



# Western NEWS

SEPTEMBER 1, 2005  
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For and about WMU faculty and staff

## WMU earns high national marks

The University was recognized in two national college rankings released last week.

For the seventh consecutive year, WMU was included on *U.S. News & World Report's* list of the nation's top-100 public universities. The 2006 list is part of the magazine's issue that hit newsstands Aug. 22 and also appears online.

Meanwhile, Princeton Review named WMU one of the Best Midwestern Colleges in its annual online list that was released Aug. 23.

The U.S. News list is based on more than a dozen criteria, including academic reputation, retention and graduation rates, student/faculty ratios, class size, faculty resources, and student test scores and high school class rank. WMU is one of only four public universities in the state to be included among the nation's top 100. The others are University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, Michigan State University and Michigan Technological University.

The Princeton Review selection is based on information provided by the University and student opinion gathered independently.

## University, faculty tentatively agree on three-year contract

During the early morning hours of Aug. 31, WMU and faculty negotiators reached tentative agreement on a new faculty contract. The contract must now be ratified by the faculty and approved by the WMU Board of Trustees. More details are available on the WMU News Web site at [www.wmich.edu/wmu/news](http://www.wmich.edu/wmu/news).

## One-stop service center open

A temporary one-stop service center will be open through Sept. 9 in the Bernhard Center's East Ballroom, making it easier for students to take care of last-minute business associated with starting the new academic year.

The One-Stop Convenience center offers numerous services in one central location—the top level of the Bernhard Center in the East Ballroom. Primarily for students, it will be open seven days a week until Friday, Sept. 9, except for Labor Day weekend, Sept. 3-5.

Those visiting the One-Stop Convenience center are able to get new Bronco ID cards, pay bills, purchase campus parking permits, arrange for campus housing and sign up for a WMU meal plan. They also are able to obtain information about a variety of topics, including financial aid, employment opportunities, immunizations and other campus health care services.

The center is being staffed by representatives from 12 administrative units. For a daily schedule of the center's extended hours, visit [www.wmich.edu/wmu/news](http://www.wmich.edu/wmu/news).

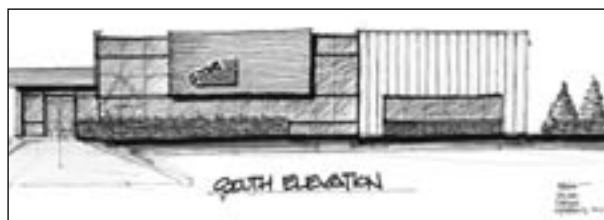
## Civil engineering firm to build at BTR Park

A civil engineering firm with a long track record on building projects across southwest Michigan is set to break ground on its new facility at the University's Business Technology and Research Park, becoming the 28th firm to locate at the park.

Soil and Materials Engineers Inc.—SME—is a Plymouth, Mich.-based consulting engineering firm with offices across Michigan and in northern Ohio. The company will begin work on a 10,000-square-foot facility on the park's Tech Circle in early September. Building plans include provisions for 15,000 square feet of additional space that can be added to the facility to accommodate expected company growth. Delta Design of Kalamazoo has been selected as the builder, and O'Boyle, Cowell, Blalock and Associates Inc. will provide landscape architecture services.

SME, which also has a growing national and international client base, is planning to complete the building in early 2006. The site will then become home to 16 full-time employees and eight to 10 interns and co-op students whose expertise includes geotechnical engineering, materials science and environmental engineering. The new facility will include office space as well as laboratories for testing soil, concrete and other building materials.

SME celebrated 20 years in southwest Michigan this past May and works closely with several of the firms already located in the BTR Park, says Timothy J. Mitchell, who is SME's regional manager. The concept of



Architectural rendering of the new SME building

the private sector firms in the park working in partnership with the University and with each other, he says, was "an important influence in our decision to locate to the BTR Park."

"We always try to be at the leading edge of our industry, and we have a long history of working with the University and with communities and businesses throughout southwest Michigan," Mitchell says. "We see this as a growth opportunity, a way to enhance our partnership with the University and a way to further develop our relationships with students and faculty members."

Mitchell points to a new WMU lab, opened last year in partnership with the Michigan Department of Transportation, and the work being done there as a good example of one area in which he expects to enhance strong ties between SME, WMU and MDOT. SME currently is under contract

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## College of Health and Human Services' first home now open, slated for formal dedication during Sept. 15 ceremony

In its nearly 30 years of existence, the College of Health and Human Services has never had a home of its own—until now.

A dedication of the college's new building on the Oakland Drive Campus will take place at 2 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 15. A host of local and state officials and WMU faculty, staff and students are expected. They will get an up-close look at the college's new high-tech home that exudes warmth and a welcoming atmosphere.

The program will include remarks by WMU Board of Trustees Chair Peter Aseritis; WMU President Judith I. Bailey; Janet Pisaneschi, college dean; architects Carl Roehling and Chris Purdy of the SmithGroup; Al and Glen Granger of Granger Construction; college students Erin Muston and John Green; and Susan Ponchilia, WMU Department of Blindness and Low Vision Studies. A ceremonial ribbon cutting will follow the remarks.

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**WORKING OUT A WELCOME IMAGE**—Some 2,000 members of the incoming freshman class for 2005 got their first taste of working together when they formed a Fall Welcome "W" during an evening of events Aug. 23 in Waldo Stadium. The stadium activities were among five days of orientation activities scheduled this year for incoming students. (Photo by Mike Lanka)

## Four staff members receive top Make a Difference awards

Four exceptional employees have received Western Michigan University's annual Make a Difference award, which comes with a \$1,000 prize.

The 2005 recipients are: Amy Burns, office associate in the College of Education; Edwina Lyons, office assistant in the Department of Finance and Commercial Law; Chad Stec, director of information services in the Division of Student Affairs; and Judy Tice, supervisor of the duplicating center in the Haworth College of Business.



**OUTSTANDING STAFF**—This year's annual Make a Difference award winners were honored at a July 26 luncheon. President Judi Bailey, center, took part in the event recognizing award winners, from left, Edwina Lyons, Chad Stec, Judy Tice and Amy Burns.

**Amy Burns** was praised for her professional skills, dedication, special touches, and ability to develop strong relationships with the College of Education's many internal and external partners.

Burns helps keep the college's office running smoothly while assisting the dean and business manager. Her nomination materials noted that she does an excellent job performing these duties, despite the office being short staffed and Burns recently taking on a major new assignment—assistant building coordinator for Sangren Hall.

"Not only does she make sure things are done on time, but, somehow, she manages to complete twice her usual assignments with the highest quality," one nominator said.

Burns also is the liaison to several of the college's external constituency groups, works with numerous ad hoc councils and committees, and coordinates and implements every social or outreach activity the college hosts.

**Edwina Lyons** was consistently described as someone who is helpful, highly competent, resourceful, well organized, caring tactful and always gets the job done.

Her nominator said she not only provides outstanding service to individual faculty members and students, but has taken the initiative to make improvements in areas impacting faculty and students as a whole.

"She always has a positive attitude, with a cheerful and upbeat demeanor," one nominator said. "She routinely goes out of her way to help students and faculty solve problems."

Lyons also helps out at college functions and plays an important role in maintaining her department's positive image.

"She is an excellent ambassador for the University and a positive force in retaining our students," another co-worker said. "She is quick to try and help and knows the system so well that students report to me that she was 'great' and that they received very good service."

**Chad Stec** was cited for his technical acumen, reliability, positive outlook, and willingness to work with his Division of Student Affairs colleagues to ensure cost efficiencies as well as optimal service.

He knows the ins and outs of some 50 pieces of software and advises the division on related purchases. And on any given day, it isn't unusual for Stec to visit several buildings around campus while helping his colleague trouble shoot computer problems.

"His positive attitude is one of the first things that you notice when you're talking with him," one administrator wrote. "He is truly a reliable employee who knows how to get the job done. His positive attitude and strong work ethic set a wonderful example to students who come in contact with him."

Stec's nomination materials also note that he frequently serves on committees, is available any day of the week to solve work-related issues and often helps staff members with home computing issues.

**Judy Tice** was nominated because of her outstanding work for the Haworth College of Business and for being one of WMU's unsung heroes—staff members who work long hours in little-known jobs but whose professionalism has a major impact on the units and colleagues they serve.

Tice was commended for her dedication, cheerfulness, willingness to go the extra mile, and ability to complete jobs involving thousands of pages in a timely and accurate manner. In addition, she was praised for helping keep expenses down and catching errors before going ahead with duplicating work.

"My nominee is one of the hardest workers in the Haworth College of Business," one of Tice's co-workers wrote. "Every day, she comes to work with a positive attitude towards work and life. She is one of the first to arrive at work and usually the last to leave."

## Mingus wins Fulbright to study Canadian democratic reform

A WMU public affairs specialist is in the Canadian capital of Ottawa, Ontario, this semester to study an attempt by Canada's prime minister to change the Canadian system of government so the nation's parliament is more democratic.



Mingus

Matthew S. Mingus, doctoral director in public affairs and administration, has been awarded the 2005-06 Fulbright Research Chair in Public Policy, Governance and Public Administration at the University of Ottawa's

Centre on Governance. He will be at the University of Ottawa from late August through December researching the convergence and divergence of the Canadian and American systems of government.

Mingus' research will focus on Prime Minister Paul Martin's Democratic Action Plan through archival research and an ambitious series of interviews with ministers, backbenchers, opposition members of parliament and provincial politicians.

"With the publication of 'Ethics, Responsibility, Accountability: An Action Plan for Democratic Reform,' Prime Minister Paul Martin appears to be taking a leap toward the Americanization of Canada's parliamentary system," says Mingus. "Backbenchers may gain a significant voice, and the power of parliamentary committees may, over time, rival Cabinet committees. Elected representatives may also gain a real voice in budgetary matters by having a better oversight process for 'the Estimates,' as Canada's federal budget is known."

Mingus says the challenge ahead is to determine the extent that this plan is being enacted and whether or not the changes are really leading toward a convergence with the U.S. system.

## Garber earns service award

Sharon Garber, dance, has been honored by a leading ballet organization.



Garber

CORPS de Ballet International has presented Garber with an Outstanding Service Award. The organization presented the award June 25 during its seventh annual conference in San Francisco.

Garber is a founding member of CORPS de Ballet (Council of Organized Researchers of Pedagogical Studies of Ballet), an organization for ballet teachers in higher education formed in 1997. She served as its vice president from 1998-2000 and president from 2000-02. As president, she coordinated the 2002 conference at WMU and has served as ballet director here since 1994.

"Instituted in 2003, the Outstanding Service Award is a very special award presented by the board to exceptional members who have passionately given to the organization, and Shari certainly stands out as one of our best," says current President Christine Knoblauch-O'Neal.



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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY



## Obituaries

**Thomas L. Amos**, head of special collections for the Western Michigan University Libraries and president of WMU's Faculty Senate, died July 28. He was 53.



Amos

A medieval studies specialist, Amos' responsibilities included managing the University's rare book collections by acquiring new volumes and by processing, interpreting and providing reader reference and preservation services for the collections. Amos, who held the rank of professor of libraries and history, taught graduate courses in early medieval history and directed the graduate work of master's- and doctoral-level graduate students.

Amos came to the University in 1996 from Harvard University, where he served as curator for a collection in the Houghton Library. Prior to that he was assistant head of public services at the Lilly Library at Indiana University. He also served at St. John's University, where he was cataloger of Western manuscripts at the Hill Monastic Manuscript Library and curator of rare books for the Alcuin Library.

Amos earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Purdue University, a doctoral degree in medieval history from Michigan State University and a master's degree in library science from Indiana University. He also held a diploma from the University of Paris.

University officials have recently learned that **James R. Bliss**, emeritus in finance and commercial law, died March 17 in Scotts Valley, Calif. He was 87.



Bliss

Bliss retired in 1987 after an 18-year career at WMU. Prior to teaching at the University, he was a private practice attorney in the Chicago area for 20 years. He also served as a high school teacher and principal in Nebraska before earning his law degree.

Bliss was a graduate of Nebraska Wesleyan University and the University of Michigan Law School.

**Helen M. Brown**, emerita in dance, died Aug. 23 in Kalamazoo. She was 89.

Brown retired in 1981, after 34 years of service to the University. Active in University affairs, she served several terms on the Faculty Senate.

She joined the faculty to teach in the Department of Physical Education and later became a member of the dance faculty when that department was formed. She taught social dance forms, recreational dance and children's rhythms. Prior to coming to WMU, she taught in both the Kalamazoo and Detroit public school systems.

Brown earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees from Northwestern University and later studied dance with Martha Graham and Eric Hawkins at Connecticut College.

**Phyllis Burnham**, longtime employee of the WMU Archives and Regional History Collections, died Aug. 13. She was 78.

Burnham retired in 1985 after 25 years of service to the University. She was instrumental in building a fledgling archival collection into what is now the Regional History Collection. She continued to work in the archives as a volunteer after retirement, and her last major project as a volunteer was the publication of the Guide to the Regional History Collections in 1998.

Memorial contributions should be directed to Kalamazoo Senior Services or Westwood United Methodist Church.

**Janice L. Myers**, a WMU Bookstore employee, died Aug. 5 in Kalamazoo. She was 53.

A lifelong resident of Kalamazoo, Myers had worked at WMU for the past nine years. She was the lead cashier and supervisor for the store's service desk, and she oversaw the hiring of student employees who worked as cashiers in the main bookstore and in the Campustrends women's store and the card shop.

She was active with both the Third Reformed Church and Kalamazoo County 4-H programs. The family has requested that memorial contributions be made to either of those organizations.

## Human Resources

Human Resources Information Systems reminds employees to report changes of name, home address or phone numbers by Tuesday, Sept. 6, to insure inclusion of correct information in the 2005-06 edition of the campus directory.

Changes can be reported by completing the Employee Name and Address Change Form found online at [www.wmich.edu/hr/forms.htm](http://www.wmich.edu/hr/forms.htm) or sending an e-mail to [hr-hris@wmich.edu](mailto:hr-hris@wmich.edu) that includes the employee's full name and employee identification or social security number along with the changes being reported. Questions may be directed to human resources by calling 7-3620.

## Service

A total of 201 University employees marked service anniversaries during July and August when the *Western News* was not in publication.

Lists of employees who celebrated 40, 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service to WMU over the summer are available online at [www.wmich.edu/hr/anniv\\_list\\_july\\_o5.pdf](http://www.wmich.edu/hr/anniv_list_july_o5.pdf) and [www.wmich.edu/hr/anniv\\_list\\_aug\\_o5.pdf](http://www.wmich.edu/hr/anniv_list_aug_o5.pdf).

## Exchange

**FOR SALE**—A 1,200-square-foot, three bedroom/two bath modular home in Clayton Estates on Ninth Street in Oshtemo. All appliances stay. Oak cabinets throughout. Two walk-in closets in master suite. Features include central air, fireplace, two skylights. \$39,500. Call 7-5812 or (269) 353-5891.

**FOR SALE**—Riding lawn mower with 46-inch cut and 18.5hp twin Briggs auto trans. New battery, blades and fresh tune-up. Original owner. Runs great. Needs nothing. \$600 or best offer. Call 7-4893 or (269) 668-4718.

## 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) **Dean of Graduate Studies**, Z2, Graduate College, 04/05-4784, 5/31-until filled

(R) **Director, Diversity Recruitment**, Z2, Graduate College, 05/06-4840, 7/18-until filled

(R) **Academic Advisor**, 15, Lee Honors College, 05/06-4894, 8/29-9/06/05

R= Replacement

WMU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

## APA offers employees savings on annual membership dues

The Administrative/Professional Association is having a "summer special" on membership to encourage eligible WMU staff members to join the non-bargaining employee group.

Those who join now may pay for a \$15, one-year membership and have it extended to Dec. 31, 2006. The \$25, two-year membership will be extended to Dec. 31, 2007. To take advantage of this offer, those interested may complete the membership form recently sent in campus mail or complete the online form at [www.wmich.edu/apa](http://www.wmich.edu/apa).

## Wiener is first Faculty Senate Distinguished Service winner

William R. Wiener, who retired as dean of the Graduate College this summer, is the first recipient of the Faculty Senate Distinguished Service Award.

The award, which will be bestowed annually, was presented just before Wiener's July 8 retirement. He is now vice provost for research and dean of the Graduate School at Marquette University.

Wiener was honored for his achievements in blindness and low vision studies and for his service to students and faculty of the Graduate College.

Wiener came to WMU in 1987 as chairperson of what is now the Department of Blindness and Low Vision Studies and was named dean of the Graduate College in 2002. He is credited with a lengthy list of accomplishments that range from creating a new academic discipline aimed at providing travel instruction for people with disabilities to writing a textbook used by most university programs in the blindness field.

In 2004, Wiener won the Ambrose M. Shotwell Memorial Award presented for a lifetime of achievement by the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired.



Wiener



## On Campus with Kristie Morin



LIFE IS A BASH  
(Photo by Thom Myers)

Kristie Morin measures her success by the achievement of others, specifically the students she works with as assistant director of Student Activities and Leadership Programs.

"The best part of my job is working every day with students," says Morin, "and the most rewarding part of it is seeing students evolve as responsible leaders of campus organizations and major events."

Morin's responsibilities include large student events, such as Bronco Bash and homecoming. She serves as staff advisor to the Campus Activities Board, which schedules and funds much of the student-sponsored entertainment, lectures and other programs on campus, and to WIDR, the student-managed radio station. She also is a resource for WMU's more than 200 other registered student organizations.

Morin is proud to be a Bronco. She earned a Master of Social Work degree at WMU before joining the WMU staff in 1999 as an assistant director in admissions. She moved to her present position in SALP in 2001.

When she isn't on campus, which isn't often during fall and spring semesters, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, especially her one-year-old nephew, Jordan.

This past year, Morin has also devoted a lot of hours to her new house in the Westwood neighborhood of Kalamazoo. It isn't so much a Tim Allen-type home-improvement project, she says, as it is a decorating project to "make it my home—painting and new bathroom fixtures. The people at Lowe's know me on a first-name basis."

### Engineering firm

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with MDOT to perform asphalt testing across the southwest Michigan region.

Bob Miller, WMU's associate vice president for community outreach and point person for the BTR Park development, says meetings between SME executives and WMU's civil engineering faculty took place early in the process and drew rave reviews.

"There was an instant connection between the department and SME," Miller says, noting that WMU's civil engineering major is among the University's newest programs.

"Over the years, SME has demonstrated an amazing commitment to working with students through internships and co-op arrangements," says Osama Abudayyeh, chairperson of civil and construction engineering. "We're absolutely delighted that they will be nearby and able to work with our students and faculty."

SME offers an innovative student co-op program, and the firm hires about 50 co-op

students and interns per year. Mitchell sees that pattern as a win-win situation for both SME and engineering students applying to the co-op program. He believes the program has a positive benefit not only for the University and SME, but for the state as well.

"Getting young adults into a Michigan firm like ours as co-op students helps them to get a start with their career and helps convince them that Michigan is a great place to work and live," he notes.

Founded more than 40 years ago in the Detroit area, SME has provided engineering services for such high-profile projects as the Renaissance Center and the Palace of Auburn Hills. The company also has been involved with a variety of WMU construction projects, including the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences at the BTR Park, Haenicke Hall, the Seelye Athletic Center and the new College of Health and Human Services building. Last spring, SME

completed geotechnical evaluations for the sites of WMU's new chemistry building and Richmond Visual Arts Center.

In Kalamazoo, the company has recently been involved with the Radisson Plaza Hotel expansion, the City Center and current construction at the Kalamazoo Transportation Center as well as the Rave Theater and Ramp 3 projects.

### French, Native American connection topic of events

An award-winning exhibit chronicling the historical connection between the French and Native Americans will be on display at Waldo Library for six months.

The exhibit, "Shared Waters: Natives and French Newcomers on the Great Lakes," can be viewed from September through February 2006. The exhibit officially opens with ceremonies on Friday, Sept. 9, beginning with a 4 p.m. presentation by eminent historical geographer Conrad Heidenreich of York University in Toronto.

Heidenreich's lecture is in the library's Clock Tower Conference Room and will include a slide presentation on "The Changing Role of Natives in the Exploration of the Great Lakes during the 17th Century." There will be an official opening ceremony at 5 p.m. and a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Meader Rare Book Room, with welcoming remarks by WMU President Judith I. Bailey. The events are free and open to the public.

Originally conceived and designed by faculty members of the WMU history department, "Shared Waters" received the 2004 Great Lakes Cultural Center Best Exhibit Award.

### HHS dedication

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The shining, new 200,000-square-foot building weaves together the tech-heavy health field with the human element it also embraces. The result is a facility that puts under one roof all of the college's nationally recognized programs, fostering a collaboration between students and faculty across disciplines that is sure to pay big dividends in research and learning for many years to come. Above all else, collaboration was the key element in the building's design.

The gently curved, glass, brick and stone structure opened with the fall semester and houses several state-of-the-art laboratories, including bio-feedback and motion analysis labs, and four computer labs, as well as multi-media and distance learning equipped classrooms, a 100-seat lecture hall, and faculty offices. But there's much more. Rice paper between sheets of glass provides artful, translucent windows along hallways and the college's emphasis on sustainable and renewable materials is reflected in its rich, brown cork flooring; motion-activated lights; and heating and cooling systems. An "activities for daily living room" lets students prepare for helping patients work on daily skills, and a nursing suite complete with hospital beds donated by Stryker Medical allows students to work in a hospital-like setting. A physician assistant skills area comes complete with a \$300,000 simulated patient and examination room.

