



# Western NEWS

OCTOBER 18, 2007  
volume 34, number 4

For and about WMU faculty and staff

## Academic Convocation on TV

Those who aren't able to attend the 2007 Academic Convocation at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 25, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall may still be a part of the event by listening to the radio or watching TV.

The convocation will feature President John M. Dunn's first State of the University address and a series of awards presentations. Dunn's address will be broadcast on WMUK-FM, the University's public radio station, at 8 p.m. Oct. 25.

The entire convocation will be broadcast on EduCABLE's Channel 28 at the following times: 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 26; 3 p.m. Monday, Oct. 29; 10 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 30; and 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 31. It also will be played on public access TV at: 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 26, on Channel 21; at 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 28, on Channel 20; at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 30, on Channel 22; and at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 1, on Channel 95.

## Time to renew parking permits

WMU parking permits will expire Oct. 31. Most faculty, staff and retirees may register online for new permits through GoWMU, WMU's intranet portal. The vehicle registration link is located in the My Self Service channel. Those who register online before Saturday, Oct. 20, will receive their new parking permits in the mail at home. After this date, permits must be picked up at the Parking Services Building.

Part-time faculty, temporary employees and new employees must bring their Bronco ID card, driver's license, vehicle registration and departmental appointment letter to the Parking Services Building to obtain parking permits. Anyone who is eligible to register online but does not wish to do so also may register in person.

## Vet care package items sought

A campuswide committee is seeking contributions to stock care packages that WMU will be sending in November to its deployed faculty, staff, students and alumni. The volunteer committee is asking that items be donated by Friday, Nov. 9.

Offices, groups and individuals are encouraged to assume responsibility for collecting a particular item or items so enough supplies can be locked in to ship 35 care packages four times this academic year. Two of the care packages will be going to female personnel.

Those wishing to donate items should e-mail a list of these items to [www.wmich.edu/advocacy](http://www.wmich.edu/advocacy). Once collected, the items should be dropped off to Brenda Hamlyn in the Registrar's Office. Suggested items to donate and other program details are included in the story posted online at [www.wmich.edu/news](http://www.wmich.edu/news). For more information, call Eric in the Advocacy Office for Transfer Students and Military Affairs at 387-0740.

## McGurn named Distinguished Faculty Scholar



McGurn

The 2007 Distinguished Faculty Scholar award will be presented to Arthur McGurn, physics, during WMU's annual academic convocation Thursday, Oct. 25 (stories on the convocation and related awards are being posted at [www.wmich.edu/news](http://www.wmich.edu/news) as they become available.)

The faculty scholar award is the highest honor the University bestows on faculty members. It recognizes those whose work is widely recognized beyond the institution and constitutes a significant body of achievement, most of which has been accomplished while at WMU.

McGurn joined the faculty in 1986 and conducts research in theoretical condensed matter physics. He has earned numerous honors during his career. In 2006 alone, he was elected a Fellow of the American Physical Society, awarded Chartered Physicist Status by the Institute of Physics and invited to be a member of the Electromagnetics Academy.

He was cited as a prolific researcher in a variety of areas who has continually broken new ground while building successful collaborations with fellow scientists around the world.

In nominating him, his colleagues noted that McGurn has done significant and often pioneering work in several areas, including disordered magnetic systems; light scattering, particularly from random surfaces; the quantum Monte Carlo computational (probability) tool; and most recently, photonics, which deals with photons and is a key area of investigation because of its potential applications for computer and communication technologies.

Nearly every person nominating McGurn commented on his strong grasp of mathematical techniques, exceptional computational skills and collegial way of approaching research.

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## Six lauded for achievements in teaching, scholarship

WMU will honor six of its best teachers and young scholars Thursday, Oct. 25, during the annual Academic Convocation.

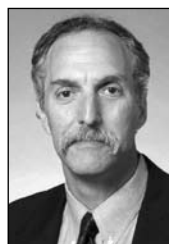
Receiving the Distinguished Teaching Award will be Richard Gershon, communication; Trent Kynaston, music; and Jennifer Palthe, management. Receiving the Emerging Scholar Award will be Stephen Covell, comparative religion; Igor Fedotov, music; and David Huffman, chemistry.

Gershon is the co-founder of the telecommunications and information management program. He previously has been honored for teaching excellence, including being selected twice for national teaching honors.

His dedication to each person in his classes, termed the "Gershon Experience" by one student, was a consistent theme in his nominations.

"He has a long and consistent record of teaching excellence and award-winning contributions to curriculum development," one faculty colleague wrote. "That record has had an impact locally, as well as nationally..."

Kynaston is the founder of the jazz studies program and performs as a member of the Western Jazz Quartet. He is a recognized classical and jazz artist who has performed worldwide and received *Down Beat* maga-



Gershon



Kynaston



Palthe



Covell



Fedotov



Huffman

zine's annual Achievement Award for Jazz Education.

His instruction and encouragement has helped propel former students in their own roles as performers and educators.

One former student described that influence as "profound and lasting," and praised Kynaston as "a dedicated and caring studio teacher who challenged his private students to achieve high artistic goals. And he did so without expecting anyone to fit into a preconceived mold."

Palthe is an expert in managing change in transnational corporations, cross-cultural diversity management and global human resource management. Previously a senior change management consultant, she has consulting experience on three continents in several areas.

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# Around Campus

## Faculty artwork now on display

Paintings, sculptures and other faculty works of art are on display at the annual Art Faculty Show, running through Friday, Nov. 9, in the Richmond Center for Visual Arts. A free opening reception is being held today from 5 to 7 p.m. in the center.

## E-teaching workshop slated

In response to student demand for more online courses, Extended University Programs will conduct a workshop for chairs, directors, department heads and faculty members wanting to learn more about how to create online classes. The workshop is being provided over two Tuesdays. Those interested may sign up for the session taking place either on Oct. 23 and Nov. 6 from 10 a.m. to noon or on Oct. 30 and Nov. 13 from 3 to 5 p.m. For details or to register, e-mail [katherine.mills@wmich.edu](mailto:katherine.mills@wmich.edu) or call 387-4218.

## Haunted Hall scares up fun

The annual student-organized Haunted Hall will be staged from 8 to 10 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 25, and 8 p.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday, Oct. 26-27, in Eldridge-Fox. The Kids Corner will be open from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday. It is geared toward children ages 12 and under and will feature games, prizes, story reading and free candy.

## 'Jihad in Islam' is lecture topic

The ninth Muslim Student Night program and dinner will include a talk on "Jihad in Islam" beginning at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 26, in the Bernhard Center Ballroom. The free event also will feature a dinner of multicultural cuisine, an exhibition of artifacts from around the world and musical performances by the English a cappella group Shaam. Reservations are required. Visit [www.rso.wmich.edu/msa](http://www.rso.wmich.edu/msa) to register.

## Emeritus historian to be honored

Ernst Breisach, emeritus in history, will be honored Saturday, Oct. 27, during an "Exploring History/Writing History" symposium beginning at 1 p.m. in the Little Theatre and a dinner and reception beginning at 4:30 p.m. in Walwood. Breisach is one of the symposium's two guest speakers. He will talk on "Reflections on Life, Time and History."



Breisach

The guest speaker presentations are free and open to the public. For details and costs regarding the full symposium, dinner and reception, call 387-4174.

Breisach joined the history faculty in 1957 and spent 39 years with the University. He served as chair of the history department from 1967 to 1989 and was named a Distinguished Faculty Scholar in 1984.

## Math educator earns state award

Christian Hirsch has received the Michigan Council of Teachers of Mathematics' 2007 Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Mathematics Education. The award was presented in August during the



Hirsch

MCTM annual conference. It is the highest recognition the council can bestow upon one of its members for significant contributions to mathematics education in the state.

Hirsch is the James H. Powell Professor of Mathematics and was named a Distinguished Faculty Scholar in 1988. A mathematics faculty member since 1973, he has been principal investigator for the Core-Plus Mathematics Project for the past 15 years. The National Science Foundation funds the project as well as supports the Center for the Study of Mathematics Curriculum, which Hirsch co-directs.

## Premier publication gains editor

William Olsen, English, has been named editor of WMU's New Issues Poetry & Prose, a premier national press for emerging writers. An open house welcoming Olsen was held in September. He had served as



Olsen

an advisory editor since the press was launched in 1996 by longtime WMU English professor Herbert Scott.

Under Olsen's direction, the press will continue to discover and publish the freshest and most crucial voices in contemporary poetry and prose as well as publish indispensable, established poets and prose writers.

Olsen has received a Creative Writing Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts and a Guggenheim Fellowship. He has produced four collections of poetry, including "The Hand of God and a Few Bright Flowers," which was reissued in 2003 as part of the Carnegie Mellon Classic Contemporary Series.

## Deadline nearing for 2007 Walker Institute awards

Applications are being accepted until Nov. 9 for the Lewis Walker Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnic Relations' Research and Creative Activities Award, which goes to faculty members as well as graduate and undergraduate students.

Those participating in the 2007 competition must write a research paper or do a creative activity and submit this work to the Walker Institute by Feb. 29. The two people

who submit the top projects in the three entrance categories will receive monetary awards—\$500 for faculty members, \$400 for graduate students and \$300 for undergraduate students. The top six also will present their papers at a research forum slated for Wednesday, April 9.

Award applications and guidelines are posted online at [www.wmich.edu/isrer](http://www.wmich.edu/isrer) and available for pickup in the Walker Institute office, 1104 Welborn.

## WMU gets grant to improve HHS building energy efficiency



national energy efficiency standards and put it among one of the highest performing buildings in Michigan.

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Existing Buildings, or LEED-EB, award from the U.S. Department of Energy will go toward evaluating current energy efficient systems in the three-year-old building and installing new systems to improve airflow.

The work supported by the grant will be conducted during the next 12 months. Carl Newton, WMU energy reduction manager, is working on the project with Lord-Aeck-Sargent Architecture in Ann Arbor.

## Jobs

Current job opportunities at WMU are announced every Monday on the Human Resources Web site at [www.wmich.edu/hr/careers-at-wmu.htm](http://www.wmich.edu/hr/careers-at-wmu.htm) and the applicant Information Service phone line at 387-3669. Please note that applications must be submitted online by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included on each posting.

## Faculty invited to apply for funds

Faculty Research and Creative Activities Support Fund application forms and guidelines are now available online for the 2007-08 competition.

The fund invites faculty engaged in scholarly research, scientific inquiry, inventive technology and original artistic activity to apply to defer project-related expenses.

Visit [www.wmich.edu/research/funding/fracasf.html](http://www.wmich.edu/research/funding/fracasf.html) for complete information, including budget worksheets, eligibility forms, calendars and lists of past recipients.



EDITOR: Cheryl P. Roland. ISSUE EDITOR: Jeanne Baron.

CONTRIBUTORS: Tonya R. Hernandez, Deanne Molinari, Thomas A. Myers and Mark E. Schwerin. GRAPHIC DESIGN: Tammy M. Boneburg.

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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

## WMU schedules fall flu, meningitis vaccination clinics

Students, faculty, staff, retirees and emeriti at WMU may be vaccinated against influenza and meningitis at four on-campus outreach clinics this fall as well as at the Sindecuse Health Center during nursing walk-in hours.



Many faculty, staff, retirees and emeriti, along with their age-12-and-older dependents, will get flu shots at those locations without paying any out-of-pocket costs.

To be eligible for that benefit, current and former workers must show a valid WMU ID and be covered in PPO Group #31473 of WMU's Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan insurance program.

For students and those not in that group insurance program, flu shots cost \$24 and meningitis shots cost \$101. Meningitis vaccinations administered by the Sindecuse Health Center are a BCBSM-covered benefit for faculty and staff and their dependents.

The outreach clinics have been scheduled for: today from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in 3131 Sindecuse Health Center (special accommodations will be available for retirees and emeriti); Tuesday, Oct. 23, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in 157-159 Bernhard Center; Wednesday, Nov. 7, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the WMU Health and Wellness Fair in the tennis courts area of the Student Recreation Center; and Tuesday, Nov. 20, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the College of Health and Human Services Building.

Flu and meningitis shots also will be administered in the Sindecuse Health Center to students, faculty, staff, retirees and emeriti Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. and 1 to 4:15 p.m. and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. and 1 to 4:15 p.m.

For more information, call the Sindecuse Health Center at 387-3291.



**HONORING MEMORIES**—The University Dames social organization presented Miller Auditorium with a plaque Oct. 2 honoring the late Richard Snyder, the facility's director from 1988 to 2000. Participating in the event were, from left: Elaine Williams, Miller director; Jean Appel, from the University Dames; and Carole Snyder, Richard's wife. The group sponsored the plaque in gratitude for Snyder's assistance in arranging receptions and pre-show talks by touring cast and staff members at many of its theatre parties. The memorial will be hung on the grand tier to commemorate the numerous enjoyable productions Snyder brought to Southwest Michigan. (Photo courtesy of the University Dames)

### Service

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

**40 Years**—Darwin R. Martin, physical plant-maintenance services.

**30 Years**—William D. Cochran, physical plant-utilities; Patricia A. Keck, university budgets; James A. Knight, Dining Services-Valley #2; Lori A. Krum, physics; and Judy A. O'Donnell, Registrar's Office.

**25 Years**—Robin L. McPherson, physical plant-building, custodial and support services.

**20 Years**—Kimberlee S. Hemingway, intercollegiate athletics; Joseph J. Hulsebus, information technology; Robin A. Miller, Dining Services-Davis; Mark A. Mundo, Dining Services-Bernhard Center; Matthew J. Tomczak, information technology; and Selena D. Walker, physical plant-building,

custodial and support services.

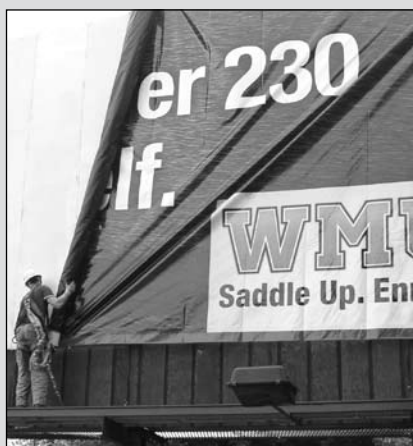
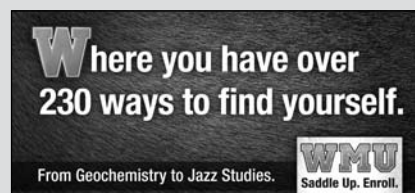
**15 Years**—Cara L. Lieurance, WMUK-FM, and Mary E. Metzler, physical plant-building, custodial and support services.

**10 Years**—Timothy P. Johnson, physical plant-power plant; Rena J. Lynema, Haenicke Institute; and Sarah A. Rasnake, Extended University Programs.

**Five Years**—Victor J. Cekola, physical plant-maintenance services; Deborah Jean Goostrey, College of Health and Human Services; Cindy L. McFarlin, Sindecuse Health Center; Eri Nishiyama, University Libraries; and Linda L. Renauld, cashiering.

## Enrollment push targets 30 billboards around state

WMU has launched an enrollment campaign that was developed during the past year based on information gleaned from hundreds of faculty and staff members, students, alumni and other constituents. The campaign includes billboard, print and radio ads focusing on WMU's strengths, such as the variety and caliber of its academic programs. (Photo by Mike Lanka).



### Exchange

**For sale**—1994 Fairmont manufactured home in Oshtemo. Cheaper than renting. Three bedrooms, two full baths, laundry room, 28 x 56 feet total. Beautiful home in quiet park with low lot fees. Ready to sell now or have buyer take over payments. \$24,397. Call 372-4782.

**For sale**—Home one mile west of main campus. Newly lowered price. Two stories, 1,560 sq. ft., four bedrooms, air conditioning, attached garage, privacy landscaped back yard, solar panel for space heating. One-family owned. \$129,900. Call 375-2569 or e-mail foote@wmich.edu.

**For sale**—(by owner) brick ranch in Westwood at 1344 Bretton Drive. Updated, three bedrooms, oak floors, large open kitchen with dining area, double closets. Ceramic tile in bathroom with whirlpool tub. Basement rec room with bar. Fenced

yard, deck and hot tub. \$135,000. Call Rudy at 344-6296 for appointment.

**For sale**—Beautifully maintained two-story home in Mattawan schools. Three bedrooms, 2.5 baths, main-floor laundry, some hardwood and ceramic. \$174,500. Open this Sunday. Call Chris at 387-3811 or see [www.fsbo.com](http://www.fsbo.com) listing #100857 for photos and details.

**For sale**—Ranch home in Kalamazoo Township at 3515 Glengarry. Four bedrooms, three baths, custom built by retired staff member on .7 acres, one-half of which is wooded. Upper-level deck; lower-level walk-out basement and patio. Call John at 345-0275.

**For sale**—Queen mattress and box spring. Has been used seasonally in a vacation home. \$119.00. Queen frame \$24.00. Call Pat 375-7953 evenings or weekends.

### Human Resources

Open enrollment for health insurance and flexible spending accounts began Oct. 15 and continues until 5 p.m. Oct. 31 for WMU retirees and AAUP, AFSCME, POA and non-bargaining employees.

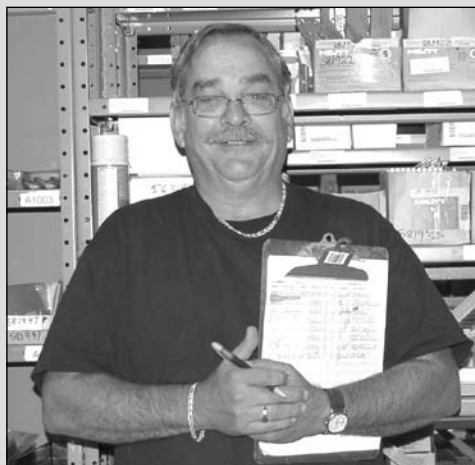
During open enrollment, faculty, employees and retirees have the option of adding eligible dependents to their health insurance as well as enrolling in flexible spending accounts, which offer an opportunity to use tax-free dollars to pay for dependent care expenses or qualified medical expenses not covered by insurance.

Employees who wish to participate in a flexible spending account in 2008 must enroll or re-enroll during open enrollment. New participants and current participants who wish to continue their flexible spending account plans in 2008 must submit an enrollment form to Human Resources by the deadline.

Information about open enrollment was mailed on Oct. 8 to the home addresses of all eligible members of the WMU community. This information also is available on the HR Web site at [www.wmich.edu/hr](http://www.wmich.edu/hr). Open enrollment health insurance elections are effective Jan. 1. The flexible spending accounts form is part of the BASIC Flex enrollment booklet and is available on the HR Web site or may be picked up in 1300 Seibert Administration Building.



# On Campus with Bill Breur



SUPPLY AND DEMAND  
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

Bill Breur is the person WMU's tradespeople go to when they need paint brushes, fuses, fan belts and a host of other items.

Breur, stockroom clerk for the maintenance stores unit in Logistical Services, has been a WMU staff member for more than three decades. During his career, he's served stints as a custodian as well as worked for what is now the receiving, freight and delivery area.

For most of that time, though, he's been affiliated with maintenance stores, which supplies the University's multitude of painters, electricians, carpenters, heating and cooling specialists, mechanics, custodians and related workers.

He's primarily responsible for keeping track of and issuing maintenance supplies, operating the warehouse forklift, and overseeing the dissemination, refilling and safe storage of oxygen and acetylene tanks for welding and cutting.

Another major duty is checking all building keys in and out—a job that requires extensive tracking and record keeping for security reasons. "I do a lot of paper-work and computer work," he says with a wry smile as he flexes his fingers.

"We're moving to a bar code system that will automatically track and download some information, but right now, keeping track of things is mostly a guy with a clipboard."

Breur's longevity in the stockroom may have resulted in hand cramps once in a while, but it's also led to what he likes best about working there.

"I've learned through the years what individual people need or prefer to use," he says. "There's a familiarity, so I know exactly what to get for them. It just makes things go more quickly and efficiently."

But Breur says no amount of institutional knowledge can solve every problem, particularly when companies change brand names or stop making a product.

"I have to keep up with what's going on so I know what parts are interchangeable or can be safely substituted," he notes.

Breur, who has three children and four grandchildren, now lives in Gobles, where he moved so he could have some space. He enjoys camping, traveling and family outings, especially when these excursions include his grandchildren.

## Staff award nominations due soon

Nominations for the fall round of WMU's semiannual Make a Difference awards are due by Oct. 31.

Make a Difference is a campuswide peer-to-peer program that recognizes WMU staff for their outstanding accomplishments and daily investment of energy and creativity. It features semiannual and annual awards that go to non-faculty employees who provide exceptional service to the University.

Each fall and spring, semiannual awards are presented to a maximum of 15 people. Those selected receive a plaque and a \$250 prize, are recognized at a special reception, and are eligible to receive one of four annual awards that carry a \$1,000 prize.

More information and nomination forms are available online year round at [www.wmich.edu/makeadifference](http://www.wmich.edu/makeadifference). Nominations may be submitted through campus mail to Mail Stop Code 5217 or by e-mail to [Make-A-Difference@wmich.edu](mailto:Make-A-Difference@wmich.edu).

## McGurn Distinguished Faculty

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"I know of few people in applied math and theoretical physics who have Art's skills in following all the details of a calculation through to completion. Art just revels in this—it is his profession and hobby," one of his research collaborators wrote.

"Art has always been a wonderful scientific colleague, and I have always benefited from our scientific collaborations...He is a fine scientist and role model..."

## Service award winners

continued from page 1

Her students and colleagues praised her for identifying and nurturing the potential of each student. One colleague wrote that her evaluations by students are near perfect or perfect and she "is a remarkable role model with unequalled professional abilities to teach demanding courses while engendering student learning, mutual respect and admiration."

**Covell**, who directs the Michitoshi Soga Japan Center, served earlier in his career as a research associate and then a translator at the International Christian University in Tokyo. He focuses his research on Japanese studies and ancient Buddhism, and his most recent book is considered a landmark work that has opened a new field of study on contemporary Buddhism.

In nominating him for the Emerging Scholar Award, a colleague from another major U.S. university wrote that "Stephen has already changed the field of Buddhist studies in a significant way by drawing attention to the vitality and importance of contemporary Buddhist practice in Japan...Stephen is one of the most impressive new voices in Japanese religious and Buddhist studies...he is virtually creating a new area of research and focus for the field."

**Fedotov** teaches viola courses and coordinates string chamber music for the University. He also enjoys an established career as a viola artist, and has presented solo recitals throughout the United States and abroad. He has received a Fulbright Scholar grant to lecture and conduct research on Russian composers as well as to record a CD of their works.

Among those who nominated him was a campus colleague who noted that Fedotov already has impacted his discipline to the same degree that many musicians would be happy to have at the end of their careers.

"...He has established himself as one of our brightest among relatively few luminaries on the viola," noted another colleague. "...Professor Fedotov's impressive record of achievement will be extended in the coming years, as he is only now approaching the best of his professional years."

**Huffman** works in the area of metallobiochemistry, and he has published groundbreaking work on the topic of copper ion transfer. He recently received two grants, including the prestigious National Science Foundation CAREER award, to study the cellular acquisition of copper and how it relates to Wilson disease.

A nomination letter from a scientist at another U.S. university noted Huffman's impressive output over the past three years, saying, "papers he published during this amazing period have become landmarks in the field. David is well known all over the world as a leader in the field. Everyone wants to collaborate with him."