



# Western NEWS

For and about WMU faculty and staff

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## Deadline approaches for Innovation Fund applications

Applications for funding through President Judith I. Bailey's 2005 Innovation Fund are due by 5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 16.

The initiative, first announced by the president in her 2005 State of the University address, Sept. 27, will fund innovative ideas with the potential to transform some aspect of the University's core mission. Applications may be submitted by any member of the WMU faculty or staff. Guidelines for the fund were announced Oct. 31.

Faculty or staff members with questions about the application process or about writing a proposal for funding should visit the fund Web site at [www.wmich.edu/president/innovationfund](http://www.wmich.edu/president/innovationfund). The site includes links to the fund guidelines and the names of review panel members. Also included are frequently asked questions about the fund and the award process, many of which were gleaned from information sessions held on campus Dec. 12 and Jan. 11.

Proposals must be submitted in writing by Jan. 16 to Nicholas Andreadis, Extended University Programs, 1260 Ellsworth Hall, mail stop 5230. Since WMU offices are closed Jan. 16, any proposals submitted after Friday, Jan. 13, should be submitted via e-mail to [nicholas.andreadis@wmich.edu](mailto:nicholas.andreadis@wmich.edu).

## MEDC to hold jobs fund session at aviation college on Jan. 13

One of a series of statewide information sessions on the new 21st Century Jobs Fund will be held Friday, Jan. 13, at WMU's College of Aviation.

The Michigan Economic Development Corp. will act as host for the 10 a.m. meeting, which is designed to provide information about access to the new funds for researchers, potential new businesses and product developers. The meeting is one of a series of such sessions scheduled across Michigan in January.

The 21st Century Jobs Fund was created to jump start Michigan's economy and diversify the state's economy by encouraging the development and commercialization of new technologies and increasing capital investment and commercial lending activity in areas that will create or retain jobs.

A request for proposals is expected to follow the series of informational meetings.

## Trustees set 2006 meetings

The University's Board of Trustees will meet five times during 2006, according to a schedule approved at the board's Dec. 9 meeting.

Meetings are usually held in the Bernhard Center and are scheduled this year for Thursday, March 9; Friday, April 28; Friday, July 14; Friday, Oct. 20; and Friday, Dec. 15.

## WMU Foundation to purchase Pfizer research facility for use by University

By this time next year, the WMU Foundation is expected to take possession of a state-of-the-art Pfizer Inc. research facility in downtown Kalamazoo—a site for the University to expand its research portfolio and a magnet to attract additional private-sector development in the life sciences.

Building 126, on East Lovell Street in downtown Kalamazoo, will be purchased by the WMU Foundation for \$3.8 million. The foundation, which receives private donor funds on behalf of the University, will make the facility available to the University to provide much-needed room for WMU scientists and a site where life science firms can lease research space.

Built by the Upjohn Co. in 1964, the 160,000-square-foot building currently houses unused laboratory space, maintenance and other offices, and a compound



Pfizer Building 126 will provide space for WMU researchers and lease opportunities for life sciences firms.

library in the process of being relocated to other Pfizer research sites. The building underwent a \$35 million upgrade, completed in 2002. Pfizer will continue to use the facility through 2006.

"Pfizer is pleased to reach this agreement with WMU that will strengthen the

educational and biomedical heart of the community," said Antoon Brusselmans, vice president for Pfizer Global Manufacturing in the Midwest and chairman of the company's Kalamazoo Site Leadership Team, during a Dec. 9 announcement. "Pfizer and WMU share a vision as champions of innovation and biomedical research. This agreement

solidifies that partnership to the benefit of students, scientists, patients and the community."

Acquisition of the building by the foundation will allow the University to provide needed research room for its scientists and student research assistants as well as a site that can be used to enhance WMU's efforts

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## WMU selected as partner in LCC's Lansing University Center

Lansing Community College announced Dec. 15 that eight universities have been selected to be partners in the Lansing Community College University Center, which is scheduled to open in fall 2007 on Capitol Avenue in downtown Lansing.



Andreadis

The eight were selected to provide degree options for students who have completed their associate degrees. The new center is slated to provide more than 40 degree options at the bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels in disciplines ranging from engineering to social work.

In addition to WMU, the University Center partners will include the University of Michigan-Flint, Spring Arbor University, Siena Heights University, Northwood University, Lawrence Technological University, Ferris State University and Central Michigan University.

"Western Michigan University has a long track record of providing educational opportunity in Lansing, and we're looking forward to bringing our partnerships with the community and Lansing Community College to new levels so we can provide even greater service to students in the area," said Dr. Nicholas Andreadis, WMU dean of Extended University Programs. "We expect the University Center to be a boon to the entire region and serve as a catalyst that will change the face of higher education locally."

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ONE STOP FOR EVERYTHING—Residence life staffer Emerka Charles, left, completed housing arrangements for freshman Alexandria Ashmon of Decatur, Mich., at a special One Stop student service center set up in the Bernhard Center to help ease students' entry into the spring semester. Ashmon headed for her residence hall after her stop at the popular center, reprised after its introduction last fall. (Photo by Cheryl Roland)

## MLK celebration under way with events set through Jan. 20

The University and the Northside Ministerial Alliance have teamed up for the fourth consecutive year to put on a memorable series of free events honoring the memory of civil rights activist Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

This year's annual communitywide celebration, called "Recovering a Lost Dream: Community, Faith and Vision," began with a Jan. 8 Kickoff Celebration, one of four major events being sponsored this year by the WMU-NMA Martin Luther King Jr. Committee.

Among the many other events scheduled are a variety of lectures, workshops and discussions that are being sponsored by individuals and organizations throughout Kalamazoo. A complete list of events is available online at [www.wmich.edu/mlk](http://www.wmich.edu/mlk).

The next major WMU-NMA MLK Committee event will be a Multicultural Celebration in Miller Auditorium at 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 15, which is King's birthday. This event will feature a presentation by Frank H. Wu, dean of the Wayne State University Law School and a noted diversity specialist. Those attending also will be treated to remarks by President Judith I. Bailey, a community litany and performances by the 100-voice MLK Celebration Choir, members of the WMU dance department and a musical ensemble of Kalamazoo Public Schools students.

Wu was named dean of the Wayne State University Law School in 2004. He is the author of "Yellow: Race in America Beyond Black and White" and co-author of "Race, Rights and Reparation: Law and the Japanese American Internment." He is a former civil attorney, was on the law faculty of Howard University and has been an adjunct professor at Columbia University, a visiting professor at the University of Michigan and a teaching fellow at Stanford University.

The final major events for this year will be a Citywide Community Day of Service and a Children's Fair on Monday, Jan. 16—national MLK Day.

Area residents are asked to honor King by engaging in community service projects in the morning, starting at 9 a.m., and completing them in the afternoon. Special activities planned for the day include a 10:30 a.m. march to MLK Park on North Rose Street, where there will be a wreath-laying ceremony, and a noon luncheon at Mt. Zion Baptist Church.



The Children's Fair will be open from 2 through 5 p.m. at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Kalamazoo. The event is for children of all ages and will include activity booths staffed by WMU students.

Deveta Gardner, a WMU staff member and chairperson of the WMU-NMA MLK Committee, says the continuing collaboration between the University and the alliance has resulted in Kalamazoo's MLK celebration growing each year.

"We've planned a diverse series of events for 2006," Gardner says. "Our unique partnership continues to blaze a trail of hope and proves that all things are possible if we focus on our commonalities instead of our differences."

Kalamazoo is to be commended for forming and growing that partnership, adds Minister Doreen Gardner, NMA chairperson, who expects more than 2,500 people to attend this year's events.

"It's been an awesome experience for the educational sector and the religious sector to come together to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. King," she says. "The city of Kalamazoo and surrounding communities are blessed. You won't find too many cities with a collaboration of this nature or magnitude."

## Spring Frostic series begins next week with readings by two

Authors Deborah Digges and Ander Monson will open the spring Gwen Frostic Reading Series with a Thursday, Jan. 19, reading beginning at 8 p.m. in the Little Theatre. All readings in the series are free and open to the public.

Digges, who teaches at Tufts University, is the author of four books of poems, including "Vesper Sparrows," which won the Delmore Schwartz Memorial Prize from New York University. She also has written two memoirs, "Fugitive Spring" and "The Stardust Lounge."

Monson, who teaches at Grand Valley State University, grew up in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. He edits the magazine Diagram and the New Michigan Press, among other projects. His poetry collection, "Vacationland," won the 2005 Tupelo Press Editors' Prize.

Other Spring 2006 Gwen Frostic Reading Series events are scheduled for 8 p.m. on the following Thursdays in the Little Theatre:

- Feb. 16—poet Nancy Eimers and novelist Robert Eversz
- March 23—playwright Lisa Dillman
- March 30—poet Mary Ruefle and author Jane Brox
- April 13—poets Peter Covino and Paula McLain.

## Author J.D. Dolan garners \$20,000 NEA fellowship

A WMU award-winning author will have more time to practice his craft, thanks to a \$20,000 award from the National Endowment for the Arts.



Dolan

J.D. Dolan, English and author of the critically acclaimed memoir "Phoenix: A Brother's Life," is one of 50 recipients of the NEA's 2006 Literature Fellowships in Prose.

The fellowships are the endowment's "most direct investment in American creativity, encouraging the production of new work and allowing writers the time and means to write."

The agency received more than 900 applications for the fellowships. Each of the 50 recipients was awarded the same amount, essentially without strings attached.

"I'm very excited," Dolan says. "And I'm particularly happy to be one of this year's recipients of an NEA grant in creative nonfiction, since these grants are solid evidence that there is at least one arm of our government that continues to value the truth."

Dolan plans to continue working on a screenplay based on the extraordinary life of Ralph Greenleaf, who was world pocket billiard champion for most of the period from 1919 to 1937 and who is regarded by many as the greatest pool player of all time.

"There's hardly anything written about him," Dolan says. "There are some very old newspaper articles, a few magazine articles, but not much else."

Dolan is collaborating on the project with an old friend and fellow writer, Mark Kamine, who is currently the assistant unit production manager on the hit HBO series "The Sopranos."

## Communication professor wins Fulbright for work in Latvia

A WMU faculty member has won a Fulbright scholarship to teach and lecture in Latvia.

Michael Kent, communication, will visit the Baltic nation February through May 2006 and will spend the four months at the University of Latvia in Riga. Kent will teach three classes: public speaking, an introduction to public relations course and a graduate class to be determined.

Though the scholarship is for teaching, Kent also plans to conduct research while in Latvia, begin working on a public relations writing textbook and conduct interviews with scholars and public relations professionals.

Kent has traveled extensively and lectured in Eastern Europe. In 2001, he spent six weeks traveling across the region, visiting Bosnia, Croatia, Slovenia and Hungary and lecturing in Sarajevo. Last winter, Kent taught a graduate course in the Czech Republic and spent three weeks there.

"I have never been to Latvia before and I am looking forward to the experience very much," Kent says. "Everyone I have spoken to about Riga has said that the country is very beautiful. I am very excited."



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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

## Obituaries

**Ada E. Berkey**, emerita in libraries, died Dec. 23 in Scottsdale, Ariz. She was 88.

Berkey joined the library faculty in 1947 and is credited with laying the foundation for WMU's music library, which is located in the Dalton Center. By the time of her retirement in 1975, she had overseen the growth of WMU's music reference materials in the Harper C. Maybe Music Library from a few hundred books to a collection of more than 3,500 books, 2,500 phonograph records, 40 periodical subscriptions and a large collection of choral music.

Active on campus and in the community, she was a member of the Faculty Senate and president of the Faculty Women's Club. She helped form the Chamber Music Society of Kalamazoo.

Berkey earned her bachelor's degree from Mount Holyoke College, a degree in library science from the University of Michigan and a master's degree from the University of Iowa.

**Bobby D. Burpo** of Kalamazoo died Dec. 1. He was 64.

Burpo, who was a bindery operator in the University's printing services area, retired in 1996 after 38 years of employment at WMU.

A resident of Kalamazoo for most of his life, Burpo was born in Troy, Tenn., and served in the U.S. Army before beginning his career at WMU.

## Jobs

The following vacancies are posted through the Job Opportunity Program by human resources. Interested benefits-eligible employees should submit a job opportunity transfer application during the posting period and may contact a human resource services staff member for assistance.

Employees may call the Applicant Information Service at 7-3669 to hear the weekly job postings 24 hours a day, seven days a week from any TouchTone phone.

Those interested in faculty positions should submit a letter of application to the appropriate dean or chairperson.

(R) **Office Assistant**, 11, Extended University Programs-Grand Rapids, 05/06-5020, 1/9-1/16/06

(R) **HR Assistant**, 14, Human Resources, 05/06-5033, 1/9-1/16/06

(R) **Budget Officer**, 17, Office of University Budgets and Financial Planning, 05/06-5035, 1/9-1/16/06

(R) **Project Lead**, AE (Term ends 6/30/07), 19, Auxiliary Enterprises 05/06-5041, 1/9-1/16/06

(R) **Programmer Analyst** (Term ends 6/30/07), 19, Auxiliary Enterprises, 05/06-5049, 1/9-1/16/06

N= New

R= Replacement

WMU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.



Berkey



**NEW 25 YEAR CLUB MEMBERS**—President Judith Bailey, far left, was on hand Nov. 29 to congratulate inductees into WMU's 25 Year Club at the group's annual dinner. Among the 52 new members are, from left, Diane M. Schuldt, physical plant/utilities; Cynthia D. Jackson-Ekeledo, Sindecuse Health Center; Sisay Asefa, economics; and Joel M. Fletcher, information technology. (Photo by John Lacko)

## Board approves promotions, sabbaticals for faculty members

Acting Dec. 9, WMU's Board of Trustees approved five faculty promotions that were effective with the start of the fall semester and sabbatical leaves for 29 faculty members.

Faculty members promoted and their new rank were Paul Copp, assistant professor of comparative religion; Katherine Cummings, professor of teaching, learning and leadership; Frances Ramos, assistant professor of history; Viviana Ruellot, assistant professor of foreign languages; and Caroline Webber, assistant professor of family and consumer sciences.

Faculty members awarded sabbatical leaves during the 2006-07 academic year are: Ariel L. H. Anderson, teaching, learning and leadership; Robert J. Balik, finance and commercial law; Ronald B. Chase, geosciences; Richard dePeaux, art; Kristal E. Ehrhardt, educational studies;

Nora Faires, history; Igor Fedotov, music; Robert W. Felkel, Spanish; Raghvendra R. Gejji, electrical and computer engineering; Terrell L. Hodge, mathematics; Susan Hoffman, political science; David N. Karowe, biological sciences; Carla M. Koretsky, geosciences and environmental studies; Richard G. Long, blindness and low vision studies; Damon A. Miller, electrical and computer engineering; James A. Muchmore, teaching, learning and leadership; Michael Nassaney, anthropology; Thomas F. Piatkowski, computer science; Susan V. Ponchillia, blindness and low vision studies; Susan Pozo, economics; Kathleen Propp, communication; David S. Reinhold, chemistry; Judith J. Sadler, nursing; Eve Salisbury, English; Michael R. Stoline, statistics; Gregory Veeck, geography; Susan Weinger, social work; Karen Wicklund, music; and Nicolas Witschi, English.

## Grant helps area history teachers improve instruction

The Department of History has received a second Teaching American History Grant of nearly \$1 million to help area teachers improve U.S. history instruction.

"This is a big grant, and we're one of only a handful of institutions in the nation to have received it more than once," says Wilson Warren, history. "It's truly a mark of distinction for the University."

The three-year grant is part of the "Teaching American History Initiative" developed by West Virginia Sen. Robert Byrd and administered by the U.S. Department of Education. The goal of the initiative, which is in its fifth year, is to improve the teaching of U.S. history in the elementary, middle and high schools.



Warren

WMU's first Teaching American History Grant, a three-year, \$986,000 award received in 2003, targets high school instruction while this year's grant totals \$993,000 over three years and targets middle school instruction. The University won both grants in partnership with KRESA—the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency—and several Michigan public history institutions.

Warren, who is directing both grant projects, says they support summer institutes for area teachers taught by WMU history faculty as well as public history partners from the community. About 100 high school teachers will have participated in the institutes when the first grant project concludes next summer. Another 75 middle school teachers are slated to participate in the three institutes that will be funded under the 2005 grant.

Teachers attending the institutes receive "authentic" historical training, which Wilson says helps teachers engage students in learning by involving them in hands-on activities that focus on actual artifacts from the historical time periods being taught.

WMU history faculty who will work on the 2005 grant project along with Warren will be John Saillant, Lynne Heasley and Mitch Kachun.

Partnering with the University will be historians and museum educators from the Kalamazoo Valley Museum in Kalamazoo; Sojourner Truth Institute in Battle Creek, Mich.; and Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Mich.

## Exchange

**For Sale**—Antique Jacobs Mfc.. #14 wood parlor stove. Good condition. 46" high by 18" wide by 14" deep. Cast iron. \$200 or best offer. Call 269-668-4718.

**For Sale**—Four-bedroom, 2.5 bath Portage home in Woodbridge. Includes master bedroom suite with walk-in closets. Main floor has kitchen, dining room, large living room and sunken family room that overlooks deck and private tree-lined backyard. More than 2,400 square feet plus 400 square feet of finished basement rec room. Recently painted, move-in condition, priced near SEV. Significant price reduction for early 2006 offer from WMU faculty or staff. Call 387-5857 or 327-8529.

# On Campus with Cindy Town



STAYING ON TRACK  
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

A car jump started Cindy Town's lifelong career at WMU.

"I was just out of high school in 1978," explains Town, administrative assistant for the University Counseling and Testing Center. "I saw a Camero and really wanted it. I told my dad, but all he said was: 'Get a job.'"

She did—in what is now Career and Student Employment Services. Town moved in 1989 to UCTC, which provides personal counseling and career exploration services to students, and was promoted to her current post in 2000.

"I had been a receptionist and tried hanging on to the front desk work as long as I could," she says. "I love interacting with students and helping them out, but I found that with my new duties, I just couldn't do it all."

Those duties include supervising the front desk staff as well as the Career Media Center's student workers, managing UCTC's budget and confidential records system, backing up the scanning services unit, and assisting the director.

"It can be challenging getting services to all of the students requesting them," Town says, "but working here is real rewarding. Students come in distraught, but later, they're walking in with smiles on their faces."

When Town isn't racing around the office, the Gobles resident enjoys hunting deer, turkey and Morel mushrooms and watching her husband Bob race at the Kalamazoo Speedway. The two met at Galesburg Speedway 17 years ago while he was driving and she was serving as track photographer.

"A whole group of us spend each weekend from April through September camping and racing at the speedway. It's what we do for fun," she says, noting that she tried her hand at the sport in 1991 during a short-lived local powder puff series. She won four of the five races held.

## Pfizer

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with the Kalamazoo community to expand the area's growing presence as a center for biosciences commercialization and innovation. The facility will be used purely for research and will not include classroom space.

"This is an agreement that will pay dividends to the University and the community for years to come," said President Judith I. Bailey. "Building 126 has been newly renovated specifically for the most sophisticated levels of biomedical research, and it is rare for any university's researchers to have use of laboratory space of this caliber. We would not be able to construct even a fraction of the space at the price for which Pfizer has generously agreed to transfer this to the WMU Foundation."

Bailey said the building will give the University a long-sought downtown Kalamazoo presence and will provide WMU's research faculty an opportunity to expand its capabilities and work in proximity to Pfizer's downtown campus and Bronson Methodist Hospital. And since the University will not occupy the entire building, WMU will work with Southwest Michigan First to attract companies for whom laboratory space is a critical need. Those could include growing companies already supported by WMU's Biosciences Research and Commercialization Center as well as new firms hoping to move into the area to become part of Kalamazoo's life-sciences neighborhood.

"This really is the perfect next step in our efforts to both expand key research areas at the University and promote Kalamazoo as a place that welcomes and encourages innovation and growth in the life sciences," Bailey said.

Kalamazoo Mayor Hannah McKinney said the development will be a major asset to both the future of the downtown and the regional vision of Kalamazoo as a center for the life sciences.

"We've long wanted a WMU presence downtown, and this development accomplishes that goal in a significant way," McKinney said. "Not only will this boost the vitality of our downtown life sciences neighborhood, but it gives us a new platform to build upon while we work as a community toward regional transformation."

## LCC

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With a groundbreaking scheduled for spring 2006, the 35,000- square-foot University Center will be located at the northwest corner of Capitol Avenue and Shiawassee Street. Current plans include incorporating the Carnegie Library as part of LCC's newest facility. Like the rest of LCC buildings, the center will have wireless computer access and planned capacity for approximately 4,500 people.

The LCC University Center fits the goals outlined by Lt. Gov. John Cherry's Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth. Michigan has a significantly larger share than the national average of adults who have taken some college courses and/or have some credits, but have failed to complete a degree or obtain another credential of value.

The University Center is expected to help eliminate the obstacles of traveling across the state to achieve the kind of academic goals that provide a path to high paying careers.

## Herb Scott poetry inspiration for Jan. 18 campus concert

A musical presentation inspired by a series of poems by Herbert Scott, WMU's Gwen Frostic Professor of Creative Writing, will be presented on campus Wednesday, Jan. 18, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall.

"A Love Imagined" is an eight-song cycle composed by Frank Stemper that uses poetry from Scott's new book, "Sleeping Woman," and is scored for tenor and piano. The performance will feature New York-based tenor Matthew Chellis and pianist Heidi Louise Williams, who heads the piano department in the School of Music at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

The performers will present part of the cycle at noon the same day for music majors in WMU's School of Music. The complete cycle will be presented that evening at 8:15 and is free and open to the public.

Scott, long-time Kalamazoo resident and retired WMU English professor, is the founding editor of the literary press, New Issues Poetry & Prose. The recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs, Scott is the author of such acclaimed books of poetry as "Disguises," "Groceries" and "Durations." His most recent book, "Sleeping Woman," was published by Carnegie Mellon University Press.

Frank Stemper's music has been performed in 16 different countries as well as at Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Of his new work, composer Don Freund wrote: "A Love Imagined is a masterpiece, a tremendously ambitious, deep, moving, all-embracing experience."