



# Western NEWS

For and about WMU faculty and staff

APRIL 7, 2005

volume 31, number 14

## Four commencement times set

The University will confer more than 2,800 degrees during four commencement ceremonies Saturday, April. 23, in Miller Auditorium.

President Judith I. Bailey will preside over all four ceremonies, during which 2,304 bachelor's degrees, 501 master's degrees, two specialist degrees and 17 doctoral degrees will be awarded.

The ceremony times, and the academic units they have been set for, are as follows: 8:30 a.m., graduates of the Haworth College of Business; 11:30 a.m., graduates of the colleges of Aviation, Engineering and Applied Sciences, Fine Arts, and Health and Human Services; 2 p.m., graduates of the College of Education and Extended University Programs; and 5 p.m., graduates of the College of Arts and Sciences.

## Campus groundbreakings set stage for coming construction

Ground will be formally broken in the coming weeks for two major projects that will change the face of the main campus.

Construction on the new chemistry building will formally begin with a ground-breaking set for 1:30 p.m. Friday, April 22, near Wood Hall. The 83,000-square-foot building is set for fast-track construction and is planned for completion in time for the beginning of the fall 2006 semester.

Construction of the new James W. and Lois I. Richmond Center for Visual Arts will get under way following a formal ground-breaking at 4 p.m. Thursday, May 12. The long-planned facility will be located on the Fountain Plaza between the Dalton Center and the Miller Auditorium parking ramp and will be connected to both by enclosed walkways. The new building, which will take about 18 months to complete, will be used primarily as exhibition space and will be connected to Kohrman Hall, which eventually will be renovated to house classroom and studio space.

Site preparation for both projects has been under way throughout the spring.

## Trustees to meet next April 22

The University's Board of Trustees will meet Friday, April 22, in 157-159 Bernhard Center.

The board will begin its 8 a.m. meeting with a swearing-in ceremony for Dennis W. Archer, who was appointed to the board by Gov. Jennifer Granholm in January. The board will go into closed informal session at 8:30 a.m. and is expected to begin its regular, public meeting at approximately 10 a.m.

The board's agenda was not available at *Western News* press time. Details of the meeting will be posted the week of April 18 in *WMU News* at <www.wmich.edu/wmu/news>.

## Budget process under way for 2005-06, hiring freeze is effective immediately

With more than \$1.9 million recently cut from WMU's 2003-04 budget and an additional cut for all of Michigan higher education proposed by Gov. Jennifer Granholm for the 2005-06 year, the campus is under a strict hiring freeze announced by President Judith I. Bailey April 4.

"Given these circumstances, as we approach the fiscal year 05-06 budget, we must be exceptionally cautious in committing base budget funds for new faculty and staff positions," Bailey said in a campuswide e-mail.

The hiring freeze is effective immediately for all Fund 11 faculty and staff positions that are not filled or did not have a signed offer pending as of April 5. Exceptions to the freeze can only be authorized by a WMU vice president, with the written approval of the president.

The move was made as the state begins its budget process for next year and after an executive order issued by the governor March 23 cut some \$30 million from public universities this year, including \$1.964 million from WMU's budget. If the state's fiscal situation improves, universities could see that funding restored, but predictions about

Michigan's fiscal outlook for the remainder of this year and next remain guarded. The state's next revenue estimating conference is set for May 16 and should provide a clearer look at the revenue side of the state's budget for both this year and next.

Bailey will head to Lansing Wednesday, April 13, to testify before the House Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Higher Education. Her testimony is set for the third of several sessions this spring during which all 15 public university presidents in Michigan will petition for state support for their institutions and for the higher education system as a whole. Bailey will offer similar testimony May 6 before the Senate Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Higher Education.

One change from last year's budget climate is a moderation of the tuition restraint language by both the Legislature and the administration. That change emerged during talks that led to the March budget agreement that included the executive order cut.

"One positive outcome of these discussions," said Bailey, "has been the clear recognition by the governor and the Legislature that universities need a degree of budget

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## New ID cards now available at Lawson for faculty, staff, retirees

New photo-ID cards are available now for all faculty, staff, emeriti and retirees. The temporary card-processing center at Lawson Arena is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays, through the end of May.

More than 10,000 students were issued new cards during a two-week period at the end of March reserved for students. Remaining students, as well as faculty and staff, are encouraged to get new cards during April.

Until May 2, only old ID cards will work in campus card-swipe readers. After that date, only new cards will work. For those employees using electronic time cards—Kronos cards—the new ID replaces both their old WMU ID and their electronic time card.

There are seven card-processing stations at Lawson, where those receiving cards are photographed and write their signatures on an electronic pad. A new ID card, containing the photo and signature, is created on the spot. The entire process takes five minutes or less.

Staff supervisors are asked to give their staff employees release time during normal business hours.

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CEZAR CHAVEZ DAY—From left, President Judith Bailey, master of ceremonies John Dominguez of the Van Buren Intermediate School District and WMU graduate student Andrea Juarez listen to remarks by Gov. Jennifer Granholm at Cezar Chavez Day ceremonies March 31 in the Bernhard Center. (Photo by Thom Myers)

# Campus welcomes new faculty members

**Marlene J. Braunius**, teaching, learning and leadership, is a reading specialist who is on the WMU-Grand Rapids faculty.



Braunius

She came to WMU from Florida Atlantic University, where she was a faculty member from 1998 to 2003. Prior to that, she taught for 19 years in the Zeeland, Mich., public schools, ending her tenure there as curriculum director. She also has taught at Calvin College, Grand Valley State University and Michigan State University. She earned her doctoral degree from MSU in 1991 and her bachelor's and master's degrees from Calvin.

**Walter Burt**, teaching, learning and leadership, came to WMU from California's Stupski Foundation, where he coordinated districtwide changes to public school systems in New Haven,



Burt

Conn., and Paterson, N.J. Prior to that he was superintendent of public schools in Pontiac, Mich., and an assistant superintendent for districts in Flint and Grand Rapids. He was a WMU adjunct faculty member from 1988 to 1998, and he also has taught at Aquinas College and several other Michigan universities. He earned a bachelor's degree from Alcorn State University, a master's from Eastern Michigan University and a doctoral degree from the University of Michigan.

**Eric J. Fox**, psychology, came to WMU from Arizona State University, where he earned his doctoral degree in 2004.



Fox

Fox has developed a line of research that focuses on the application of computer and Web-based technology to teach abstract concepts. His other academic interests include critical thinking, human performance technology, human language and cognition. He earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Nevada-Reno and served as a graduate research and teaching assistant at both UNV and ASU. He also has been active in the private sector as a developer of e-learning tools.

**Dennis McCrumb**, teaching, learning and leadership, has been a part-time instructor at WMU since 1994, teaching educational leadership courses, and was superintendent of Marcellus Community Schools from 1989 to 2004.



McCrumb

He also has been a teacher, assistant principal and assistant superintendent in Michigan and Indiana districts. A 1971 WMU alumnus, McCrumb earned three degrees—a master's degree, an education specialist degree and a doctoral degree—from Indiana University. His research has focused on support for school administrators in the decision-making process.

Editor's note: This is the twelfth installment in the *Western News* series that offers brief profiles of new members of the WMU faculty. In each issue, several of the more than 80 first-year faculty members will be profiled.

## Graduating student engineers show skills, industry design work

A super-mileage engine for a single-person vehicle, a lightweight portable wheelchair and a landing gear system for a sport airplane are just some of the projects that will be showcased as the University's graduating engineers demonstrate their talents during

the 36th Conference on Senior Engineering Design Projects this month.

The event is set for 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 12, at the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences on the Parkview Campus. It is open to the public without charge.

A total of 165 seniors will present the results of 69 projects they have completed to solve problems facing business and industry. The conference is held twice each year to showcase work in the engineering disciplines by graduating seniors, who are required to complete a capstone project that allows them to put into practice what they have learned.

Nearly 40 sponsors from around the nation provided support for the projects. Companies and organizations sponsoring the work this semester range from firms like Dana Corp, DENSO Manufacturing, Eaton Corp., Kellogg Co. and Pfizer Inc. to the National Science Foundation, Pratt and Whitney Auto-Air Inc. and MANN+HUMMEL USA.

More details of the conference are available through the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences Web site: <[www.wmich.edu/engineer](http://www.wmich.edu/engineer)>.

## Veeck honored for work in China

Ann Veeck, marketing, was recently honored as the Outstanding Scholar on the Practice of Marketing in China by the



Veeck

Society for Marketing Advances and the Golden Tripod Marketing Awards Committee in China.

Veeck, who has repeatedly visited China over the past decade, has conducted research on changing family and food consumption patterns in urban areas of that country.

The award program in which she was honored is designed to encourage American scholars to focus their research on China and on advancing the practice of marketing in that fast-growing market. The award was based on her research record in that country.

## Zegree heads to NYC to conduct

Steve Zegree, music, has been invited to serve as guest conductor for the April 23-25 New York City Vocal Jazz Festival.



Zegree

The event will include a performance by WMU's acclaimed vocal jazz group Gold Company during the final evening's presentation in the Lincoln Center's Avery Fischer Hall.

This is a repeat engagement for Zegree and Gold Company, who were invited to perform at the major festival in 2001 as well.

## Hega invited to federalism event

Gunther Hega, political science, traveled to Brussels, Belgium, in March as an invited participant in the Third International Conference on Federalism: Turning Diversity into Harmony, Sharing Best Practices.



Hega

The event attracted more than 600 policymakers, journalists, academics and youth to discuss how federalism can contribute to good governance, social and economic welfare, and peace and democracy.

## Barry-Davis presents at Oxford

Josephine Barry-Davis, teaching, learning and leadership, traveled to the University of Oxford in England late last month to present an invited paper at a Roundtable Session on Early Childhood Education.



Barry-Davis

Barry-Davis' paper was on "Global Literacy and Early Childhood Education." She was one of a few researchers selected

from around the world invited to take part in the event, based on their research and leadership qualities in the field. Papers presented will be published for worldwide distribution.



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WMU is an equal opportunity/employer/affirmative action institution.



## Annual spring luncheon to feature 1950s style food, fun

The University community is invited to travel back in time on Friday, May 13, when the Administrative Professional Association and the Professional and Support Services Organization hold their 2005 spring gathering and awards luncheon.

This year's event centers around the fabulous 1950s and will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Bernhard Center's East Ballroom—a.k.a. the "Bronco Diner." The luncheon will feature presentation of both the APA's and PSSO's annual staff awards as well as an open buffet, games and door prizes.

Those attending are encouraged to wear their favorite poodle skirts, leather jackets and other nifty 50s clothing. Those who dress up will be eligible to participate in a special prize drawing. During the festivities, the APA and PSSO also will be collecting funds for the Red Cross.

The cost to attend is \$8 for APA and PSSO members and \$10 for nonmembers. Meals must be prepaid by cash or by check, payable to Western Michigan University. Reservations with payment are required by Friday, May 6. They should include your name, department or office name, and daytime phone number and be returned to Kathy Wright in the Department of Geosciences, Mail Stop 5241.

For more information or to download a reservation form, visit APA on the Web at <[www.wmich.edu/apa](http://www.wmich.edu/apa)> and click on "Latest News."

## Register by April 15 for free Medieval Congress attendance

The double-edged sword of success will take its toll in May on local lovers of all things medieval, unless they plan ahead and register by April 15 to attend the University's 40th International Congress on Medieval Studies.

The annual congress, scheduled this year for May 5-8, has enjoyed record attendance in recent years, bringing long lines of last-minute registrants—sometimes as many as 300 people at a time to the congress' main registration desk and creating logistical problems. For that reason, congress organizers have established for the first time, a strict early registration deadline of April 15. Attendees registering after that point must pay a \$25 late registration fee.

The tradition of offering members of the University community and Kalamazoo County residents free attendance is still in effect—as long as they register by April 15. After that, they too will be subject to the \$25 late registration fee.

Conference registration is available online. Visit the Medieval Institute at <[www.wmich.edu/medieval](http://www.wmich.edu/medieval)> and click on "40th Congress."

Those planning to attend the conference may fill out and submit the registration form totally online or fill out a PDF version of the form and print it out. The printed form should be returned by April 15 to the address or fax number included on the form. Forms also may be picked up at the Medieval Institute office in WMU's Walwood Hall.

## Service

The following employees are celebrating 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service to the University during April.

**25 years**—Vicki L. Cox, physical plant—maintenance services; Judy K. Dinda, physical plant—building custodial and support services; Sandra A. Khan, International Student and Scholar Services; Norma J. Lockway, Burnham dining service; and Roger K. Mills, physical plant—utilities.

**20 years**—Janice B. Bailey, public safety; and Dora L. Secondi, physical plant—building custodial and support services;

**15 years**—George A. Boston, University Libraries; James M. Brown, physical plant—maintenance services; Raymond V. Kezenius, campus planning; Yolanda C. Mihalko, teaching, learning and leadership; Patricia Nelson, philosophy; Linda Opalewski, logistical services; Mary E. Palmer, admissions and orientation; and Donald VanderRoest, physical plant—maintenance services.

**10 years**—Rita V. Glass, Center for Disability Services; and Kathleen M. Young, Bronson School of Nursing.

**Five years**—Barbara Ann Ballard, Bernhard dining service; Clayton Bates, intercollegiate athletics; Joyce E. Bierenga, Burnham dining service; Stephen G. Hawkins, intercollegiate athletics; Hengli Ma, chemistry; Carrie A. Soule, human resources; and Judy A. Tice, Haworth College of Business.

## Lynching subject of talk at Waldo

The spring gathering and annual meeting of the Friends of the Western Michigan University Libraries will take place at 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 12, in the Meader Rare Book Room on the third floor of Waldo Library.

The event, which is free and open to the public, will feature a talk by Deborah Barnes, director of the Lewis Walker Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnic Relations. The talk will be immediately followed by an informal reception. Titled "Written in Blood: Collecting the Stories of Lynching," it will draw on Barnes' extensive research into the history of lynching in the United States, especially narratives about lynching.

For more information, call 7-5202 or (269) 349-8166.

## Final push is now on for Finals Finish volunteers

Every spring, WMU employees help thousands of students ease into finals week. All it takes is donating two hours of time to Finals Finish, which this year will run from 6 to 11 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, April 18 and 19, in the Student Recreation Center.

Volunteers sign up for a 6 to 8 p.m. or 8 to 10 p.m. shift on either Monday or Tuesday. During their shifts, they distribute snacks, work registration, gather evaluations and lead contests or other activities. Those volunteering receive a free Finals Finish T-shirt and a guest pass to the recreation center, as do financial donors who contribute \$25 or more.

To register as a volunteer, visit <[www.finalsfinish.wmich.edu](http://www.finalsfinish.wmich.edu)> or contact Sue Oole by calling 7-7006 or sending e-mail to <[sue.oole@wmich.edu](mailto:sue.oole@wmich.edu)>.

## 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) **Chef**, 17, Bernhard Center, 04/05-4728, 4/4-4/11/05

(N) **Manager of Marketing**, 17, Division of Student Affairs, 04/05-4729, 4/4-4/11/05

(R) **Utility Person-Bella Vita Café**, F3, Dining Services, 04/05-4731, 4/4-04/11/05

N=New

R= Replacement

WMU is an Equal Opportunity/

## Sam Clark Lecture to examine role of political theory today

A political theorist specializing in modern and contemporary European thought will visit campus next week to appear at two events.

Fred R. Dallmayr, the University of Notre Dame's Packey J. Dee Professor in the departments of political science and philosophy, will take part in an informal discussion titled "Political Theory in Troubled Times" from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, April 14, in 3301 Friedmann. The session will allow for interaction between the audience and Dallmayr, who will comment on his understanding of the role of political theory and what role he envisions for political theory in the future.

Later that day, Dallmayr will present the 2004-05 Sam Clark Lecture titled "Empire or Cosmopolis? Civilization at the Crossroads." The lecture is from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in 157-158 Bernhard Center and will raise the question of where contemporary civilization is heading, with globalization bringing about the possibility of a global empire of unprecedented dimensions, often labeled "pax Americana."

Dallmayr earned a law degree from the University of Munich and a Ph.D at Duke University. His interests include comparative philosophy, particularly non-Western political thought, focusing on Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and Confucianism; cross-cultural dialogue and global human rights. His books include "Achieving Our World: Toward a Global and Plural Democracy" and "Peace Talks—Who Will Listen?"

Both events are free and open to the public and are offered by political science's Institute of Government and Politics.

## This issue last for semester

The April 7 issue of *Western News* is the last for the spring 2005 semester.

Publication will resume May 5, at the start of the Summer I session. Until then, readers are encouraged to visit the University's online news site, WMU News, at <[www.wmich.edu/wmu/news](http://www.wmich.edu/wmu/news)>.

# On Campus with Nicole Birmingham



SHE LOVES HER STUDENT-CENTERED JOB  
(Photo by Thom Myers)

Nicole Birmingham gets passionate about three things: helping students develop leadership skills, a sandy beach on a sunny day and Dudley. We'll get to Dudley in a minute.

Birmingham graduated from WMU with honors in interpersonal communication and worked briefly at Southwest Michigan College, before returning to WMU for a three-year stint in the admissions office. From there, she went to Career and Student Employment Services, where she spent one year working with business majors, and then to her current job as an assistant director in Student Activities and Leadership Programs. Among her responsibilities are volunteer services, including Alternative Spring Break and Alternative Winter Experience; leadership and life skills, which includes two major leadership retreats each year at Sherman Lake; and financial management for many of WMU's nearly 300 registered student organizations.

Helping students develop and acquire skills that will "serve them for the rest of their lives" is the part of her job she finds most rewarding, and she sees those opportunities in every aspect of her work. Birmingham grew up along Lake Michigan, in Bridgman, and she readily acknowledges an addiction to sandy beaches and sunshine, and her unimpeachable loathing of Michigan winters. She tries to escape the cold and darkness of winter for at least one week each year with vacation trips to places like Hawaii and Mexico. Her favorite destination is Puerto Vallarta, because "it's less touristy."

Recent home ownership, however, has put a slight dent in the winter travel budget, so this year, she toughed it out at home with her favorite companion, Dudley, a white, 2-year-old West Highland Terrier.

## Budget \_\_\_\_\_ continued from page 1

flexibility, and that tuition restraint takes much of that flexibility away from us."

Another outcome of the March budget agreement was approval of a \$12.9 million capital outlay project for the much-needed renovation of Brown Hall. The Brown Hall project was selected by WMU as the project that would best fit the state's capital outlay appropriation as well as have the greatest impact on instruction and student needs. Brown Hall was built in 1967 and is used for instruction in the departments of English, Communication and Foreign Languages.

With the state's budget planning for 2005-06 running later than last year, University officials say it may be months before the exact amount of WMU's state appropriation for next year is known. Last year, under similar budget pressures, the state did not finalize its budget until the fall. The state budget process is beginning with another proposed 1.8 percent cut to higher education for 2005-06. For WMU, that cut would mean an additional loss of \$1.964 million.

The general fund budget and tuition rates may not be set until trustees meet in July. While later than last year, that timing is when WMU and most other public universities normally finalize those decisions.

## Thompson travels to India to file report at WHO summit

Joyce Thompson, nursing, is traveling to India this week to attend a high-profile summit addressing global health issues.



Thompson

Thompson will present a brief report during an annual meeting of the World Health Organization held in conjunction with World Health Day on Thursday, April 7. Each year, the WHO delivers a report on World Health Day. This year's report deals with maternal and child health, a topic of great concern to Thompson.

As director of the International Confederation of Midwives' Board of Management, Thompson serves in the highest elected post for a midwife in the world, a position she has held for the past six years. She is also the co-chairperson of the Partnership for Safe Motherhood and Newborn Health.

The summit is titled "High-Level Meeting on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health" and will be held April 7 through April 9. It is sponsored by the Partnership for Safe Motherhood and Newborn Health, the Healthy Newborn Partnership, the Child

Survival Partnership and the government of India.

Both the prime minister of India and Dr. Lee Jong-wook, director general of the WHO, will be in attendance. It is not known if Thompson will have the opportunity to talk directly with either, but if so, her message will be in support of the role of midwives and nurses with midwifery skills in making pregnancy and birth safe for all women in the world.

Thompson will present a brief report during the meeting on the role of the International Confederation of Midwives and on midwives working collaboratively with obstetricians, nurses and pediatricians to achieve good health among pregnant women, mothers, newborns and children.

"My mantra for the past 20 years has been, 'Healthy women lead to healthy children, and healthy children lead to healthy nations,'" Thompson says. "So without healthy women, there will be no healthy nations." My work in the world as a nurse-midwife for nearly 40 years has reinforced this vital connection between the health of women and the health of any society."

Each year, more than half a million women die from pregnancy-related causes, and 10.6 million children die, 40 percent of them in the first month of life, according to the WHO. Almost all of these deaths are in developing countries. Many deaths could be prevented with well-known interventions, if only they were more widely available.

"We must work everywhere where women and children are vulnerable," Thompson says.

## New faculty/staff IDs \_\_\_\_\_ continued from page 1

ness hours to get a new card. Each supervisor should decide how best to implement that process with the least disruption of service in his or her area.

New cards are part of the University's switch from Social Security numbers to Western Identification Numbers—or WIN—as the primary way of identifying students and employees. The change, which was mandated by the state, will provide greater protection from identity theft.

In June, the card center returns to its normal home in the Bernhard Center and will be open on a reduced summer schedule.