



Western NEWS

SEPTEMBER 6, 2007
volume 34, number 1

For and about WMU faculty and staff

Award nominations sought

The nomination deadlines for three major University awards are rapidly approaching. Nominations are due Friday, Sept. 7, for the Distinguished Service Award and Friday, Sept. 14, for the Distinguished Teaching and Emerging Scholar awards.

Visit www.wmich.edu/provost/announcements for nomination criteria and procedures. The awards will be presented during an October academic convocation, at which President John M. Dunn will deliver his first State of the University address.

WMU remains top-100 school



For the ninth consecutive year, WMU has been included on U.S. News & World Report's list of the nation's top-100 public universities.

The 2008 list is part of the magazine's issue that was released online Aug. 17. The print version of the magazine and an annual "Best Colleges" guidebook with complete listing details hit newsstands Aug. 20. The magazine's annual list groups colleges and universities into categories, starting with "Best National Universities," the list on which WMU appears.

That Best National Universities category is the marquee listing in the U.S. News ranking. The 262 universities in this category are divided into four tiers. WMU is one of only four public universities in the state to be included among the top three tiers.

Campus reception set for Dunns

The University community is invited to a reception for President John M. Dunn and first lady Linda Dunn from 9 to 11 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 13, on the grounds of the Oaklands. In case of inclement weather, the reception will take place in the Bernhard Center's East Ballroom. Supervisors are encouraged to arrange schedules so that everyone wishing to attend the event may do so. Dunn began his tenure as WMU's eighth chief administrator July 1.

Sept. 14 trustees meeting slated

The WMU Board of Trustees will meet Friday, Sept. 14. 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.

Hybrid autos needed for research

A WMU research team needs to borrow hybrid vehicles, with or without their owners as drivers, for studies involving the detection of hybrid vehicles by pedestrians who rely on hearing rather than vision. For more information or to volunteer your vehicle, contact Robert Wall-Emerson at robert.wall@wmich.edu or 387-3072.

Key administrative appointments announced

Three WMU administrators have been named to fill key University positions.

The appointments are of **Bassam Harik** as interim provost and vice president for academic affairs, **James Gilchrist** as vice provost for academic operations and chief information officer, and **David M. Powell** as interim dean of the College of Aviation.

All of the appointments are effective immediately and pending approval by the WMU board of Trustees.

Harik replaces Janet I. Pisaneschi, who retired at the end of June. He will serve as the chief academic officer for WMU while the University conducts a nationwide search for a new provost. A member of the economics faculty since 1979, he has been serving as vice provost for budget and personnel.

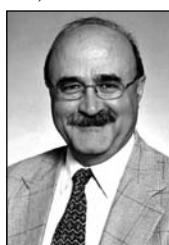
Gilchrist replaces Viji Murali, vice

president for information technology and CIO, who left WMU earlier this month to accept a new position at Washington State University. A member of the communication faculty since 1980, he is serving as vice provost for academic operations and will retain this position in addition to overseeing

the University's information technology services.

Powell replaces Rick Maloney, who left WMU last month to become president

and chief executive officer of Pentastar Aviation, based in Waterford, Mich. He will serve as interim dean of the aviation college while the University conducts a nationwide search for a new dean. A member of the college's administration since 2003, he has been serving as associate dean and managing director of operations.



Harik



Gilchrist



Powell

A letter from President Dunn

Dear Colleagues:

We are truly at the beginning of what will be a tremendous year of accomplishment for Western Michigan University. With just a few days of the fall semester behind us, all the signs point to success this year—success for our students and success in every facet of university life.

Many of you have worked hard to make the launch of the 2007-08 academic year truly one to remember. You have my thanks and admiration. We've been hearing from parents and new students who are delighted with their chosen university and who are expressing their appreciation for the level of service and commitment they've experienced in every interaction with the campus community. That's the type of personal service for which we want WMU to be known. Thank you for what you've done and continue to do for our students and our University.

Some of you were away from the campus for the summer traveling, writing and conducting research. I've had two months now to meet many members of the campus community, but I have been eagerly awaiting your return and the opportunity to meet you. Please don't hesitate to simply walk up and introduce yourself when you see Linda and me in the community or on campus. I deeply appreciate the warm welcome we've received so far, and I plan to quickly get to know as many of you as I can.

If you've been following the news over the summer, you know we have some challenges ahead of us. But if you followed the news, you also know we've taken some steps that will have a significant impact on the campus this year. We've developed a graduation compact and incentive program called the **Western Edge**, designed to both challenge our students and inspire us to help them succeed. We've set the bar high with this initiative, but I believe we have what it takes to make this work. We also kept our tuition increase at the lowest level of any of Michigan's public universities, and that should help us maintain access to this great University.

Our students, meanwhile, have been busy over the summer attracting attention nationally in ways that can only benefit WMU. Our engineering students brought home a national championship by designing a hydraulic bike for Parker Hannifin's annual Chainless Challenge. They competed successfully against some of the country's top engineering schools. Another student group, a team of supply management undergraduates, nailed down a third-place finish against graduate students from across the United States and Canada in a virtual marketplace competition.

continued on page 4



Around Campus

Fall semester under way

The University's temporary One Stop Convenience Center will be open through Friday, Sept. 7, so students can tie up loose ends and take care of last minute business associated with the start of school. One Stop is located on the second floor of the Bernhard Center and will be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. today and from 9 a.m. to noon tomorrow.

WMU will observe the start of the new academic year by staging two huge annual events. First up will be the informational and entertaining 27th annual Bronco Bash from 3 to 8 p.m. Friday



on the West Campus Promenade from Haenicke Hall to the Campus Flagpoles. The CommUniverCity Night football game, which celebrates the first home game, pits WMU against Indiana University and will take place at 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 8, in Waldo Stadium.

Research funding focus of event

Wil Emmert, Office of the Vice President for Research, will discuss how faculty members can use the Community of Science database to locate potential funding sources from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 12, in 1093 College of Health and Human Services building. RSVP to wil.emmert@wmich.edu.

Workshops slated on hearing loss

A series of workshops aimed at better hearing is being offered beginning Tuesday, Sept. 18, by the Van Riper Language, Speech and Hearing Clinic. Both morning and evening sessions are available. For more information, call 387-8047 or 387-8062.

Study Abroad Fair scheduled

Campus and community members are invited to "Explore the World" by attending the 2007 Study Abroad Fair from 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 19, in the Bernhard Center's South Ballroom. The event is being sponsored by the Haenicke Institute for Global Education.

Podcasts to be part of Broncos' weekly football show

The "Bronco Review" football show will kick off its 2007-08 season Thursday, Sept. 6, with a preview of the home opener against Big Ten school Indiana University, coach Bill Cubit's take on the game against the nationally ranked West Virginia Mountaineers, and a short segment on strength and conditioning.

"Bronco Review" is a weekly TV program now entering its fifth season that gives WMU football wide recognition and Bronco fans a glimpse into the team's inner workings. It is hosted by Robin Hook, intercollegiate athletics and "the voice of the Broncos," and produced on campus by WMU Media Production IT under the direction of Stephen Kettner, information technology.

This year, the 30-minute show will be available to the public for the first time as a podcast, allowing fans to access recorded

programs over the Internet and download them for playback on an iPod, MP3 player, mobile device or personal computer.

"Bronco Review" will air twice a week, at 7:30 p.m. Thursday and 10:30 a.m. Saturday, during the week following each game day. Locally, it is carried on Channel 5 of the Charter Communication cable system and Channel 2 of the Comcast Digital Cable system.

Podcasts will be available at itunes.wmich.edu the Friday after game days. The program also will be shown at Waldo Stadium an hour before the start of every home game.

Jobs

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. Applications must be submitted online by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included with each posting.

Exchange

Service offered—Will house sit or dog sit. Call Maria at 998-1349.

For Sale—Staff-owned lakefront ranch, north side of Atwater Pond, Texas Township. Three bedrooms, four baths, geothermal heating. Custom design maximizes advantage of 215-foot lot with walkout basement and southern exposure. On no-wake lake, excellent fishing. MLS#2728638. Call Peg Kolaja at 381-7653 ext. 152.

For Sale—Mobile home near WMU. Housing for student/family, excellent condition, two bedrooms, air conditioning, all custom blinds, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, garbage disposal, washer, dryer, 10-1/2 x 16 foot deck, two sheds. \$13,000. Call 375-3328 for appointment.

American Theatre touts WMU's innovative use of technology

Kevin Abbott, information technology, was quoted in the September issue of *American Theatre* magazine regarding WMU's innovative use of digital technology in its production of "Doctor Faustus" this past spring.

American Theatre rarely focuses on theatre in higher education. In addition, Abbott wrote a six-page feature about the staging of "Doctor Faustus" that ran in the August issue of *Live Design's TQ*.

Interactive technology in "Doctor Faustus" was made possible by a WMU Digital Media in the Performing Arts Innovation Grant. Abbott, project director, along with a team of collaborators, worked with performing arts students and faculty members to apply high-cost, high-tech digital media to the production.

Music faculty record new CD

Music faculty members Renata Artman Knific, violin, and Lori Sims, piano, released a new CD earlier this year. The recording,



Knific



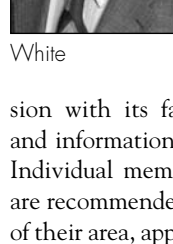
Sims

released on the MSR Classics label, is a compilation of sonatas for violin and piano by William Bolcom and is appropriately titled "William Bolcom Works for Violin and Piano."

On the liner notes, Bolcom states, "The vibrant team of Renata Knific and Lori Sims play these violin sonatas with rare fervor and drama. I first heard them in a shattering performance of the third sonata; they have evinced the same intensity in their readings of the other three, and I thank them profoundly for this recording."

Commission gains mathematician

Arthur T. White, mathematics, has been appointed to a two-year term on the Michigan State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. The state advisory committees are composed of citizens familiar with local and state civil rights issues.



White

The members serve without compensation and assist the commission with its fact-finding, investigative and information dissemination functions. Individual members of these committees are recommended by the regional director of their area, approved by the staff director and voted upon at a regular meeting of the commissioners.

White came to WMU in 1969 and specializes in topological graph theory. He was Kalamazoo County coordinator for the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative, which passed last year and bans discrimination as well as affirmative action programs based on race, gender, color, ethnicity or national origin.



volume 34
number 1

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

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

WESTERN NEWS (USPS 362-210) is published by the Office of University Relations, Walwood Hall, Western Michigan University, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5433, every other week during the fall and spring semesters and Summer I session. Periodicals postage paid at Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5165.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Western News*, Office of University Relations, Western Michigan University, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5433.

DEADLINE: Items to be considered for publication should be submitted to the Office of University Relations by 5 p.m. Friday the week preceding publication. Summer I Session and Summer II Session publication dates are May 10, May 24, June 7 and June 21. Items may be submitted by mail, fax (387-8422) or e-mail (cheryl.roland@wmich.edu).

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



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Advocacy office fills important need for transfers, deployed military

WMU's transfer students and military students and personnel now have a resource committed to assuring smooth transitions when transferring from community colleges or departing or returning from military deployment.

The Advocacy Office for Transfer Students and Military Affairs was created in June by Interim President Diether H. Haenicke and has been endorsed by President John M. Dunn. The new unit serves as a liaison between WMU and community colleges around the state to make transitioning to WMU as easy as possible.

Students should always begin with the standard transfer process, which works well

for most. But when the occasional complications arise, students and staff members may use the advocacy office as a resource to quickly overcome barriers.

"We're prepared to assist when irresolvable issues occur or military entry or exit problems crop up," says Gerry Schma, one of the office's university advocates. "We exist as an additional service, not to replace but to support the usual procedures. Our office is a safety net designed to assure that each student receives the special service needed when unusual circumstances arise."

Besides assisting individual students, the advocacy office works closely with the presidents of community colleges to deter-

mine ways to better ease the transition from community college to WMU. This includes examining current practices and policies that negatively impact student success or satisfaction and developing workable solutions. Similarly, it recommends procedures and policies that meet the special needs of deployed students, faculty and staff.

The office is composed of Schma, university advocate Steve Miller and office associate Eric McConnell. It is located in 217 Bernhard Center and open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. To contact the office, send e-mail to advocacy-office@wmich.edu, visit www.wmich.edu/advocacy or call 387-0740.

Plagiarism detection tool available online

All WMU faculty and administrators now have free access to Turnitin, an online plagiarism detection tool.

The Web-based software allows students or instructors to upload papers and have Turnitin analyze them and issue a report highlighting phrases that may have been taken from sources it recognizes.

Anyone wanting to learn more about Turnitin may view the online educational videos at www.turnitin.com. WMU faculty members may ask for their own user name and password for their classes.

A site license for Turnitin has been purchased by the Office of the Provost with the support of Academic Technology and Instructional Services to foster academic honesty and help reduce plagiarism.

For more information, visit <http://atis.wmich.edu/turnitin.html> or contact Brian Carnell at brian.carnell@wmich.edu or 387-4137.

Campus community members link up for golf outing

Some 60 faculty, staff and student golfers as well as volunteers turned out for the Aug. 17 golf outing sponsored by Academic Technology and Instructional Services and the Administrative Professional Association.

"The reason why we did this came from the SimpsonScarborough report, which basically said that students feel like there is a sense of community here but some faculty and staff don't," says ATIS employee Kirk Sundling, a member of the event's organizing committee. "ATIS felt the need to change that and partnered with the APA to bring people together and build community."

Taking first place in the nine-hole scramble with a score of 31 was the team of Ed Kluk and Arnold Taylor, information technology; Tim Koryczan, friend of WMU; and Jen Doyle, student. On the second-place team was Andrew Huang, ATIS; Dave Longjohn, Extended University Programs; Jim Murray, Medieval Institute; and Dominic Nicolai, College of Aviation.

Several other awards also were presented during the outing. The awards and award recipients were: closest to pin—Paul Ciccantell, sociology; longest drive for women—Michele McLaughlin, registrar's office; longest drive for men—Koryczan; shortest drive—Sue Caulfield, provost's office; and most spirited—Cat Fuller, Haenicke Institute, and Mike Hahn, WMUK.

Photos from the event are posted online at <http://atis.wmich.edu/golf>.



Kluk, Taylor, Koryczan and Doyle (Photo by Angela Miller)

WMU researchers among West Michigan's top innovators

Business Review Western Michigan has cited Margaret Joyce, paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging, and William Liou, mechanical and aeronautical engineering, for being leading innovators in the region.

The two are among the 35 individuals and organizations the business publication named as finalists for its 2007 Innovation Michigan Awards. The awards program recognizes the development or use of innovative products and services in West Michigan.

Joyce was recognized along with her project team for assembling a group of

industry professionals and faculty members to develop technology that directly prints antennae and integrated circuits on paper and board to form radio frequency identification—RFID—tags. She came to WMU in 1996 and directs the University's Center for Coating Development.

Liou, who came to WMU in 1996, was recognized for conceiving the Center for Advanced Vehicle Design and Simulation, or CAViDS, which he directs. The research consortium provides breakthrough applied computer simulation technology and knowledge to the auto industry, particularly in the areas of vehicle design and analysis.

CAS seeking one-day volunteers

The College of Arts and Sciences needs faculty, staff and alumni to talk with students about their jobs during Major Excitement II.

The event, which will take place from 1 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 20, highlights WMU's many academic offerings and helps undecided students select a major.

To volunteer, contact Cheri Bales at cheri.bales@wmich.edu or 387-4578.

Obituaries

Several WMU community members passed away during July and August, including **Robert L. Erickson**, emeritus in speech pathology. Erickson will be honored during a memorial service at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 15, in the First United Methodist Church, 212 S. Park St, Kalamazoo.

Visit www.wmich.edu/wmu/news for obits on Erickson; **Robert L. Betz**, counselor education and counseling psychology; **John A. Buelke**, teacher education; **Suzanne "Sue" Husband**, Regional History Collections; **Leonard V. Meretta**, music; **Dorinne L. McKeag**, counseling and testing center; **Stefan Sarenus**, University Libraries; **Helen E. Skinner**, Dining Services; **Charles E. Stroup**, student affairs; and **Adeline Thorpe**, physical plant-building, custodial and support services.



BEST OF THE BEST—The 2007 winners of WMU's annual Make a Difference award were honored at a July 27 luncheon attended by President John M. Dunn, left, and Vice President Lowell Rinker, right. The honorees are, center from left: Luann Bigelow, accountancy; Margaret Springer, College of Health and Human Services; Laura Ciccantell, Student Support Program; and Frances Buell, physical plant/landscape services. (Photo courtesy of Human Resources)

On Campus with Barbara Banks



EXTREME SERVICE
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

By Monday, Aug. 27, business was booming for the manager of the Bronco Express Service Team office in the Bernhard Center.

Barbara Banks and her eight full-time and seven temporary staff members handled more than 2,200 phone calls on Monday and Tuesday alone, while dozens of students had already stopped in.

Bronco Express opened in November 2006 and handles a variety of account-related business for students in one convenient place.

"We maintain close ties with financial aid and scholarships, cashiering and accounts receivable and occasionally work with the registrar," Banks says. "We're sort of a one-stop center that handles walk-in traffic and operates a phone center year round."

Banks came to WMU last December to manage Bronco Express. She had been at the University of Michigan-Flint, where she was associate director of financial aid for seven years and split her time between processing financial aid forms and providing customer service.

"Now I focus on customer service. UM-Flint was more of a commuter school. Here, there's a lot of students on campus and more interaction with them and their parents," she says. "My biggest challenge has been getting used to the way WMU does things, but the transition has been quite smooth."

Easing the transition was Mark Delorey, who Banks used to work for before he became WMU's director of financial aid and scholarships, and Shanta James, a Bronco Express staff member who has been serving as co-chair with Banks on the Early Awareness Multicultural Outreach Committee of the Michigan Student Financial Aid Association.

"The best part has been already having connections here," Banks says. "I also have a wonderful staff. I like their gusto—their positive attitude. We really work as a team, and there's a lot of communication and friendships."

Banks lives in Portage and enjoys traveling, gardening and bicycling. She has two daughters, Bianca, a freshman at WMU this year, and Monica, who attends Mott College.

Students first initiative puts classrooms high on repair list

Instructors now have one place to go for assistance with all classroom facility problems, including maintenance emergencies, locked rooms and difficulties with classroom technology.



Bronco Fix-It, Western Michigan University's online maintenance service request system, began making classrooms a priority this summer. Bronco Fix-It for Classrooms expands on an initiative introduced in January that provides same-day response to non-emergency maintenance requests regarding residence halls and campus apartments.

Peter Strazdas, maintenance services, says making residence areas and classrooms top priorities is a way of putting students first, although it lowers the priority for general University buildings.

As part of the renewed emphasis on classrooms, a four-person student team spent the Summer I Session assessing WMU's 489 classrooms, then issued 400 work orders—which were completed by the start of the fall semester.

Armed with the data the students obtained, Vice President Lowell Rinker says the University will be setting aside money so classrooms can be maintained on a regular schedule.

Google Earth contest motivates students to 'rebuild' WMU

Seven WMU students are putting WMU on the map—literally.

The group answered an invitation by the Internet giant Google to participate in its Build Your Campus in 3-D Competition.

Its submission placed among the top 30 received out of some 350 entries and consequently, is being added to Google Earth.

The fruits of the students' work will be showcased during WMU's Friday, Sept. 14, Board of Trustees meeting. Once the students complete the arduous task of creating digitized 3-D models of each campus building, plans call for developing virtual fly-by

tours as well as other new and innovative 3-D content.

To view WMU's models, go to <http://sketchup.google.com/3dwarehouse> and type WMU's name in the search box.



Image of Waldo Stadium from 3-D 'fly-by' (Photo courtesy of physical plant-maintenance services)

President's Dunn's letter _____ continued from page 1

These are just a few items to add to the many "points of pride" that can be used to describe WMU. We all need to share such information with those we encounter. I intend to emphasize loudly and clearly the successes of our students, faculty, staff and alumni as well as the quality of our programs. The WMU story needs to be shared with external audiences, and we who work here must share the internal pride that we feel in being part of this amazing University.

I'm happy to be a part of this wonderful University and eager to work with each of you in the coming months and years.

Warmest regards,

John M. Dunn
President