



Western News

OCTOBER 30, 2014
Volume 41, Number 5

For and about WMU faculty and staff

Faculty scholar nominations sought

Nominations are due Friday, Jan. 30, 2015, for the Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award, the highest honor WMU bestows on its faculty members. The award is based on outstanding professional achievements. It recognizes those whose work is widely known beyond campus and constitutes a significant body of achievement, a substantial amount of which has been accomplished while a WMU faculty member. Wide recognition beyond WMU is essential.

Current, continuing board-appointed full- and part-time employees with faculty rank are eligible if they have at least seven academic years of service to WMU and are not previous winners. Recipients will be honored during the 2015 Academic Convocation and receive a \$2,000 honorarium that becomes part of their base salaries, a plaque, and an opportunity to present a campus lecture, exhibition or performance.

For more information, visit <http://wmich.edu/research/awards.html> or contact Ernst A. Breisach, emeritus in history and chair of the Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award Committee, at eabreisach@gmail.com or (269) 344-1734.

Veterans to give reading Nov. 11

Stories From the Barracks to the Front, a reading by WMU military veterans, will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Veterans Day Tuesday, Nov. 11, in the Lee Honors College Building lounge. Refreshments will be available, and the reading will begin at noon.

WMU student vets from several nations will read short narratives about their military service at this event, which has been planned to commemorate Veterans Day. It is free and open to the public and being sponsored by the Office of Military and Veteran Affairs, Haenicke Institute for Global Education, Department of English, Kalamazoo Community Foundation, and Lee Honors College.

Finance workshop dates have changed

The dates for one of the free faculty and staff workshops in the PNC banking series has changed. "Raising Money-smart Kids," will be offered Thursday, Nov. 13, and Wednesday, Nov. 19, from noon to 1 p.m. in the President's Dining Room of the Bernhard Center. Refreshments will be provided. Visit wmich.edu/extended/professional/pncworkshops for more information.

Time to apply for cultural event grants

The University Cultural Events Committee is accepting applications for funding of cultural events for 2014-15. The application is available at wmich.edu/cec/CEC_application_form.pdf. Grants of up to \$2,000 are available (up to 50 percent of the total budget). The application deadline is Monday, Nov. 3, for fall funding and Wednesday, Feb. 25, for spring funding. Direct questions to Julie Nemire at julie.nemire@wmich.edu.

New tour shows off WMU's beautiful gardens

It's easier than ever to experience the beauty of WMU's campus.

Just in time for this year's homecoming, WMU's landscape services opened a two-mile walking tour of some of the University's best garden spots. There are 11 points of interest on the Garden Walking Tour of West Campus.



Left: Nestled between the Elmwood Apartments are two hidden flower gardens, including this one. **Right:** Plantings and landscape art also are featured in the Haenicke Garden that wraps around Waldo Library. (Photos by Kevin J. Foust)

A garden tour map is available online at www.fm.wmich.edu/ap/tour/garden. Red pins show where the 11 selected gardens are located along the tour route.

Blue pins show bonus points of interest. They mark 17 extra areas to check out that are not part of the official tour route. These points include many informal garden



areas and areas more heavily focused on WMU's efforts to protect and preserve the environment.

The University's gardens and garden-like areas feature native grasses and natural, native fauna that are accented by annual flowers and bulbs.

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Homecoming just keeps getting bigger, better

Helped by good weather and a 42-21 football win, young, old and everyone in between had a blast during WMU's 91st homecoming, as this series of photos by Mike Lanka shows.

Many revelers began the day participating in the 16th Campus Classic 5K and 1K run/walk, which drew nearly 1,800 entrants. A complete list of times for those running the 5K is available by visiting wmich.edu/campusclassic.

Then it was on to one of the numerous tailgates being staged around Waldo Stadium. About 1,900 people showed up for the Alumni, Family and Friends Homecoming Tailgate in the Walwood Hall parking lot.



Buster joins the crowd for the National Anthem.

"The tailgate was intended to provide entertainment and activities for all ages, amplify school spirit before the game, and celebrate and showcase many University points of pride," says Chris Praedel, development and alumni re-



All ages take part in the Campus Classic.

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A forced interception leads to more points.

(Right) This picture-perfect cutout points out it's easy to share the fun via social media.



Mark and LaTonya Jackson sign East Hall's beam.

Around campus and beyond

Food advocate to give presentation

Award-winning, best-selling author and food advocate Michael Pollan will bring his message of healthy food systems and healthy eating to campus at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 6, in Miller Auditorium. Registration is required at kalfound.org. For 25 years, Pollan has been writing about food and agriculture in books and as a longtime contributing writer to *The New York Times Magazine*.

Talks focus on Native Americans

Activities in November, which is Native American Heritage Month, include two talks in the Real Talk Diversity Series.

First up is "Tribal Governance: What Does It All Really Mean?" from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 13, in 1220 Chemistry Building. Emily Proctor, with Michigan State University, will provide an overview of federal policy and how that has led to Michigan's tribal government structures. Participants also will learn more about programs that have been developed as a result of relationship building with Michigan Tribal Nations.

The second talk, "Living Traditionally in a Modern World: Native Americans of West Michigan Adjusting to an Ever Growing and Expanding World," is set for 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 18, on the tennis courts at the Student Recreation Center. During this presentation

by Marcus Winchester, tribal historic preservation officer for the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, participants will experience traditional Native American dancing and music, as well as hear personal experiences about the history and culture of Native Americans in West Michigan. Participants will learn about the Native American community holistically while considering worldwide perceptions.

Registration underway for workshops

The Confucius Institute at WMU is accepting registrations for two, one-day Chinese culture workshops in November. The free workshops are Chinese Paper Cutting, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 5, in 3002 Brown Hall and Chinese Calligraphy, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19, 3002 Brown Hall. Register online at wmuconfucius.org/workshops.

IT conference coming up Nov. 7

Business, academic and government leaders will address information security and privacy topics in business, industry, health care, government and education during the 11th Western Michigan IT Forum Friday, Nov. 7. The annual conference begins at 8 a.m. in the Fetzer Center, following breakfast and registration at 7:15 a.m. Visit westernmichiganITforum.com or call (269) 387-5411 for more information and to register.

Prof part of national team of biologists

John Geiser was tapped in September to be one of five biologists to lead and facilitate the 2014-15 American Society for



Geiser

Microbiology-National Science Foundation's Biology Scholars Program Research Residency.

The Research Residency is the flagship course of the Biology Scholars Program, which is a national leadership initiative to improve undergraduate biology education based on evidence of student learning.

Geiser and the other facilitators, all former biology program scholars, are guiding this year's class through every aspect of their yearlong residency, including the intensive Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Institute held each July in Washington, D.C.

ASM is the world's largest scientific society of individuals interested in the microbiological sciences.

Anthropologist wins NSF grant

Bilinda Straight, anthropology, has been awarded a \$135,891 National Science Foundation grant to study the impact of



Straight

intercommunity violence on young people in rural northern Kenya. Straight and Ivy Pike, from the University of Arizona, are principal investigators on the project.

Together, they will assemble a research team studying the stress levels of young people living in communities at war with each other. The total award for the project, which builds on previous research conducted from 2008 to 2011, is \$293,395.

The research team will revisit the Kenyan ethnic groups known as the Sanburu, Pokot and Turkana. In earlier studies, Straight and her colleagues had assessed members of the pastoral ethnic communities for mental and physical impacts of violence across the age spectrum from babies to the very old. This time, they will have a closer look at the impact of violence on young people ages 10-19.

Sociologist's quoted in NYT column

Yuan-kang Wang, sociology, had his expertise noted in a column on U.S.-China relations that ran in the *New York Times* Oct.



Wang

20. In his "China Versus America" piece that ran on the paper's opinion pages, Columnist Roger Cohen quoted a portion of a Wang article that appeared in *Foreign Policy*.

Wang specializes in international relations, East Asian security and U.S.-China relations. His research examines the nexus between international relations theory and historical China.

He has been an International Security Fellow at Harvard University's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs and a visiting fellow at the Brookings Institution's Center for Northeast Asian Policy Studies. He also is the author of "Harmony and War: Confucian Culture and Chinese Power Politics," which was published by Columbia University Press in 2011.

Annual Turkey Trot 5K race/walk returns for 62nd year

The Turkey Trot 5K run and walk, southwest Michigan's oldest organized race, will begin at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 22, at the Student Recreation Center.

The race winds through the WMU campus and is open to the public. University recreation, which sponsors the event, notes that in keeping with past practice, a canned food drive is being held in conjunction with this year's race.

Last year, 402 pounds of food were donated to Loaves and Fishes. This year, donations

collected will also be shared with the WMU Invisible Need Project's food pantry for students in critical need.

The cost to participate is \$15 for walkers and runners—if they register by mail or in person by Monday, Nov. 17, or online by Thursday, Nov. 20.

Event-day registration costs \$20 and will take place from 7 to 8 a.m. All packet pickups will occur the morning of the race. Check-in must be completed by 8 a.m.

Visit wmich.edu/rec/intramurals/turkey-trot for more information.

Reception set for state official

In celebration of Native American Month, WMU will hold a reception in honor of Matt Wesaw, director of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, from 4:30-6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 6, in the President's Dining Room of the Bernhard Center.

Wesaw will deliver remarks on the presence and history of native people in Michigan. He was appointed to the commission by Gov. Rick Snyder in October 2013 and is the first Native American to hold the post. The event also will feature traditional drums and art.

Jobs

Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources website at wmich.edu/hr/jobs. Please note that applications must be submitted online by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included with each posting.

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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 publication. Publication dates for the fall semester are **Sept. 4 and 18, Oct. 2, 16 and 30, Nov. 13 and Dec. 4**. Items may be submitted to Jeanne Baron via: email, jeanne.baron@wmich.edu; mail, Campus Mail Stop 5433; phone, (269) 387-8433; or fax, (269) 387-8422.

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W WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Day focuses on research resources for faculty

Workshops and discussions on funding and other resources for faculty research at WMU will be featured during the annual Research and Dessert gathering from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 31, in the Bernhard Center.

The event includes a morning workshop with consultant Janet Geever, author of "The Foundation Center's Guide to Proposal Writing." The workshop, titled "Funding Success with Foundations and Corporations," will be from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. in a new location this year, 210 Bernhard Center.

Activities continue with content sessions as well as expanded networking opportunities. To register, visit <http://wmu-research-and-dessert-2014.questionpro.com>.

Research and Dessert gives faculty members a chance to learn about funding opportunities and strategies, connect with University colleagues and share ideas. Resource stations and mini-workshops on a variety of topics offer opportunities to network, learn about others' scholarship and

Three feted for service learning

The Office of Service Learning recently bestowed its 2014 Excellence in Service-Learning Awards.

The awards go to a WMU instructor, a WMU student and a community partner who excel in service learning over the course of the year. Recipients are nominated by their peers and colleagues and are recognized for their dedication to service learning.

This year's recipients are Richard Szwaja, a part time instructor with the physician assistant department and Lee Honors College; Devine Loving, senior; and the Young Adult Program, which serves young adults with autism.

Visit wmich.edu/servicelearning/updates for more information.

Some 50 longtime employees to be inducted into 25 Year Club

A total of 53 people will be inducted into the 25 Year Club during a gala honoring longtime employees beginning at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2.

Reservations for the annual event, which will be held in the Bernhard Center's East Ballroom, are due Friday, Nov. 14.

This year's inductees are: Joyce A. Alexander, payroll and disbursements; Ronald S. Bell, public safety; Kristina Berns, building custodial and support services; Missy Marie Binger, Help Desk and University Call Center; Richard T. Boyd, power plant; Mary J. Carpenter, landscape services; Ray T. Cool, human performance and health education; James C. Cotton, information technology; Gary M. Custer, Lawson Ice Arena;

Rex J. Devries, landscape services; Kirk B. Dillery, maintenance services; Jean Douglas, University Libraries; Clifton E. Ealy, mathematics; Nancy Eimers, English; Timothy A. Ender, information technology; Karim Essani, biological sciences; Robert R. Eversole, biological sciences; Sherrie Y. Fuller, multicultural affairs;

Denise M. Gardiner (calculated start date 1986), landscape services; Richard A. Gershon, communication; Ajay K. Gupta, computer science; Paul Hildenbrand, Haworth College of Business; Michelle E. Hruska,

explore potential collaborations.

A Speed Networking experience will run from 3 to 3:45 p.m. It works like speed dating, but the focus is on individuals sharing their work and learning about the discovery activities of their WMU colleagues.

Those planning to participate in Speed Networking must answer a questionnaire and identify focus areas of discovery activities, what expertise they are looking for and what they can offer a research or discovery collaboration.

Organizers will award door prizes at 3:45 p.m. Prizes include an iPad Air or trip to visit funding sponsors. Winners must be present at the time of the drawing to receive a prize.

Research and Dessert is sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Research. A reception will follow at 4 p.m. in the South Ballroom of the Bernhard Center.

This year's 13 content sessions include specific sessions related to partnering with businesses as well as creating a budget. Session descriptions are posted online at the registration website.

For more information, visit wmich.edu/research or call the research office at (269) 387-8298.

Health-related open enrollment period underway

The open enrollment period for health care benefits and flexible spending accounts began Oct. 27 and will continue through 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14.

Open enrollment for health care benefits is available for WMU retirees, benefits-eligible nonbargaining employees, and employees who are members of the American Association of University Professors; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; Michigan State Employees Association; and Police Officers Association.

During open enrollment, employees and

provost's office; Lynn N. Johnson, teaching, learning and educational studies; Rand H. Johnson, world languages and literatures; Paul A. Johnston Jr., English; Judith Jones, admissions;

Emanuel Y. Kamber, physics; Robert Landeros, management; Deanna L. Mergen-Henry, West Hills Athletic Club; Anna Lee Miller, sociology; David R. Miller, maintenance services; Carol Mountjoy, student financial aid and scholarships; Joshua Naranjo, statistics; Cherie S. Neumann, custodial and support services; John O. Norman, history; Joyce A. Parsons, Facilities Management; Allan C. Poole, information technology; Silvia Roederer, music; John J. Rook, maintenance services;

Kandeiss-Toi Ross, Human Resources; Susan R. Stapleton, Graduate College; Sharacene R. Sutton, building custodial and support services; Ieva M. Sverns (retired), Sindecuse Health Center; Alison K. Thor (retired), University Libraries; Scott W. Thornburg, music; Carla S. Truppa, building custodial and support services; Kevin L. Villadsen, maintenance services; Jung-Chao Wang, statistics; Laura C. Weber, business services; Carolyn J. Wiley, Valley No. 1 Dining Service; Craig E. Wolford, accounting; and Victor C. Xiong, history.

Four candidates vying for admissions director

Four admissions professionals from around the nation will visit the campus in the coming weeks in their bids to become WMU's next director of admissions.

Each candidate will spend a day meeting with various personnel, and each will make a public presentation to the campus community. All presentations will take place from 1:45 to 2:50 p.m. in the Fetzer Center's Putney Auditorium. The candidates and the days and dates of their presentations are:

- Clark Brigger, senior associate director of admissions at the University of Michigan, Wednesday, Nov. 12;

- Kelly Westeen, interim assistant dean of admissions at the University of Arkansas, Monday, Nov. 17;

- Dachea Hill, admissions director at Northeastern Illinois University, Tuesday, Nov. 18; and

- Michele Brown, director of student recruitment and outreach at Illinois' Oakton Community College, Friday, Nov. 21.

The successful candidate will succeed Penny Bundy who is now the University's director of graduate admissions.

retirees have the option of adding eligible dependents to their health care coverage.

Elections made during 2014 are effective Thursday, Jan. 1, 2015. Visit wmich.edu/hr/openenrollment to review the detailed information mailed to employees and retirees.

Employees who wish to contribute to an FSA in 2015 must enroll or re-enroll during this year's open-enrollment period.

FSAs offer an opportunity to use pre-tax dollars to pay for dependent-care expenses or qualified medical expenses that are not covered by health care benefits. Current as well as new participants must submit an FSA enrollment form to Human Resources by the deadline.

That form is part of the BASIC Flex enrollment booklet and is available online at wmich.edu/hr/openenrollment and in print from the Human Resources office, 1300 Seibert Administration Building.

Program review meeting set

Faculty members and support staff will be able to discuss questions about academic program review and planning self-studies during a brown-bag lunch session 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Nov. 7, in 157 Bernhard Center.

Obituaries



Wilson

George L. Wilson, retired electrical engineering manager in Facilities Management, died Oct. 22. He was 63.

Wilson joined the staff in 1988 and retired in 2014 after more than 26 years of service to WMU.

Services have been held. Memorial gifts may be made to Autism Speaks. Visit langelands.com to make a memorial guestbook entry.

On Campus with Sue Beougher



RACING THROUGH THE DAY
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

This time of year Sue Beougher is running hard to keep up with dozens of details. As coordinator for the Office of University Relations, she's the key person who organizes the annual Homecoming Campus Classic 1K/5K run and walk.

The event, which just finished its 16th year, has become a mainstay of WMU's homecoming festivities. With a coordinator of volunteers and university relations staff members, Beougher begins planning the event in the summer and is busy weeks after it concludes wrapping up and literally packing up.

"As soon as the date for homecoming is set, I line up the timing team, venue, sponsors, food, and tables and chairs. When it gets closer to the race, I input all of the forms that aren't submitted online, put the tags on the bibs, and send out save-the-date cards," she says. "About two months out, I start ordering all the other items we need. I work with people across campus to make sure everything is taken care of."

Beougher also is instrumental in publicizing and promoting the Campus Classic, mailing out 107,000 event brochures and doing radio and TV interviews before and after the event.

But the rest of the year, her job is more traditional. She maintains the office budget along with several mailing lists, pays the bills, serves as photography coordinator, answers the phone, and provides packages of WMU items as giveaways to public school classrooms and at on- and off-campus events. She also is Walwood Hall's building coordinator.

"There's not much about my job that I don't like. I've worked here so long I think I've got it down. But it can get kind of hectic around race time or when the WMU Magazine is going out and we have to have all the mailing lists updated," she says. "The best part of my job is the people I work with, and at a university, you meet people who stimulate you and who make you think. I always tell people, 'No, I'm not going to retire.' They ask me why and I say, 'No. 1, what would I do all day and No. 2, who would I talk to?'"

Beougher worked in the private sector before coming to WMU in 1984 as a secretary in educational leadership. She worked full time while earning her bachelor's degree here, then joined the office that is now university relations. Her daughter, Dawne, and son, Mark, are pursuing graduate degrees at WMU. Beougher, who has six siblings, enjoys spending time with her two children and three grandchildren as well as going on cruises with her three sisters. She's also an avid gardener who loves to cook and bake.

New speaker series kicks off with honored educator

The Education Forum, a new speaker series focusing on topics within K-12 education, will launch Thursday, Nov. 13, with Michigan's 2014 Teacher of the Year Gary Abud discussing teaching science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM disciplines.

Abud, an instructional coach and teacher at Grosse Pointe Public Schools, will address how math and science centers across the state are coming together to build the capacity for better STEM education.

The event is free and open to the public and begins with refreshments at 4 p.m. in 1730 Sangren Hall followed by the lecture at 4:30 p.m. Reservations are required and can be made at mywmu.com/edforum or (269) 387-8700.

The Education Forum aims to engage the regional community in dialogue on topics, trends and research in K-12 education. It is being sponsored by the Educational Community Credit Union and will include four speakers annually.

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New tour shows off WMU's beautiful gardens



Penelope Peacock by Miller Auditorium is one of the bonus points stops.

They not only benefit the environment, but also give students serene places to study and relax.

The official garden tour route begins in front of Sangren Hall and ends by the Sindecuse Health Center. The starting point shows off the expansive landscaped space running along the pedestrian mall.

That garden includes a scenic water feature reminiscent of a northern Michigan stream as well as low-maintenance native plants that complement the environmental efficiencies of Sangren Hall, which has earned gold-level LEED certification.

Among the many other stops along the tour are:

- Front area of the Seibert Administration Building
- Patios at the Oaklands, Fetzer Center and Sindecuse Health Center
- Perennial gardens at the Student Recreation Center and Read Fieldhouse
- Fountain Plaza adjacent to Miller Auditorium
- Front and rear gardens at the Lee Honors College Building
- Sunken garden at Rood Hall

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Homecoming



King and queen Connor Smith and Elizabeth Blasko

lations, who organized the event. "It was designed to do several things, and I know we succeeded on all fronts."

The event featured food; a beer garden with craft brews; a Fun Zone for children that included inflatable toys and a scavenger hunt; live bands, including a Bronco pep band; and performances by cheerleaders as well as costumed cast members from University Theatre's production of "Hair."

The University's academic colleges had tents at the tailgate, and they staged activities for the whole family that highlighted various academic disciplines. For instance, those who dropped by could find out how statistics come alive in Las Vegas-style games and take part in a stock market simulation.

Attendees also were invited to sign some of the steel beams that will be going into East Hall as part of its transformation into the Alumni Center. East Hall, which is adjacent to Walwood, is scheduled to reopen as the Alumni Center in time for next year's homecoming tailgate.