



Western NEWS

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For and about WMU faculty and staff

Oct. 12 trustees meeting slated

The WMU Board of Trustees will meet Friday, Oct. 12. Meetings are usually held in 157-159 Bernhard Center. Details about the time and agenda will be posted online at www.wmich.edu/news closer to the meeting day.

WMUK shortens fall pledge drive

The University's public radio service, WMUK-FM, is trying something different during its fall fundraising campaign:



reducing on-air pledge hours by 50 percent during pledge week.

The move is part of the station's fall

2007 "Short Drive" fundraising campaign. WMUK is encouraging listeners to donate prior to the beginning of on-air pledging, which starts at 8 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 13, and has a \$200,000 goal. Donations may be made online at www.wmuk.org or with the pledge packet that came in the mail.

WSA slates open forum with Dunn

The Western Student Association will hold an open forum with President John M. Dunn Tuesday, Oct. 9, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Bernhard Center's West Ballroom. All University students, faculty and staff are welcome to attend.

Berkey to be feted by alma mater

West Virginia University will honor Debra Berkey, health, physical education and recreation, Friday, Oct. 12, in the Erickson Alumni Center. The university will induct



Berkey

Berkey into its School of Physical Education Hall of Fame.

She and the other honorees will be feted at a 6:30 p.m. reception and 7:30 p.m. induction ceremony. To attend, RSVP by Friday, Oct. 5, at kimberly.cameon@mail.wvu.edu or (304) 293-3295, ext. 5251.

Event puts 'home' in Homecoming

The campus community is invited to register to participate in the Parade of Nations Saturday, Oct. 20. The parade features many of WMU's international students from 84 countries carrying flags of their home countries across the football field just before the start of the Homecoming game.

To participate and show support for those international student ambassadors, register with International Services and Student Affairs in person or by calling 387-5872. Participants may attend a free get-acquainted tailgate party prior to the parade.

Dybek named MacArthur Foundation Fellow

Stuart Dybek, an acclaimed short-story writer who has taught at WMU for the past 33 years, was one of 24 Americans named Sept. 25 as the recipient of a coveted John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Fellowship.

Popularly known as "genius awards," MacArthur Fellowships are awarded to nominees selected for their creativity, originality and potential to make important future contributions. Each fellowship comes with \$500,000—no strings attached—designed to provide support for the recipient's work during the next five years.

In outlining the variety of endeavors and caliber of winners of the 2007 awards, a MacArthur Foundation news release describes Dybek as "a short story writer borrowing from the Old World yet emerging

from the New World to feed the imagination of contemporary Americans."

Dybek, who retired from full-time teaching at WMU earlier this year, is a Distinguished Writer in Residence at Northwestern University. He remains closely connected to WMU as an adjunct faculty member, and he teaches in the University's renowned Prague Summer Program.

Reached in Chicago shortly after learning of the honor, Dybek said he had no inkling he

might receive it before being contacted by a MacArthur Foundation representative.

"I took the call on my cell phone and checked the number to see if it was a friend who was playing a practical joke," he said.

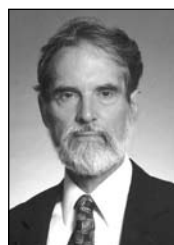
Dybek added that, like all writers, his challenge is finding time to write, and he will



Dybek

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Benson, Pennock to receive Distinguished Service Award



Benson

John Benson, a long-time Spanish language professor, and Rob Pennock, associate director of Miller Auditorium, are this year's recipients of WMU's Distinguished Service Awards.



Pennock

They join a list of 41 faculty and staff members who have received the accolade since it was established in 1980. The pair will receive a plaque and \$1,500 honorarium as well as be among those honored later this month at the University's annual Academic Convocation.

Benson, a member of the faculty since 1974, first served as chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and then the Department of Spanish for a total of 13 years. He was cited for his service to students, fairness, ability to mentor new faculty members, and the creation of study abroad programs that provide "life-changing" experiences for U.S. students and opportunity for students in other nations.

Several current faculty members writing in support of his nomination said that they had

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Academic Convocation set

WMU will hold its 2007 Academic Convocation at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 25, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall.

The event will feature WMU President John M. Dunn's first State of the University address as well as the presentation of a number of campuswide awards.

Slated to be honored are this year's recipients of WMU's Distinguished Faculty Scholar, Emerging Scholar, Distinguished Teaching and Distinguished Service awards.

Distinguished Alumni Award winners announced for 2007

The Alumni Association has selected a veteran broadcaster, prominent businessman and top executive to receive its most prestigious honor, the Distinguished Alumni Award.

The 2007 award recipients are Jim Hickey, national correspondent for the ABC Radio Network; Jim McKinley, president and founder of McKinley Financial Services based in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; and Dennis Nally, chairman and senior partner of the U.S. firm of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.



Hickey



McKinley



Nally

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Around Campus

Song opens Faculty Artist Series

WMU opens its 2007-08 Faculty Artist Series with a night of solo, duo and ensemble performances by faculty members of the School of Music's voice area. The performance will showcase Monica Griffin, Alice Pierce, James Bass, Ken Prewitt and Carl Ratner. Resident artist Yu-Lien will accompany on the piano.

The concert will begin at 8:15 p.m. Friday, Oct. 5, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. All seating is general admission. Tickets are \$10 and \$5 for students and senior citizens. They may be purchased at the door or in advance through the Miller Auditorium Ticket Office.

Orchestra to welcome Dunns

The University Symphony Orchestra will open its 2007-08 season with a free public concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 7, in Miller Auditorium.

"From Russia with Love" will welcome WMU's new president and first lady, John M. and Linda Dunn, and formally introduce them to the University's internationally recognized School of Music. The event will feature three popular symphonic works, all by Russian composers.

Vaccines focus of speaker series

The 2007 Vaccinology Seminar Series taking place through Dec. 3 is examining the development of vaccines, the ethics of vaccine clinical trials and future research.

The free lectures, co-sponsored by WMU and pharmaceutical manufacturer Pfizer, are being held weekly from 1:30 to 3:50 p.m. in the Fetzer Center.

The Oct. 8 lecture is titled "HIV-1 Vaccine Using Our Studies on Mice, Monkeys and Some New Human Data" while the Oct. 15 presentation is titled "Parasite Vaccines." Pfizer is encouraging its local employees to attend and has linked the sessions via the Web to 10 Pfizer sites around the globe.

Evaluation series continuing

The Evaluation Center's 2007-08 weekly Evaluation Café discussions are under way and taking place from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesdays in 4405 Ellsworth.

Next up will be "Making the Most of Your Thesis or Dissertation: Publication Strategies for Graduate Students and Recent Graduates in Evaluation and the Social Sciences" Oct. 9 and "Evaluating the Kalamazoo Promise" Oct. 16.

Emeritus discusses Iran research

The fall Wednesdays II informal talks for WMU emeriti and friends are taking place from 2 to 3:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month in the Emeriti Lounge in Walwood.

In this month's Oct. 10 program, "Documenting 40 Years of Change in Rural Iran," Reinhold Loeffler will talk about his and his wife Erika's long-term research projects. The two are emeriti in anthropology.

Documentary keeps Borish busy

Linda Borish, history and women's and gender studies, has been traveling overseas and across the nation to present and show her film "Jewish Women in American Sport: Settlement Houses to the Olympics."



Borish

Borish served as executive producer and historian for the documentary, which was directed and produced by award-winning, Chicago-based filmmaker Shuli Eshel.

Another presentation and screening is set for Sunday, Oct. 14, at the Sen. John Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh and the Rauh Jewish Archives. The film also has been selected for upcoming film festivals, including the Jewish Eye-World Jewish Film Festival Nov. 14 to 22 in Beer Sheva, Israel; Palm Desert Jewish Film Festival, also in November; and International Jewish Film Festival in Hawaii in February.

Film features Angles commentary

Jeffrey Angles, foreign languages, is featured in the audio commentary of the digital release of a classic Japanese movie that is part of a prestigious collection of



Angles

new releases of classic international films.

Angles provides the voice-over commentary to the Criterion Collection's release of Kenji Mizoguchi's film "Sansho the Bailiff," a moving tale of a mother separated from her children and sold into slavery in medieval Japan. His commentary is featured throughout the more than two-hour film, a feat that required an enormous amount of preparation. He also contributed to an 80-page booklet included in the box set with the film.

Angles, head of the Japanese program and associate director of the Michitoshi Soga Japan Center, was picked for the project after producers heard him on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered" in 2006 talking about a book he co-edited.

Targowski heads national group

Andrew Targowski, business information systems, was elected in June to a three-year term as president of the International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations.



Targowski

ISCSC members are academics and independent scholars interested in the history of world cultures and related global issues. The society is affiliated with comparative studies programs worldwide and believes complex, civilization-related problems need diverse, multidisciplinary analyses.

It fosters internationalism through annual meetings and publications. In 2009, WMU will host the World Congress on "One More Chance for Civilization," which is being organized by the ISCSC and WMU's Haenicke Institute for Global Education.

Distinguished Faculty Scholar nominations due in January

The Distinguished Faculty Scholar Committee is seeking nominations for the 2007-08 Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award. The deadline for nominations is Saturday, Jan. 26.

Up to three awards may be made each year. Those selected will be honored in several ways, as well as receive a \$2,000 honorarium that becomes part of their base salaries.

The DFS awards are based on outstanding professional achievements. Wide recognition beyond WMU is essential. Eligibility criteria and nomination details and forms are available at www.wmich.edu/research/distinguished.html. For more information, contact Ernst A. Breisach, history, at ebreisach@sbcbglobal.net or 344-1734.

Holiday parade help sought

WMU needs help to enter a float in the Kalamazoo Holiday Parade Saturday, Nov. 3. Volunteers are needed to decorate the float and walk in the parade.

Gifts also are needed, especially WMU souvenirs and small, individually wrapped candy that can be handed out. To volunteer or make a contribution, contact Carrie Soule at carrie.soule@wmich.edu or 387-6005.

Correction

It was incorrectly reported in the Sept. 20 *Western News* that Valerie Ott has resigned. Ott has transferred to political science, where she serves as office coordinator.

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 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.



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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

New tool helps WMU students track their degree progress

Undergraduate students now have a powerful tool to track their academic progress toward graduation.

The Progress to Degree system enables students and advisors to generate electronic reports that evaluate a student's academic history against the requirements of a selected undergraduate degree program.

"Students can choose to run an evaluation for their chosen major or for another major or minor," says Registrar Barbara McKinney. "They can run a limitless number of what-if possibilities, and the results are generated almost instantaneously.

"Progress to Degree, which has been in development since 2006, is not a response to WMU's new Western Edge commitment to eligible students, but it will be a valuable aid in fulfilling the Western Edge goal of meeting graduation requirements on schedule."

Students can access the tool in GoWMU, the University's secure intranet portal, under Progress to Degree. The new tool will support the advising process, reducing time spent on record keeping and increasing time spent on planning. To maximize the effectiveness of advising appointment time, students are encouraged to run a Progress to Degree analysis and review the results before meeting with an academic advisor.

"Progress to Degree is a resource to aide, but not replace, academic advising or the graduation audit process," says McKinney. "All students must still file for an audit to apply for graduation. All degree requirements will be verified by graduation auditors, and students will be notified of the results."

Progress to Degree is available for undergraduate students who entered WMU since fall 2004, for whom academic records and applicable degree requirements are available in the system. The tool is expected to be available for graduate students in 2008.



IMPROVING EFFICIENCY, SAVING COSTS—Bill Feenstra, left, College of Aviation, and Steve Betzer, with the Grand Rapids Flight Standards District Office, took part in a signing ceremony Sept. 28 establishing the first certified limited Repair Station at the college. The event culminated more than 18 months of collaborative effort to develop the repair, inspection and training procedures required for the certification, which authorizes the college to conduct certain maintenance procedures on aircraft avionics equipment. (Photo courtesy of the College of Aviation)

University launches this year's United Way campaign; schedules campus rally for Oct. 17

WMU officially kicked off its 2007 United Way campus campaign Oct. 1 with a goal of \$215,000.

The funds will support the Greater Kalamazoo United Way's \$11.1 million overall target. The campus community is encouraged to step up again this year to make a positive difference in Kalamazoo County.

"This is an organization that is truly committed to Kalamazoo," says Vice President Emeritus Bob Beam, chair of the campus campaign. "Its agency partners work tirelessly to better the lives of people right here in our community—our neighbors, friends, coworkers and sometimes our own family members."

President John M. Dunn and campaign committee members will host a WMU United Way Rally to thank everyone who has already given and provide more information for those interested in giving. The "7th Inning Stretch" will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 17, in the Bernhard Center Ballroom.

Faculty and staff members have contributed \$32,403 through Sept. 28 in pre-kickoff gifts and pledges. This amount represents 15 percent of the campus goal and is the product of 196 of the 2,696 employees who received pledge cards this year.

"We still have a long way to go," Beam says, "but we're thrilled to see such great response and generous giving this early in the game."

For additional or replacement pledge cards or more information, contact campaign Vice Chair Sue Caulfield at sue.caulfield@wmich.edu or 387-4307.

We definitely have power now, so 'Beam' me up

WMU will formally name its power plant after Robert M. Beam during a brief public ceremony at 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 12.

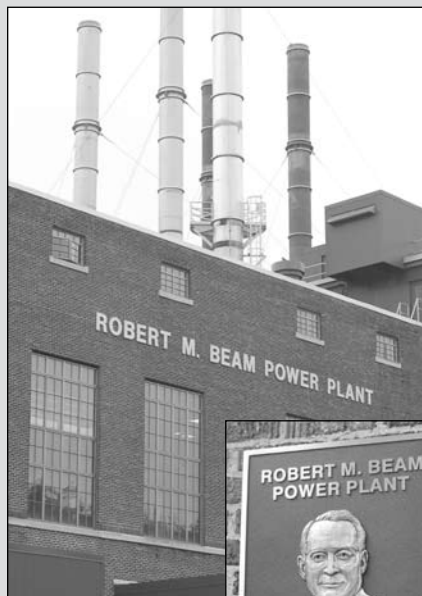
A reception will immediately follow in 4010 College of Health and Human Services Building.

Beam headed the University's business and physical plant operations for some 21 years. He retired in June, after 42 years of service to the University.

The decision to name the power plant in his honor was announced at a retirement event held during his final days at WMU.

Beam is credited with being a key player in modernizing and upgrading the power plant after the University acquired it in 1994 from the state-owned Kalamazoo Psychiatric Hospital.

The naming ceremony will take place at the power plant, which is located off Stadium Drive between Oliver and Howard streets. Those wishing to attend the event may enter the grounds using the plant drive directly off Stadium just past Oliver. (Photos by Cheryl P. Roland)



Pros talk turkey to students

Some 100 students will be displaying their good taste by attending the 10th annual Etiquette Dinner from 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 18, in the Fetzer Center. It imparts bread and butter information about proper business etiquette in mealtime situations.

Students must register to attend the dinner, which costs \$10 and is open to juniors, seniors and graduate students. Seating is limited. To register, call Career and Student Employment Services at 387-2745 or visit its office in Ellsworth.

Exchange

For sale—House on Lorraine Avenue in Winchell neighborhood, between Parkview and main campuses. Three bedrooms, one bath, fenced back yard, screened back porch. New roof and interior and exterior paint. \$109,900, home warranty offered. MLS #2709646. Must see at www.jarlbreyhomes.com. Call Jarl Brey at 585-5800.

For sale—House in Portage. Fenced rear yard, mature trees, walking distance to schools. Four bedrooms with large master, one-1/2 baths, hardwood floors throughout, living room, formal dining

room, wood-burning fireplace. Kitchen includes all appliances. Vinyl siding, roof and electrical system all updated. MLS# 2735767. Visit www.pprmi.com/listing.htm?mls=SWMRICRETS_2735767 or call real estate agent Janice Carpenter at 271-0952.

For sale—Mini Labradoodle puppies, eight weeks old, five female/three male, cream/tan/white. Low to no shedding, allergy friendly. First shots and deworming done. Ready to go. \$700. Call Jeannie at 491-7760.

For sale—2001 Buick Park Avenue. Fully equipped. High mileage, but in good shape, being sold through personal mechanic. \$5,500. Call Ron at 345-7690.

For sale—Furniture. Thomasville formal sofa, light neutral colors. \$200. Stanley dining table, pecan, 42 square expands to 72 inches with two leaves. Six chairs (two arm/four sides), neutral-colored cushions plus six new, extra cream-colored cushions. Matching server and table pads. \$500 total dining room package. Can e-mail photos. Call 375-2577.

On Campus with Shirley Vernia



CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

Thousands of students have transferred to WMU over the years, and many of them have touched base with Shirley Vernia along the way.

Vernia, a credit evaluator in the Office of Admissions, works with academic departments across campus to determine what courses taken at other schools will transfer to WMU.

"Sometimes I get questions about credit cards," she jokes. "That was especially true when Western first came out with the Bronco Card."

In reality, her duties include collecting transcripts from transfer students, logging the information into the University's student information system, and compiling individual reports on whether and how the students' course work will count once they enroll here. In addition, Vernia fields calls from students across the country who are contemplating taking a class elsewhere and want to know whether it will transfer to WMU.

"The biggest challenge is getting everyone's credit evaluation done when they need it," she says. "A lot of things hinge on the evaluation, such as when you'll get your financial aid, when you can register for classes and whether you need to take a prerequisite class."

Vernia, a former cosmetologist, joined the admissions office staff in 1982. She began as an application processor, then moved to the credit evaluation area, or academic auditing, as it used to be called.

"I've been here 25 years and I've been in this office from Day 1. I've never found a job I liked better," she says. "I like the people here and the students. And I enjoy helping people out. It's really a good feeling when you get students what they need or can tell them they're admitted."

In her spare time, Vernia enjoys reading, watching TV and doing a variety of craft projects. She also collects teapots and salt and pepper shakers at home. Back at the office, though, she keeps her collection of bats, Dracula figures and other Halloween items.

Vernia and her husband Duane, who worked for a time in the WMU Barber Shop, live in Kalamazoo. They have three daughters and 10 grandchildren.

Dybek honored

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use the MacArthur award to tackle projects he has had planned for some time.

"The vast majority of writers cannot support themselves with writing alone," he notes. "Everyone has two jobs...As banal as it sounds, I'll use this award to buy time and spend it on projects I've wanted to pursue."

MacArthur Fellows are selected by anonymous members of a 12-person selection committee who delve deeply into the work of nominees who demonstrate exceptional creativity and promise.

Other recipients of this year's fellowships include a biomedical scientist, a blues musician, a forensic anthropologist, an inventor, a medieval historian and a spider silk biologist.

"As a group, this new class of fellows takes one's breath away," says Daniel J. Socolow, director of the MacArthur Fellows Program. "As individuals, each is an original..."

Distinguished Alumni winners

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The three will be recognized at a reception and dinner starting at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 19, in the Bernhard Center's East Ballroom. Hickey and McKinley will be in attendance. Nally will be honored in absentia. The reservation deadline is Friday, Oct. 12.

To make a reservation, visit www.wmich.edu/alumni and click on "Events" or call the Alumni Association at 387-8777.

Service award winners

continued from page 1

joined the WMU faculty because of Benson.

"John taught us to become dedicated educators, scholars and leaders through his encouragement, patience, trust and foremost, his passion and enthusiasm for our profession," one such faculty member wrote. "He set expectations high and inspired us to meet them by his own example."

Also mentioned by nominees were Benson's legendary advocacy for all graduate students, special generosity toward international students and channeling of his passion for world travel into creating first-rate study abroad experiences for WMU students.

Pennock, who had a career as a financial officer with a number of private-sector firms, came to the University in 1997 as Miller Auditorium's business manager. He left to serve in the same role in WMU's College of Aviation, but returned in 2004 as associate director.

Nominators lauded Pennock for his ability to "do it all," from assisting other units in his division with his business acumen to serving as an advisor to student groups and a mentor to individual students.

"He faces every challenge with enthusiasm and believes there is nothing that can't be solved with a little ingenuity, team work and a dose of humor," wrote one colleague. "...His dedication to the University and the offices he works for is unmatched."

Other colleagues praised Pennock for his role in helping Miller meet success as it takes on more and more complex programming and scheduling challenges.

Campus members kick up their heels for Homecoming

The University will be treating the campus community to a week of exciting activities during its 2007 Homecoming celebration Monday through Sunday, Oct. 15-21.



The high point of the celebration will be the Homecoming football game Oct. 20.

Among the many activities open to the public during the week-long festivities will be a 5K and 1K run/walk; the student-sponsored Skit Night, Western Games and Soap Box Derby; the Alumni Association PepFest; and the National Pan-Hellenic Council March Down.

For more information about Homecoming activities, including cost and registration details, visit www.wmich.edu/homecoming and click on the links for "Student Events," "Alumni Events" and "Campus Events."