation, has received the G. Lawrence Rarick Research Award for his distinguished record of publications in refereed journals



Zhang

of national and international significance.

The award was presented at the 2008 Annual Summer Conference of the National Consortium for Physical Education and Recreation for Individuals with Disabilities held in Reston, Va. To be nominated, individuals must be recognized as a research scholar in the area of physical education and recreation for individuals with disabilities.

Zhang, a faculty member since 1997, was presented with the award in acknowledgment of his publications being systematically directed toward specific questions that helped advance knowledge in physical education and recreation for individuals with disabilities.

## Distinguished Faculty Scholar nominations due in January

Nominations are due Jan. 23 for the 2009 Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award. Up to three recipients will be selected.

The recipients will be honored at a future ceremony and receive a \$2,000 honorarium that becomes part of their base salaries, a plaque, and an opportunity to present a campus lecture, exhibition or performance.

The award is based on outstanding professional achievements. Wide recognition beyond WMU is essential. Current, continuing board-appointed full- and part-time persons

with faculty rank are eligible if they have at least seven academic years of service to WMU and are not previous winners.

Go to [www.wmich.edu/research/funding/distinguished.html](http://www.wmich.edu/research/funding/distinguished.html) for details and forms. Contact Ernst A. Breisach, emeritus in history, at [ebreisach@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ebreisach@sbcglobal.net) or 344-1734 for more information.

## Exchange

**For sale**—Affordable lakeside living at Pickerel Lake near Kalamazoo. Two-bedroom cottage, about 950 square feet. Leased land in a county setting, nearly 200 feet of lake frontage. Lease is with a solid, family-owned company that we've contracted with for more than 40 years. Two and one-half-car garage, new deck and carpet, one bath with laundry, propane gas heat, forced air, interior wired for exterior generator hook up. Appliances and some furnishings included. Ample parking. Reduced from \$75,000 to \$65,000. Contact Rob at 649-3428 or 217-9255.

## 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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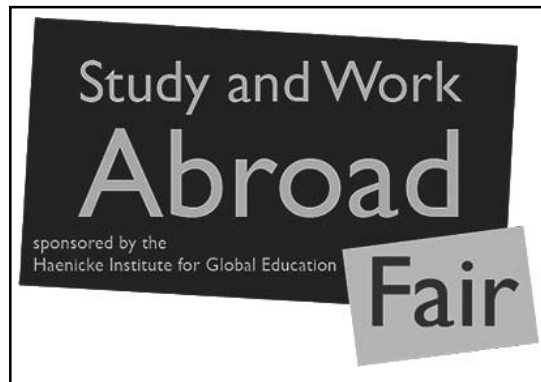
WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

## Study and Work Abroad Fair expands global horizons

The University's 2008 Study and Work Abroad Fair will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 8, in the Bernhard Center's South Ballroom.

The free event will allow students and members of the campus and local communities to learn how they can earn academic credit while studying and working abroad.

Some of the summer programs that will be described are open to mature high school students as well as adults who are interested in travel and learning but are not attending college. Also,



nearly all types of student financial aid may be applied toward study abroad programs, including money received through the Kalamazoo Promise and Michigan Education Trust funds.

The fair is being sponsored by the Haenicke Institute for Global Education and includes several new features this year. Among them are:

- Expanded opportunities for overseas internships due to broader

collaboration with WMU's Career and Student Employment Services.

- Presentation of three informational sessions, Study Abroad 101 for High School Students from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., Intern Abroad for Academic Credit from 5 to 6 p.m., and the Study Abroad 101 panel discussion from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. with financial aid staff members and students who have previously studied abroad.

- Implementation of a high school outreach plan, through which juniors and seniors in the local area have been formally invited to the fair.

- Prize giveaways sponsored by STA Travel as well as a free pop and slice of pizza, while supplies last.

WMU staff members will be on hand to answer questions about financial aid, health and other issues. Attendees also will have the chance to speak with WMU students who have studied and worked abroad, WMU professors who coordinate programs and courses around the globe, and representatives from non-WMU organizations touting more than 100 study and work programs conducted worldwide.

For more information, go to [www.wmich.edu/studyabroad](http://www.wmich.edu/studyabroad) or contact Joe Milostan, WMU study abroad outreach coordinator, at [study-abroad@wmich.edu](mailto:study-abroad@wmich.edu) or 387-5890.

### Service—October

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

**40 Years**—George R. Kohrman, information technology.

**35 Years**—Klazina A. Welch, industrial and manufacturing engineering.

**30 Years**—Mitchell P. Beare, Bernhard Center.

**25 Years**—Joycelynn P. Fooy, intercollegiate athletics; Nancy L. Kablitz, dining services-Valley #1; Willie T. Murray, multicultural affairs; Robert R. VanDyke, dining services; Lonnie Wesseling, physical plant-building, custodial and support services; and Shirley D. Bishop, physical plant-building, custodial and support services.

**20 Years**—George D. Broomell, infor-

mation technology; Juanita Snell, physical plant-building, custodial and support services; James A. Visser, School of Public Affairs and Administration; Janice S. Weaver, cash operations; and Arnita Williams, physical plant-building, custodial and support services.

**15 Years**—Jacqueline R. Angel, Sindecuse Health Center; Joanne L. Barretta, education field placement; Thomas W. Norton, chemistry; and Arthur J. Smith, information technology.

**10 Years**—Catherine B. Hennessy, information technology-telecommunications, and Ann M. Trevino, dining services.

**Five Years**—Rayne S. Aaron, Children's Place, and Muralidhar K. Ghantasala, mechanical and aeronautical engineering.

## TowerPinkster gift supports WMU sustainability efforts

A leading West Michigan firm is creating a new endowed scholarship that will support WMU students who want to pursue careers in environmental sustainability.

TowerPinkster, an architecture and engineering firm recently created the TowerPinkster Endowed Scholarship for mechanical and electrical engineering majors.

When fully funded, it is anticipated that at least one scholarship will be awarded annually to a full-time junior or senior enrolled in one of the majors and expressing an interest in environmental design and building. As part of the new scholarship arrangement, recipients of this award will be designated "TowerPinkster Scholars" and be given an opportunity to apply for an internship with TowerPinkster.



From left: WMU President John M. Dunn; Arnold Mikon, president and chief executive officer of TowerPinkster; Tom Mathison, TowerPinkster principal; and WMU Dean Daniel M. Litynski, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

The creation of a scholarship for students in environmental design and building fits well with TowerPinkster's reputation as a leader in sustainable initiatives and also serves as a new pride point in WMU's ongoing efforts to support environmental and energy alternatives.

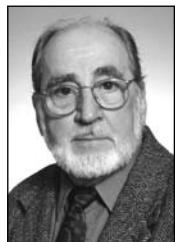
Last year, TowerPinkster's downtown Kalamazoo office at 242 E. Michigan Ave. became the first facility in southwest Michigan to receive Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, certification.

Last spring, WMU received the 2008 Environmental Award from the Kalamazoo Regional Chamber of Commerce in recognition of three important initiatives: implementing sustainable design practices in new campus buildings, committing to major storm water management improvements throughout the main campus in Kalamazoo and developing a centralized energy usage control system.

### Obituaries

**Henrietta "Yetta" Ackerson**, a retired WMU staff member, died Sept. 10 in Kalamazoo. She was 84.

Ackerson came to the University in 1959. At the time of her retirement in 1986, she was the coordinator for the Administrative Work Center in the Office of the President.



Robbert

**Paul A. Robbert**, emeritus in art, died Sept. 22, in Holland, Mich. He was 80.

Robbert came to the University in 1957 as an instructor and retired in 1998 as a professor. He served as acting chair of

the Department of Art in 1972-73 and also established the papermaking curriculum. He taught graphics, papermaking, printmaking, drawing and painting.

An acclaimed artist both nationally and internationally, Robbert exhibited widely in the United States and abroad.

Robbert was a founding member of the Kalamazoo Book Arts Center. A celebration of his life will be held from 3 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 5, at the center, located in the Park Trades Center, 326 W. Kalamazoo Ave., Suite 103A.

An exhibition of his work will be on display at the center during the Art Hop on Friday, Oct. 3, and will continue through Oct. 31.



Schler

**Robert Sechler**, emeritus in mathematics and statistics, died Sept. 13. He was 79.

Sechler came to the University in 1959 as an instructor and retired in 1992 as an associate professor.

**Nellie L. Stell**, a retired WMU staff member, died Sept. 16, in Kalamazoo. She was 78.

Stell came to the University in 1972. At the time of her retirement in 1993, she was an administrative assistant in the educational leadership area of the College of Education.



## On Campus with Jeff Alexander



**MAKING MACHINES PURR**  
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

"Our job is to fix anything driven on campus that has Western's logo on it," says Jeff Alexander, supervisor for garage operations in physical plant-general services. "This means we fix everything from the generators to lawn mowers, golf carts, vans, bobcats and even ice resurfacing machines."

Alexander, who has been in his current post for the past eight years, came to WMU in 1998 following three years as a custodial supervisor with the Kalamazoo Public Schools and 15 years as a service representative with Pitney Bowes.

After a stint as a custodial supervisor here, Alexander became a recreation and sport supervisor in charge of maintaining the Waldo Stadium football field as well as the University's sports and recreation playing fields and buildings. "It was enjoyable, but intense," he recalls.

Alexander now manages three full-time staffers and is in charge of WMU's garage operations, which have to be self-sustaining. In addition to overseeing mechanical repairs, he maintains inventory, works closely with purchasing to write specifications and bids for new vehicles, keeps on top of new technology such as electric hybrid engines, and fields more than a few "service" calls.

"We can't work on vehicles owned by WMU students and employees, but I try to answer their questions and give them direction," Alexander says. "I feel blessed with my guys. All of our people are state of Michigan certified master mechanics and meet ASE national standards. They can pretty much fix anything. You can't go any place else and get it done better or cheaper."

Much of Alexander's time is spent on the job. "I usually put in 10- to 12-hour days. Something always walks in the door. You just absorb it and keep moving," he says. "I'm also something of a perfectionist. The taxpayers need to get their money's worth, and if we do it right, our equipment at WMU is going to last."

A Kalamazoo native, Alexander dabbles in photography, and both he and his wife, Marjorie, take classes at WMU. They live in Oshtemo and have two children who attend other colleges, a daughter majoring in zoology and a married son studying architecture in graduate school. Alexander's mom, Judy, a KPS retiree, helps WMU out during the residence hall move-in period by dispensing parking passes to students.

## Walker Institute offers groundbreaking conference

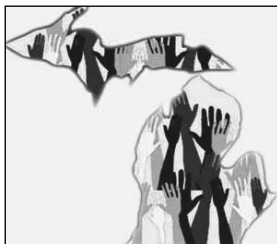
The tremendous diversity of peoples and cultural traditions in Michigan will be examined in depth during a groundbreaking statewide conference Thursday and Friday, Oct. 9-10, in the Fetzer Center.

"The Peoples Conference: Ethnic and Racial Diversity in Michigan" is open to the public and being sponsored by WMU's Lewis Walker Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnic Relations.

The WMU community is encouraged to register for the full two days, one day or a half-day at a cost of \$125, \$70 or \$35, respectively. Registration is continuing through both days of the event.

Ethnic and racial groups to be highlighted

include: African Americans, Arabs, Asian Americans, Chaldeans, Cornish, Dutch, Hungarians, Jews, Latvians, Mexican Americans and other Latinos, and Scots.



The event will include presentations by several authors who have written volumes for the "Discovering the Peoples of Michigan" book series co-edited by Arthur Helweg, emeritus in anthropology.

In addition, break-out sessions will allow attendees to interact with panelists in lively discussions of a variety of topics.

Go to [www.wmich.edu/walkerinstitute](http://www.wmich.edu/walkerinstitute) to register online, download the conference brochure or learn more about the featured speakers.

## WMU schedules fall influenza, meningitis vaccination clinics

The WMU community may be vaccinated against influenza and meningitis at five clinics this fall as well as at the Sindecuse Health Center during nursing walk-in hours.

The clinics are open to WMU students; faculty and staff members and their eligible dependents; and retirees and emeriti.

They will take place Monday, Oct. 6, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the College of Health and Human Services Building; Thursday, Oct. 9, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the College of Aviation campus at the W.K. Kellogg Airport in Battle Creek, Mich.; Wednesday, Oct. 15, (special accommodations for retirees and emeriti), from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the third floor of the Sindecuse Health Center; Tuesday, Oct. 21, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in rooms 157-159 Bernhard Center; and Wednesday, Nov. 12, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the indoor tennis court area of Student Recreation Center during the WMU Health and Wellness Expo.

Arrangements have been made to fund the full cost of flu vaccinations administered by the Sindecuse Health Center to employees, and their eligible dependents, covered by WMU's Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan PPO insurance plan.

For complete details, including costs for non-covered vaccinations and non-covered WMU community members, go online to [www.sindecuse.com](http://www.sindecuse.com) or call 387-3287.

## Homecoming 2008

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by congregating at one of the organizational or corporate tents that will be set up off of Oakland Drive by the College of Health and Human Services Building. A favorite gathering site for WMU graduates is the Alumni Association Homecoming PepFest, which is the official Homecoming celebration for alumni of all ages.

More information about WMU-sponsored activities taking place during Homecoming week, including cost and registration details, is available by visiting [www.wmich.edu/homecoming](http://www.wmich.edu/homecoming) and clicking the links for "Student Events," "Alumni Events" and "Campus Events."



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