



# Western NEWS

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[www.wmich.edu/wmu/news](http://www.wmich.edu/wmu/news)

## Upton to give legislative update



Upton

U.S. Rep. Fred Upton will update Southwest Michigan residents on current national affairs at 7:30 a.m. Monday, June 7, in 2150 Schneider Hall.

The presentation, "Legislative Update," includes a continental breakfast and is free and open to the public. Reservations are required and may be made by calling 7-5050.

## Alumnus heads WMU-Lansing



Johnson

Darrell Johnson assumed his duties as director of WMU-Lansing on May 3. He replaces Gus H. Breymann, who retired in February after more than 22 years with the University.

Johnson completed a doctorate in counselor education at WMU in 2003. During the previous 10 years, he was an admissions, recruitment and retention official at Grand Valley State University and the universities of Central Florida and Notre Dame.

## Student plays to be showcased

Staged readings of 14 new one-act plays by WMU student playwrights will be performed and directed by Department of Theatre students on three Monday evenings this spring. "New Play Project" productions will take place at 8 p.m. May 24, June 7 and June 21 in York Arena Theatre. The performances are free and open to the public.

The plays are the focus of a summer session course in the rehearsal and development of new plays. Offered through Extended University Programs, the class is being team-taught by Joan Herrington, theatre, and Steve Feffer, English.

## Dean named for arts and sciences college



Kent

Thomas Kent, dean of graduate studies at Utah State University since 2000, has been named the new dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

His appointment is effective Aug. 1, subject to approval by the WMU Board of Trustees at its next meeting. He replaces Elise Jorgens, who became provost at the College of Charleston this past July.

In his current role, Kent is responsible for all aspects of graduate education at USU, including budget and enrollment management, program evaluation, development

and fund raising, scholarship and fellowship support, and the approval of academic policies and procedures.

"I am delighted to be part of the Western Michigan University family," Kent says. "WMU already possesses outstanding programs in the arts and sciences, and I look forward to working with the faculty, staff and friends of the University to enhance these programs and to help fashion an even stronger College of Arts and Sciences."

Kent was chairperson of the Department of English at Iowa State University, where he held a series of faculty appointments in English beginning in 1984, and also taught at Miami University of Ohio and served for one year as a Fulbright Professor at the University of Tampere in Finland.

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HOME FRONT—Company A of the 156th Signal Battalion returned home May 8 after serving in Iraq since April 2003. Those returning included: (staff) William Arnold, University Libraries; Christine Hummel, Evaluation Center; Paul MacNellis, physical plant/landscape services; (alumni) Dan Smith, the unit's captain; Clifford Ferree; Scott Karapian; (students) senior Scott Bogue; junior Kevin Ordway; senior Eric Roll; and freshman Taryn Timmerman.

## Privatizing residence hall custodians will save \$1.5 million

After four months of study, WMU announced Monday, May 17, that it will privatize custodial operations in the residence halls, annually saving the University and students some \$1.5 million. The move was immediately effective and is expected to eliminate 60 custodial positions assigned to the University's 22 residence halls.

Vice President Diane Anderson broke the news to affected employees and leaders of their union, AFSCME Local 1668, early Monday.

Residence hall custodial work will be contracted out to Commercial Sanitation Management Services Inc. of Hudsonville, Mich., the low bidder in a process that saw five private firms and AFSCME submit proposals aimed at lowering current residence hall custodial costs. AFSCME also was given the opportunity to respond to the private vendor proposals

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# Around the Campus

## April diversity lecture reprised

A videotape of "The Illusion of Race" by Joseph Graves will be shown Wednesday, May 26, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the Fetzer Center's Kirsch Auditorium. This is a repeat of the presentation Graves made April 6 and 7 for Kalamazoo's communitywide "Respecting Differences" lecture series. The presentation focuses on the lack of biological evidence supporting race as a means of categorizing humans.

## HelpNet schedules programs

The University's Employee Assistance Program provider, HelpNet, will present two brown bag lunch sessions in June. They are free and open to all WMU employees. Both programs will take place from noon to 1 p.m. in the Bernhard Center Faculty Dining Room, which is located inside the public cafeteria.

The Wednesday, June 2, topic is "Thriving in a Changing Workplace." The Thursday, June 10, topic is "Managing Personal and Workplace Stress."

To reserve a seat, send an e-mail to <training@wmich.edu> indicating the session you would like to attend. If you have questions, call Felicia Crawford in human resources at 7-3635.

For more information about these or any other campus events, visit the WMU News Web site at <[www.wmich.edu/wmu/news](http://www.wmich.edu/wmu/news)>.

## Beaver Island site of workshop

A workshop on Michigan's scenic Beaver Island is being brought back by popular demand. "Writing for Publication: A Workshop on the Craft of Publishing Articles in Magazines or Professional Journals," is set for 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, July 12 through 15, at the Beaver Island Community School in St. James.

This coached, hands-on writing experience will leave plenty of time to enjoy Beaver Island with family and friends. Preregistrations are due by July 2. To register, visit <[www.wmich.edu/conferences/confcal.html](http://www.wmich.edu/conferences/confcal.html)> or call 7-4174.

## Sole Power series going strong

Sole Power, a health and wellness program for faculty and staff that features power walking and informational sessions, began May 19 and will run through Aug. 7. The \$15 program fee includes a guide for each power walk, tracking and incentive documents, six health and wellness topic sessions, and maps. The topic sessions are open to non-Sole Power members for \$5 per session.

Future Sole Power programs will be held in 3016 Student Recreation Center from 12:05 to 12:50 p.m. June 9, June 23, July 14, July 28 and Aug. 4. Information on session topics is available online at <[www.src.wmich.edu/zest/index.html](http://www.src.wmich.edu/zest/index.html)>. To register, call Zest for Life at 7-3543.

## Kuhle wins coaching honor



Kuhle

Head women's tennis coach Betsy Kuhle was selected as the MAC Co-Coach of the Year. Kuhle's recognition as one of the top coaches in the MAC marks the fourth time in her career she has received the accolade. She was previously named Coach of the Year in 1990, 1995 and 1997. The Broncos have finished no lower than third in the league standings since Kuhle's arrival at WMU in 1983.

## Bronco baseball legend retiring



Decker

Legendary Bronco baseball coach Fred Decker was honored during the May 15 baseball game. Decker, who is retiring at the end of this season, has been associated with the Broncos as a player and coach for more than 40 years and has won more contests than any other coach in any sport in school history.

Decker is finishing his 29 seasons as head coach with an overall record to date of 790-708-6. His 400 league wins are the most in Mid-American Conference annals. Decker has produced 87 major league draft picks, 53 All-MAC First Team performers and 10 All-American selections.

In 1993, Decker was inducted into the WMU Athletic Hall of Fame and named the W Club Man of the Year. He also was named MAC Coach of the Year and Midwest Regional Coach of the Year in 1989.

## Walker tapped for presidency



Walker

Alan G. Walker, vice provost for Extended University Programs, has been named the 20th president of Upper Iowa University in Fayette, Iowa. Walker, who has been in his current position at WMU since July 2000, will take office at UIU July 1. UIU is a four-year, liberal arts institution and the largest private college in Iowa with some 5,400 students.



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DEADLINE: Items to be considered for publication should be submitted to the Office of University Relations by 5 p.m. Friday the week preceding the publication date. Summer I Session 2004 publication dates are May 6, May 20, June 3 and June 17. Items may be submitted by mail, fax (387-8422) or e-mail (cheryl.roland@wmich.edu).

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



A PASSION FOR FASHION—A fashion show at this year's International Congress on Medieval Studies featured medieval attire created by WMU students. (Photo by Tammy M. Boneburg)

## May 28 deadline for helping select outstanding 2003-04 staff

Faculty and staff have until May 28 to submit recommendations for WMU's four annual Staff Service Excellence Awards. These prestigious annual awards carry a \$1,000 prize and are reserved for WMU's most outstanding staff employees. The recipients will be announced in June and selected by a committee from the 23 employees who won semiannual Staff Service Excellence Awards during 2003-04.

The committee makes its selection based on new information as well as previously submitted semiannual nomination forms. New supporting information should include specific examples of how the award candidates have exhibited excellence that far exceeds normal job expectations. This supporting information should be submitted to Jennifer Clements, human resources, by memo, e-mail to <hr-ssea@wmich.edu> or fax to 7-3441.

The 23 eligible candidates are: Carol Ashley, Workers' Compensation; George Boston, University Libraries; Mary Lou Brooks, blindness and low vision studies; Amy Burns, College of Education; Jose Cardoza, physical plant-building custodial and support services; Kimberly Cho, Career English Language Center for International Students; Linda Comrie, Graduate College; Teresa Cronkhite, Bernhard Center Dining Services; Betsy Drummer, business information systems; Sandra Duke, theatre; Ronicka Hamilton, multicultural affairs; Michelle Hastings, international affairs; Linda Ickes, Career and Student Employment Services; Turea Jordan, finance and commercial law; Blaine Kalafut, public safety; Pamela McCartney, chemistry; Richard McMullen Jr., Student Support Services; William J. Merrow, Mallinson Institute for Science Education; Yolanda Mihalko, teaching, learning and leadership; Susan Nap, College of Arts and Sciences; Thomas Ramsdell, Logistical Services; Carol Reid, Academic Skills Center; and Sandra Stephens, College of Education.

### Jobs

Although a campuswide job freeze remains in effect, the following vacancies have been approved for posting as positions that are essential for the continued operation of the unit represented. All position authorizations must have the approval of a WMU vice president to be posted during the freeze.

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.

### Service

The following employees are recognized for 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service to the University during May.

**30 years**—Margaret E. Chapman, mathematics.

**25 years**—Nancy J. Johnson, investments and endowment management.

**20 years**—Krista J. Cekola, human resources.

**15 years**—Paul Hildenbrand, College of Education; Denise A. Richards, Fetzer Center; Kandeiss-Toi Ross, human resources; and S. Yvonne Slate, teaching, learning, and leadership.

**10 years**—Gregory P. Anderson, geography; Holly A. Bandfield, Extended

(R) **Assistant/Associate Professor**, (tenure track, academic year), I20/I30, Speech Pathology and Audiology, 03/04-4336, 5/17-5/24/04

(R) **Assistant/Associate Professor**, (tenure track, academic year), I20/I30, Educational Studies, 03/04-4339, 5/17-5/24/04

(R) **Assistant/Associate/Full Professor**, (tenure track, academic year), I20/I30/I10, Electrical and Computer Engineering, 03/04-4340, 5/17-5/24/04

(R) **Contract and Grants Specialist**, 16, Grants and Contracts, 03/04-4338, 5/17-5/24/04

N= New, R=Replacement

WMU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

University Programs; Cheryl Carr, physical plant-building custodial and support services; Cheryl A. Peters, statistics; Jack A. Rowgo, physical plant-maintenance services; and Veronica L. Thomas, residence life.

**Five years**—Gregory S. Ampey-Littlejohn, student affairs information services; Joan L. Beffel, internal audit; Kristen S. Betser, Student Activities and Leadership Programs; Lynn A. Buthala-Plew, Office of the Vice President for Research; Victoria E. Janson, Office of the Vice President for Research; Vanessa P. Powell, Bernhard Center Dining Service; Kristen M. Rose, development; and Richard H. Welch, physics.

### Obituaries



Harmon

**Robert E. Harmon**, emeritus in chemistry died April 23 in Chewelah, Wash. He was 73.

Harmon was with the Cancer Chemotherapy National Service Center in Bethesda, Md., before

joining the faculty in 1961. He retired in 1996 after more than 35 years at WMU.

An organic chemist and 1980 Distinguished Faculty Scholar award winner, Harmon was known for his work in medicinal chemistry and the synthesis of anticancer drugs.

After retiring, he opened a research facility in Springfield, Wash., where he studied medicinal compounds. He earned a bachelor's degree from Washington State University and a doctoral degree from Wayne State University.

**E.L. Marietta**, emeritus in business education, died May 12 in Kalamazoo. He was 87.

Marietta taught at the University of Northern Iowa and Michigan State University. He came to WMU in 1962 as head of the business education department and retired in 1979. The Marietta family lived in Nigeria from 1966 to 1968 while he worked on a WMU/USAID project that established a Technical College in Ibadan.

A World War II veteran, Marietta was a lieutenant commander in the Naval Reserve. He earned doctoral and master's degrees from the University of Iowa and a bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University. Memorial donations may be made to the First Baptist Church or Westside Kiwanis.

### Exchange

**FOR SALE**—9'6" x 9'6" EZ Up Instant Shelter, detachable sides included. Ideal for backyard barbecues, picnics, camping, graduations, weddings, arts and crafts booth, etc. Like new. \$175. Call 501-8665.

**FOR SALE**—Two-bedroom home in Oshtemo Twp. close to stores, highways, colleges, etc. Well maintained, full basement. On one park-like acre with lots of perennials. Enormous backyard leading to nature trails and park. \$102,900. Call 372-0003 and ask for Cathy.

# On Campus with Holly Mathews



IT'S AN HONOR WORKING HERE  
(Photo by Allison Rector)

Three years ago, Holly Mathews, Lee Honors College, was trying to land a job in WMU's geosciences department when a friend told her about another opening on campus.

She took a chance and interviewed for the office assistant position in the honors college, and that's where she's been working happily ever since.

"It was a natural fit," she says. "It just felt right."

Mathews, a Three Rivers native, has an array of duties that often put her in touch with the college's 1,300-plus student body.

"They're so much fun to work with, and I get to do a little bit of everything," she explains.

She maintains the content and technical aspects of college's Web site, sends letters to students accepted into the college, helps with new student orientation and manages incoming senior theses.

"They're all very different," she says of the students and their capstone projects. "We had one thesis that examined how waiters' and waitresses' appearance affected their tips. And then there was a group of engineering students who built a radiotelescope for their thesis project."

She and her husband Edsel have one son, Christopher, and are expecting another child in January.

## Residence hall custodians \_\_\_\_\_ continued from page 1

and to the University's overall findings in its study of privatization.

While AFSCME's proposal offered an estimated \$435,000 reduction in annual costs, it is anticipated that the proposal from Commercial Sanitation Management Services will reduce costs by nearly \$1.5 million, generating \$1.1 million greater savings. In addition to the cost differential, Commercial Sanitation Management Services received high marks for its quality service when the company's references were checked.

After careful study, these factors led Anderson and her study committee, which was made up of staff from residence halls, student affairs, and business and finance, to recommend acceptance of the Commercial Sanitation Management Services proposal. Anderson then took the recommendation to WMU President Judith I. Bailey, who sought input from other senior officials and trustees before deciding to accept the recommendation late in the day May 14.

"This was a very difficult decision for me and for those who brought the recommendation forward," Bailey said. "The decision was based on the need to preserve the affordability and viability of this University. We

had to look at the total cost our students and their families pay to attend WMU. Room and board accounts for more than half of that total cost, and we can't, in good conscience reject an opportunity to keep our costs down and protect our students' opportunities to attend this University."

WMU's room and board rates are third highest among Michigan's public universities. Only the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor and Wayne State University have higher rates.

## CAS dean \_\_\_\_\_ continued from page 1

The author or co-author of four books and numerous book chapters, Kent has focused his academic career on such topics as rhetoric, literary theory and composition studies. His work also has been widely published in professional journals, and he has made presentations internationally on topics that range from interdisciplinary research to literary criticism.

He earned his bachelor's degree at the University of Michigan in 1969 and a doctoral degree from Purdue University in 1980.

## College plans first orientation program for graduate students

Faculty and staff are invited to comment on what type of information should be presented to graduate students during WMU's first Graduate Student Orientation Program Aug. 28. The program will be open to all main- and branch-campus graduate students who do not hold an assistantship or associateship. The Graduate College, which is sponsoring the event, offers a Graduate Assistantship/Doctoral Associateship Training Program that this year is set for Aug. 23-25 for domestic students and Aug. 23-27 for international students.

The new program will annually acquaint an additional 1,500 students with the services and resources available to help them successfully complete their master's or doctoral degrees. Although not mandatory, it is highly suggested that incoming full- and part-time graduate students attend. The Graduate College will continue to develop the Universitywide Graduate Student Orientation Program over the course of the summer.

A tentative program schedule is available online at <[www.wmich.edu/grad](http://www.wmich.edu/grad)>. To comment, call the college at 7-8208 or e-mail <[kevin.vichcales@wmich.edu](mailto:kevin.vichcales@wmich.edu)> with your comments.

**online Calendar**

Check [www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/events](http://www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/events)  
for a complete list of public campus events  
and activities