



# Western NEWS

For and about WMU faculty and staff

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## Presidential search on track

The search for WMU's next president is on schedule and a president could be named by May or June, WMU trustees learned at their Jan. 26 meeting. Ken Miller, vice chair of the board, is leading the search advisory committee. He said more than 50 candidates have been identified.

This month, the committee will begin narrowing the list with the goal of having three to five candidates on campus in April to make public presentations. "Assuming 'the candidate' exists in the pool we are currently looking at, we're on track for an appointment in the May-June time frame," Miller said.

## Campus police contract OK'd

WMU trustees approved a new three-year contract with its 17-member Police Officers Association during their Jan. 26 meeting. The contract, which was ratified by the membership of the POA in late December, runs from July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2008.

## Portfolio contest inaugurated

Four students have been named winners of the University's first electronic portfolio contest. The contest was sponsored by the WMU Center for Electronic Portfolios and Assessment with support from the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Nuventive, a company that is providing software for the electronic portfolio initiative. The new high-tech initiative is designed to make student electronic portfolios virtually universal and help University academic departments assess the results of their programs.

## Staff award nominations due

Nominations for the spring round of WMU's semiannual Make a Difference awards are due by Feb. 28. Make a Difference is a campuswide peer-to-peer program that recognizes WMU staff members for their accomplishments and daily investment of energy and creativity. It features semiannual and annual awards that go to non-faculty employees who provide exceptional services to the University.



Every fall and spring, semiannual awards are presented to a maximum of 15 people. Those selected receive a certificate and a \$250 prize and are recognized at a special reception. Annual Make a Difference awards, which include a \$1,000 prize, go to each year's four most outstanding semiannual award winners.

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 5216 or by e-mail to [Make-A-Difference@wmich.edu](mailto:Make-A-Difference@wmich.edu).

## Lopez, Datta-Sandhu earn teaching honor



Lopez



Datta-Sandhu

Two longtime faculty members have been named WMU Distinguished Teaching Award winners for 2006, reviving a similar award program begun by the Alumni Association that ended in 2001.

Irma M. Lopez, Spanish, and Suhashni "Sushi" Datta-Sandhu, political science, are the new award program's inaugural recipients. They will be recognized Wednesday, Feb. 28, when the University holds an academic convocation designed to recognize excellence across the campus and mark the

50th anniversary of WMU's status as a university.

Lopez, a faculty member since 1994, is an expert on Mexican literature and Latin American women writers. She teaches a full range of Spanish language and literature courses and directs the University's study abroad program in Queretaro, Mexico.

Datta-Sandhu, a faculty member since 1970, is an expert in the field of African studies and is the creator and supervisor of the University's study abroad program in Cape Town, South Africa. She teaches in the area of international and comparative politics, and her offerings include a popular course called Women in Developing Countries.

## Pero and Miller elected to lead WMU's governing board

Dan Pero of Laingsburg, Mich., and Kenneth V. Miller of Kalamazoo have been elected to serve for 2007 as chair and vice chair, respectively, of the WMU Board of Trustees. The election took place at the annual meeting of trustees Jan. 29. All officers serve one-year terms.



Pero

Pero, who was appointed to his current term on the board in 2001, is a WMU alumnus who had previously served as a trustee in 1997 until relocation to Florida caused him to step down. He is president of the American Justice Partnership.

Previous positions held by Pero include partner in the Lansing-based public relations firm Sterling Corp., managing director for the Michigan office of the public relations firm Weber-Shandwick Worldwide and vice president for Eckerd Corp., a national retail drug firm with headquarters in Florida. Prior

to his work in the private sector, the 1973 WMU graduate was former Michigan Gov. John Engler's chief of staff and campaign manager. Pero also is a past member of the Michigan Judicial Commission.



Miller

Miller was appointed to the WMU board in 2002 and leads the search process for the University's next president. He is vice president and chief operating officer of Havirco, a Kalamazoo investment management firm, which he has co-owned since 1983. He is also owner of the Millennium Restaurant Group, which owns and operates restaurants in southwest Michigan, including the Union Cabaret and Grille, a WMU-theme restaurant on the Kalamazoo downtown mall. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration from WMU and a juris doctorate from Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

LET IT SNOW?—Monday's snow day served as a reminder to review the three ways to determine if WMU is closed: 1) check online at [www.wmich.edu](http://www.wmich.edu), 2) call the emergency information line at 387-1001 or 3) listen to radio and television closing reports. If not notified otherwise, presume WMU is open. And remember, if the main campus in Kalamazoo is closed, so are WMU's branch campuses. But branch campuses may close while the main campus stays open. In these cases, closure notices are announced separately by the affected branch campuses. (Photo by Jeanne Baron)



# Around Campus

## China lecture rescheduled

A free seminar on China will be given by Ann Veeck, marketing, and Gregory Veeck, geography, at noon Friday, Feb. 9, in 3150 Schneider Hall. The Veecks will share insights on their research and experiences in China.

## GC slates annual performance

Gold Company will perform at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10, in Miller Auditorium. The performance will include a special Broadway tribute. For tickets, go online to [www.millerauditorium.com](http://www.millerauditorium.com), stop in at the Miller Auditorium Ticket Office or call 387-2300.

## Exhibition spotlights athletes

A traveling photographic exhibition spotlighting the athletic feats of Jewish women opens Monday, Feb. 12, in Waldo Library and will continue through March 2. A related reception will be held from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15. Linda Borish, history and women's studies, served as the historical consultant and researcher for the exhibit, which has traveled throughout the United States.

## Emeriti Council meets Feb. 14

February's Wednesdays II program sponsored by the Emeriti Council will feature a presentation on "Ghana, the Black Star of Africa" by John Petro, mathematics, and Joyce Petro. It is scheduled for 2 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 14, in the Heinig Emeriti Lounge.

## Elite violinist coming to campus

Accomplished violinist and violist Ivan Chan will be on campus Wednesday through Sunday, Feb. 14-18, to perform for the public and work with students as a visiting artist.

Chan, a native of Hong Kong who became first violinist of the prominent Miami String Quartet in 1995, will perform with WMU's Merling Trio in an all-Brahms concert at 8:15 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. Regular admission is \$10 or \$5 for students and seniors.

## Sichel series resumes for spring

The 2006-07 Werner Sichel Lecture Series resumes this spring with a talk on "What do Male Nonworkers Do?" The presentation will take place at 3 p.m. Feb. 21, in 3509 Knauss and reflects this year's focus on the economic implications of how Americans spend their time.

## Rare paper, book art talk topic

Pamela Rups, local artist and coordinator of WMU's Instructional Technology Center, will speak on "How I Made a Medieval Manuscript" at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22, in Waldo Library's Meader Rare Book Room.

The talk is being given in conjunction with an exhibition of original paper and book art that is on display on the first and third floors of Waldo Library's Upjohn Rotunda during regular library hours through March 16.

## Prof honored for leadership

Sherine Obare has won two awards from the American Chemical Society, the Leadership Development Award and the "ACS



Obare

PROGRESS/Dreyfus Lectureship Award." The leadership award was presented on behalf of the Younger Chemists Committee. This YCC award program recognizes emerging leaders in the profession and helps them prepare

for leadership opportunities at volunteer organizations, such as the chemical society, and in their professional career.

Obare was selected for her past contributions and leadership qualities and recognized at the ACS Leaders Conference late last month in Baltimore. She recently showed her leadership and teaching skills when the 14 Kalamazoo and Portage middle school students she had been working with and their robotics and research coaches from WMU placed second in the state in the FIRST Michigan State FLL robotics competition held in Flint in December.

Obare is a key member of WMU's Nanotechnology Research and Computation Center. She came to the University in 2004 and teaches inorganic and analytical chemistry courses and conducts research in the areas of inorganic and materials chemistry, nanoscale materials fabrication, chemical and biological sensors, and multiple electron transfer mechanisms.

## Oregon Trail writings come alive

The writings of a 19th-century California gold rush chronicler and satirist are revived in a new publication by Nicolas S. Witschi, English. The booklet, "Alonzo 'Old Block' Delano," focuses on Alonzo Delano, a writer during the 1850s and 1860s who was widely known in his day for his overland diary and for poignant and satirical sketches about the gold rush. Under the pen name "Old Block," Delano also is credited with being an early influence on such figures as Mark Twain, Bret Harte and Charlie Chaplin.

Witschi joined WMU's faculty in 2000. He is the author of numerous scholarly articles and a previous book, "Traces of Gold: California's Natural Resources and the Claim to Realism in Western American Literature." He earned a bachelor's degree in film and television in 1988 from New York University, a master's degree in English in 1993 from the University of Colorado and a doctorate in English in 1998 from the University of Oregon. He continued his postdoctoral work at that university until 1999 when he became a Fulbright lecturer and visiting professor in American Studies at the University of Regensburg in Germany.

## Rinker named to succeed Beam as WMU business chief



Rinker

Lowell P. Rinker has been named vice president for business and finance and chief financial officer and Jan J. Van Der Kley has been named associate vice president for business and finance and controller.

Both appointments are effective July 1.

The WMU Board of Trustees approved the appointments Jan. 26, along with two others in the Division of Student Affairs.

Rinker has been associate vice president for business since 2002 and assistant treasurer to the Board of Trustees since 1992. He served as assistant vice president for business from 1992 to 2002. A University employee since 1972, he earned two degrees from WMU: a bachelor's in accounting and a master's in public administration with a focus on budget and finance.



Van Der Kley

Van Der Kley has been associate vice president for finance since 2002. A WMU staff member since 1983, she previously served as assistant vice president for finance from 1993 to 2002. Van Der Kley is a certified public accountant and earned bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting from WMU.

The two student affairs appointments made were naming Kelly Davidson business manager in the business operations office of the division, effective Dec. 18, 2006, and Steve Palmer director of Residence Life, effective Dec. 14, 2006.

## Exchange

**For rent**—Room in nice house 10 minutes from WMU. Prefer graduate student or professional. Call (269) 998-1349.



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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

## Jobs

Current job opportunities at WMU are announced every Monday on the human resources Web site at [www.wmich.edu/hr/job.htm](http://www.wmich.edu/hr/job.htm) and the Applicant Information Service phone line at 387-3669. Applications are accepted for posted jobs only and must be submitted by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included on each posting.

## Trustees approve six retirements



VanderWeg



Yelsma



Papesh

The retirements of four faculty members and two staff members were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees at its Jan. 26 meeting. Trustees also accepted the resignation of one faculty member.

All of the faculty members who are retiring are doing so with emeriti status. Their names, positions, years of continuous service and effective dates of retirement are: **Charles Bruce MacQueen** (change in retirement status to emeritus), associate professor in the University Counseling and Testing Center, 40-1/2 years, effective Feb. 28, 2007; **Charles Strohm** (change in retirement month), professor of art, 10-1/2 years, effective July 29, 2007; **Phillip Vander Weg**, professor of art and assistant to the dean in the College of Fine Arts, 18 years, effective June 30, 2007; and **Paul Yelsma**, professor of communication, 31-1/2 years, effective April 30, 2007.

The staff members retiring are: **Carole J. Lint**, clerk in the Department of Human Resources, 23-1/2 years, effective Jan. 31, 2007; **Susan M. Papesh**, F-4 cook in dining services-Burnham, 27-1/2 years, effective April 30, 2007.

Trustees also approved emeritus status for **Robert M. Beam**, vice president for business and finance, whose retirement was approved in December.

The faculty member resigning is: **Lori B. Farrer**, instructor of family and consumer sciences, effective Nov. 19, 2006.

## Sabbatical leaves granted for 28 faculty

The WMU Board of Trustees granted sabbatical leaves for 28 faculty members at its Dec. 15 meeting.

Those granted sabbaticals and their title and academic unit are: **Massood Atashbar**, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering; **Lisa Baker**, professor of psychology; **David Barnes**, associate professor of geosciences; **Robert Berkhofer III**, associate professor of history; **Sung Chung**, professor of physics; **James Daniels**, professor of theatre; **John Dilworth**, professor of philosophy; **Johnson Haas**, associate professor of geosciences; **Willem Homan**, professor of aviation sciences; **Katherine Joslin**, professor of English; **Mitch Kachun**, associate professor of history; **Allison Kelaher-Young**, associate professor of teaching, learning and educational studies; **Hanjoon Lee**, professor of marketing; **Paul Maier**, professor of history; **Gerald Markle**, professor of sociology; **Ann Miles**, professor of anthropology; **Annegret Paul**, associate professor of mathematics; **Craig Peterson**, associate professor of finance and commercial law; **Gwen Raaberg**, professor of English; **Alan Rea**, associate professor of business and information systems; **Judith Rypma**, faculty specialist II in English; **Thomas Scannell**, associate professor of management; **Quentin Smith**, professor of philosophy; **Laura Spielvogel**, associate professor of anthropology; **Robert Spradling**, professor of music; **Sarah Summy**, associate professor of special education and literacy studies; **Brian Wilson**, chair of comparative religion; and **Devrim Yaman**, associate professor of finance and commercial law.

## Black History Month events set

WMU is celebrating Black History Month by holding a variety of free, public events in the Multicultural Center of the Trimpe Building.

The events include a discussion regarding the racial gap between African students and African-American students from 3 to 5 p.m. today and will wrap up with a "soul food" luncheon from noon to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 28. Along with the lunch featuring traditional southern dishes, a theatrical presentation will highlight the stories of famous African Americans. Registration for the event is required by Monday, Feb. 19, by calling 387-4420.

For more information about the month, as well as the Division of Multicultural Affairs' spring events schedule, visit [www.wmich.edu/news](http://www.wmich.edu/news).

The spring DMA events include a three-part Campus Dialogue on Race and Ethnicity discussion series that will kick off Monday, Feb. 12. The series focuses on understanding how racial and ethnic identity is formed and maintained through communication. All of the discussions will be facilitated by Mark P. Orbe, communication, and held at 7 p.m. in the Multicultural Center. The final discussions will be Monday, March 12 and Monday, April 2.

## Service

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

**30 years**—Kathryn A. Dalman, plant accounting.

**20 years**—David Bunch, physical plant-maintenance services; Teri Dunithan, Logistical Services; Tonia L. Hudson, physical plant-building, custodial and support services; Sherri L. Kroll, physical plant-building, custodial and support services; Louise Ollie, dining services-Valley #2; Patricia L. Short, Registrar's Office; and Darlene R. Zackery, physical plant-building, custodial and support services.

**15 years**—Maryann Bovo, mathemat-

## Donations being collected to help deployed Broncos

Donations are being sought to stock another round of care packages for WMU's deployed faculty, staff, students and alumni.

The committee that was formed to keep the packages flowing is asking that donated items sent to the Registrar's Office in care of Brenda Hamlyn by Monday, Feb. 26.

"We're encouraging offices, groups and individuals to assume responsibility for collecting a particular item or items," says committee member Gerry Schma, Extended University Programs. "Our goal is to lock in enough supplies so that 35 care packages can be shipped four times this year."

Shipping dates for 2007, and the holiday or event they correspond to, are March 6, Easter; June 5, Independence Day; Aug. 7, back to school; and Nov. 6, Christmas. Five care packages will be going to female soldiers and marines.

Cash is not being solicited at this time, but a wide variety of goods is. Suggested items that people can sign up to provide are included in a related story posted online at [www.wmich.edu/wmu/news](http://www.wmich.edu/wmu/news).

Those wishing to help with the care package initiative are asked to let the committee know what items they will be donating. This information may be reported by phone or e-mailed to Schma at [geraldine.schma@wmich.edu](mailto:geraldine.schma@wmich.edu), Brenda Hamlyn in the Registrar's Office at [brenda.hamlyn@wmich.edu](mailto:brenda.hamlyn@wmich.edu) or Sandra Williams in student affairs at [sandra.1.williams@wmich.edu](mailto:sandra.1.williams@wmich.edu).

Once collected, the items should be turned over to either Hamlyn or Williams.

In addition to Hamlyn, Schma and Williams, the committee is composed of: Becky Spanjer, Extended University Programs; Sheryl Todd, electrical and computer engineering; Paul MacNellis, physical plant-landscape services; and Gail MacNellis, College of Fine Arts.

## Obituaries

**Hazel E. Kramer**, building coordinator for religious activities, died Jan. 17 in Kalamazoo. She was 89.

Kramer worked at WMU from 1969 to 1984 and served part of her tenure as a secretary in the residence halls facilities office.

The Grand Rapids native remained active in retirement as a member of a professional secretaries organization, her church and the Red Cross. Memorials may be made to the Oshtemo United Methodist Church.

**Orval Lee Ulry**, head of the former Department of Teacher Education, died Dec. 9 in Westerville, Ohio. He was 89.

Ulry came to WMU in the late 1960s and served about five years at the institution. His 40-year education career included posts as a high school teacher, superintendent, college assistant dean of education and deputy director of education for a U.S. embassy in India.

He retired in 1979 from Western Illinois University as professor emeritus.

# On Campus with Barbara Vilenski



MAKING A NOTABLE IMPRINT  
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

No matter how busy the day, Barb Vilenski wades into it with competence and good humor.

Vilenski serves as office coordinator for the Department of Paper Engineering, Chemical Engineering, and Imaging, or PCI department as it's commonly called. In this role, she's become as much of a fixture in the department as its rare and renowned program offerings have become on the national stage.

A WMU employee since 1971, Vilenski started her career with the institutional research office, then moved to the equivalent of her current post in 1982.

Among her main duties are serving as budget assistant to the department chair; taking care of payroll, course schedule building, and related tasks associated with maintaining her department's large cadre of graduate teaching assistants; and handling the budget and business paperwork for the self-funded "Print Shop," which prints stationery, business cards and other items for on-campus clients.

"My job has evolved so much over the years," Vilenski says. "But the biggest challenge is keeping up with changes at the University. Every time there's a change in policies, financial aid, etc., they trickle down to the academic departments, so you have to keep on top of things."

The PCI department was spread out between McCracken and Wellborn halls until 2003, when the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences' expansive new building opened on the Parkview Campus.

"We've settled in and really enjoy it here," she says. "The whole college is together, and we've had the chance to get to know one another. It's like a community out here. This is really a caring group to work with.—That's why I've been here so long."

Vilenski often exercises with members of her on-campus family by walking the CEAS building, which measures about a quarter mile end to end. She and her husband, Jerry, live in Plainwell. They enjoy visiting their daughter, Allison, in Chicago and vacationing in the Cheboygan area, where she and Jerry grew up.

## CELCIS international student enrollment rebounding

Proactive recruitment initiatives are paying off for WMU's Career English Center for International Students, the only Michigan-based English as a second language program accredited by the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation.

This semester, CELCIS hit the 100-student enrollment mark, a threshold last met in spring 1997. The center, which was established at WMU in 1975, is an intensive English program designed to prepare second-language learners to study in universities in the United States. The program also can be useful for people who wish to improve their English skills for their jobs.

CELCIS' boost in enrollment was supported by 35 new students entering the program earlier this month at the start of the spring semester. The breakdown by world region for the new students is: the Middle East, 20; East Asia, 9; Europe, 3; South America, 2; and South Asia, 1.

"Our renewed marketing efforts at

CELCIS include advertising in online and printed media, visiting agencies and schools in foreign countries, and personally contacting prospective students," says Robert Dlouhy, CELCIS director. "These efforts have led to the highest spring semester enrollments we've experienced in the past 10 years.

The CELCIS program also has earned a 90-percent retention rate for students enrolled in fall 2006. Sixty-five of the 72 enrolled students who were not yet eligible to graduate re-enrolled for spring 2007. Of the 33 students who graduated from the program in December 2006, 25 entered WMU to pursue academic degrees—a 75-percent matriculation rate.

CELCIS operates under the auspices of WMU's Diether H. Haenicke Institute for Global Education. It is a member of the American Association of Intensive English Programs and of University and College Intensive English Programs.

## Jewell and Walker earn "W" Club honors for 2007

The WMU Alumni "W" Club's 2007 Woman and Man of the Year are Frances Jewell, a WMU softball and basketball standout, and Lewis Walker, a retired faculty member and former Gary Fund chair and consultant to the WMU Athletic Board.

Jewell serves as managing director for the City of Kalamazoo Department of Parks and Recreation. She began working for the city as a lifeguard in 1978.

Walker, emeritus chair and professor of sociology at WMU, spent 44 years as a teacher and researcher. In 2000, to honor of Walker's work in race and ethnic relations, WMU renamed its race institute the Lewis Walker Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnic Relations. Walker recently came out of retirement to serve as interim director of the institute.

## Research funding available

The Office of the Vice President for Research is accepting applications for two 2007-08 award programs that provide a series of development activities that facilitate the process of securing external funding for projects.

The Advanced-Level Research Development Awards assist faculty in advancing their research and teaching/training plans. They are intended for mid-career or senior faculty who want to enhance their ability to seek external funding or re-enter the grant arena.

The Research Development Awards assist professional/administrative staff as well as faculty in advancing their research plans. Support typically goes to early-career/pretenure faculty. As many as 20 RDAs may be made each year.

Proposals for the two award programs must be submitted to the dean or appropriate vice president no later than 5 p.m. Friday, March 16. Applications are due in the research vice president's office by 5 p.m. Friday, March 23. Awards will be announced April 1.

Award amounts, eligibility criteria, required program activities and other details are available online at [www.wmich.edu/research/internalfund06.html](http://www.wmich.edu/research/internalfund06.html). For more information, contact Leonard Ginsberg, interim vice president for research, at [leonard.ginsberg@wmich.edu](mailto:leonard.ginsberg@wmich.edu) or 387-8283 or contact Walter Worthy, Research and Sponsored Programs, at [walter.worthy@wmich.edu](mailto:walter.worthy@wmich.edu).