



# Western News

DECEMBER 4, 2014  
Volume 41, Number 7

For and about WMU faculty and staff

## Fall commencement ceremonies set

Three commencement ceremonies will be held Saturday, Dec. 13, in Miller Auditorium. The 9 a.m. ceremony is for graduates of the colleges of Fine Arts and Health and Human Services as well as the Haworth College of Business; the 12:30 p.m. ceremony is for graduates of the colleges of Aviation, Education and Human Development, and Engineering and Applied Sciences; and the 4 p.m. ceremony is for graduates of the College of Arts and Sciences and Extended University Programs.

## Trustees postpone December meeting

The December meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees, scheduled for Dec. 4, has been postponed and will now take place at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 18. Trustees will meet in formal session in 157-159 Bernhard Center. The agenda will be available closer to the meeting date.

## Holiday reception slated for employees

WMU employees are invited to attend a holiday reception from 2 to 4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, in the Bernhard Center Ballroom. The event is being hosted by the Board of Trustees and President and Mrs. John Dunn. Supervisors are asked to arrange schedules so employees who wish to attend may do so.

## WMU movie night rescheduled

The special event at the Kalamazoo 10 theatre Nov. 18 by the producer of the film "Pilot Error" has been rescheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8. The event, staged to honor WMU, includes a screening of the film. Visit [pilot-errormovie.com](http://pilot-errormovie.com) for cost and other information.

## Sindecuse announces closure hours

The Sindecuse Health Center has posted its holiday recess and winter closure hours at [wmich.edu/healthcenter/hours/holiday-hours](http://wmich.edu/healthcenter/hours/holiday-hours). Nearly always, Sindecuse will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. if the University is closed due to weather during its normal operating hours. But cancellation and no-show fees will not be charged on the closure days.

## Don't forget end-of-year tax planning

Tax-deferred savings plan enrollment information for 2015 is available on the Human Resources website. To enroll or to change your election as of the first pay date in 2015, complete and submit to Sanford Advisory Services a 2015 salary reduction agreement by Friday, Dec. 12. Visit [wmich.edu/hr/taxdeferredsavingsenroll](http://wmich.edu/hr/taxdeferredsavingsenroll) for details.

## Next Western News will be in January

This is the final issue of *Western News* for fall. *Western News* will resume its regular publication schedule with the Thursday, Jan. 15, issue. The deadline to submit items for that issue is 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9. Keep up with campus happenings at [wmich.edu/news](http://wmich.edu/news).

## Events staged to honor Martin Luther King

Activities at WMU and across the broader Kalamazoo community to honor slain civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr. include a convocation, march, day of service, and educational programs and presentations.

"The Courage to Dream: The Determina-



WMU President John M. Dunn, front row, left, marches to MLK Park. (Photo by Mike Lanka)

tion to Achieve" is the theme of this year's celebration, which features many events that are free and open to the public. The biggest day of activities will be Monday, Jan. 19—national MLK Day.

Activities will begin with people meeting for the City of Kalamazoo Communitywide Day of Service at 8 a.m. at city hall. Volunteer opportunities for 2015 will be posted at [kalamazoocity.org/mlk](http://kalamazoocity.org/mlk).

Next will be the annual convocation at 10:50 a.m. in Kalamazoo College's Stetson Chapel with the Rev. Wendell Anthony giving the keynote talk. Anthony is president of the Detroit Branch of the NAACP and founder of the Freedom Institute for Economic, Social Justice and People Empowerment and the Fannie Lou Hamer Political Action Committee.

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## Need-based scholarship aids top incoming students

High-achieving incoming students will have a shot at one of 10 new \$50,000 scholarships that will be awarded based on both academic performance and demonstrated financial need.

The new Foundation Scholarships have been added to the mix of top scholarships for beginning students. They provide \$12,500 per year for four years and are similar to WMU's famed, merit-based Medallion Scholarships. High-need, high-achieving students may be eligible to enter the running for both types of scholarships, but can only receive one.

"As a University community, our goal is always to expand access and opportunity," says WMU President John M. Dunn. "Too often, we meet students with real need who are incredibly well qualified for admission and who have the ability to make enormous contributions to society. These new scholarships were designed to provide a foundation that ensures such students have an opportunity to reach their full potential."

To identify prospective awardees, WMU is asking high school principals, advisors and teachers to nominate students who fit the academic and need requirements of the scholarships. Timing is critical, as such nominations must be received by WMU no later than Dec. 15.

To be eligible, students must apply to WMU by Dec. 22 and be admitted for fall 2015 by Jan. 5. Semifinalists who do not receive the Foundation Scholarship will receive a minimum of \$3,000 in scholarships to attend the University.

Visit [wmich.edu/admissions/freshmen/scholarships/foundation](http://wmich.edu/admissions/freshmen/scholarships/foundation) for nomination forms and additional information about timing and eligibility requirements.



We hope you have a happy and healthy holiday season.

—John and Linda Dunn

# Around campus and beyond

## Ethics Center closes fall season

Two philosophers will take part in the final two presentations of the Center for the Study of Ethics in Society's fall Lecture Series. Sarah McGrath from Princeton will speak at 5 p.m. today, Dec. 4, in 1121 Moore Hall. Her topic will be "Should We Believe in Moral Experts?" Lindsay Rettler, a WMU graduate now studying at Ohio State, will speak at 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, in the Multicultural Center of the Trimpe Building. Her topic is "Doxastic Blame and Responsibility."

## Event showcases student innovations

The public can review new product innovations by students from kindergarten through graduate school during Innovation Day from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5, in the engineering college building. The event will showcase work by entrepreneurial Broncos, among other local students. It is part of Kalamazoo's "Spark Design Week," which focuses on professional design developments from some of West Michigan's leading private sector firms.

## Ferguson, Missouri, to be discussed

A discussion on "The Impact of Ferguson," the Missouri town in the news due to a fatal police shooting, will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5, in 2302 Friedmann Hall. The discussion will be facilitated by College of Arts and Sciences faculty members.

## Med school schedules open house

Kalamazoo's December Art Hop will give area residents another chance to

see the downtown facility for the WMU Stryker School of Medicine. The facility, located at 300 Portage St. on the Upjohn Campus, will be a stop on the city's monthly Art Hop from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5.

Loaned art will be available for viewing on the first and second floors. The medical school will hold a Community Open House at the same time so visitors can take self-guided tours of the lower level as well as the first and second floors.

## Travel grants available to employees

Information sessions have been set for those who want to learn about the employee study abroad trip planned to Quito, Ecuador, May 2 through 16, 2015. Twelve grants of \$1,000 toward expenses are available to qualified WMU staff members taking part in this international professional development opportunity. The sessions will be held at 4:45 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10, in 4030 Brown Hall and noon, Friday, Jan. 30, in 4030 Brown Hall. Visit [wmich.edu/studyabroad/employee](http://wmich.edu/studyabroad/employee) for more information.

## Music school slates concerts

The School of Music is celebrating the holidays with a variety of concerts. They include "A Choral Christmas," featuring three singing groups Dec. 6, the annual holiday "Christmas Card to the Community" concert Sunday, Dec. 7, that features more than 150 musicians; and "A Brass Celebration of Christmas" Sunday, Dec. 14. Visit <http://wmich.edu/music/events> to obtain details and purchase tickets.

## Instructor wins USA Best Book Award

Hedy S. Habra, Spanish, has two books honored in the 2014 USA Best Book Awards. USABookNews.com, an online magazine featuring mainstream and independent publishing houses, made the announcement Nov. 12.



Habra

Habra's poetry collection titled "Tea in Heliopolis" took top honors in the Poetry: General category while her book "Flying Carpets" was named one of five finalists

in the Fiction: Short Story category. The two awards are the most recent accolades Habra has received for the two works.

"Tea in Heliopolis" was recently named one of five finalists for the 2014 International Poetry Book Award. "Flying Carpets" won an honorable mention for the 2013 Arab American National Book Award and was a finalist for the 2014 Eric Hoffer Book Award.

## Prof tapped for national office

Nicolas Witschi, English, has been named the executive secretary of the Western Literature Association. Founded in 1965, WLA is a nonprofit, scholarly group that promotes



Witschi

the study of the diverse literature and cultures of the North American West, past and present.

Witschi's research and teaching interests include American literary realism and naturalism, the American West, culture studies, environmental literature, and film history and criticism. His writings include "Traces of Gold: California's Natural Resources and the Claim to Realism in Western American Literature," a Western Writers Series monograph on Alonzo "Old Block" Delano, and many journal articles and essays.

Witschi is working on a book-length study of the contributions of autobiographical writings by famous gunfighters to the development of the western as both a literary genre and a cultural phenomenon.

## Evaluation experts update book

Daniel L. Stufflebeam and Chris L.S. Coryn, Evaluation Center, have written the second edition of "Evaluation Theory, Methods and Applications," which was published by Wiley in October.



Stufflebeam

Called "the benchmark evaluation guide," it is perfect as a textbook and as a professional evaluation reference. The book starts with an overview of the evaluation field and program evaluation standards, then covers the most widely used evaluation approaches, several of which were not in the first edition.

Stufflebeam, who co-wrote that edition with another author, is an emeritus in educational studies and was founding director of the Evaluation Center. Coryn is director of the interdisciplinary Doctor of Philosophy in evaluation and executive editor of the *Journal of MultiDisciplinary Evaluation*.

## Breakfast slated for employees, prospective students

WMU employees with children who are considering enrollment at WMU are invited to a special breakfast Friday, Dec. 5, just before the 9:30 a.m. start of the final Admissions Open House for 2014.

The family event in the President's Dining

Room at the Bernhard Center will feature information about the employee discount and applying to WMU before participants join the overall open house crowd.

The session is intended for high school juniors and seniors as well as college students preparing to transfer. To register or pose questions, email [scott.hennessy@wmich.edu](mailto:scott.hennessy@wmich.edu). Visit [wmich.edu/admissions/openhouse](http://wmich.edu/admissions/openhouse) for open house details.

## Festive events set for holidays

Two campus venues have planned special holiday events.

The Oaklands will host a Polar Express Event filled with fun activities for kids of all ages from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6. Details are at [wmich.edu/oaklands/believe](http://wmich.edu/oaklands/believe).

In addition, the Fetzer Center will host a special breakfast with Santa Saturday, Dec. 13, and lunch with Santa Sunday, Dec. 14. Details are at [wmich.edu/fetzer/santa](http://wmich.edu/fetzer/santa).

## Jobs

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

## Western News

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# WMU international student enrollment continues to grow

WMU's continuing growth in international student enrollment reflects national trends reported Nov. 17 in the 2014 edition of the annual Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange.

Open Doors reports on international student enrollment across the country this past academic year and compares changes to 2012-13. It found that the number of international students at U.S. colleges and universities rose by 8 percent this past year. WMU's enrollment in that category also increased substantially, rising by 7.1 percent to 1,688 international students.

Wolfgang Schlör, associate provost for the Haenicke Institute for Global Education, says the campus hosted or employed 162 international scholars in 2013-14, compared to 167 the previous year. These scholars represented international tenure-track and visiting faculty members, research staff, and other visitors.

Schlör adds that WMU's total international community exceeded 2,700 members this past year when students, scholars, post-graduates doing practical training and dependent family members are counted.

Although not reflected in the Open Doors Report, WMU's international student body has continued to grow this fall. A total of 1,854 international students representing



**Left:** WMU's 2014 Parade of Flags. (Photo by Mike Lanka) **Right:** Northern Ireland's Dunluce Castle—winner of the 2013-14 Study Abroad photo contest. (Photo by Tera Richards)

100 countries are now studying on campus—a 9.8 percent increase compared to 2013-14.

Schlör says the jump showcases some areas of special focus as well as national trends.

For instance, 60 percent more Indian

## Unique event touts WMU's 11th, 12th LEED certifications

New green building honors for two buildings in the Western View II student housing complex were announced Nov. 24 during a simultaneous unveiling of plaques across the campus to mark the University's commitment to sustainable building practices.

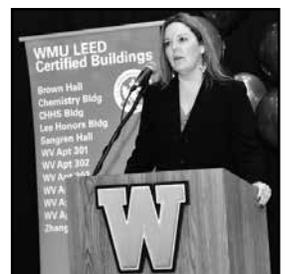
Plaques were unveiled recognizing five buildings, including the two in Western View, as having successfully achieved certification this year by Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. In addition to the Western View buildings, LEED plaques were unveiled in Sangren Hall, which

students (271 total) and 44 percent more Brazilian students (95 total) are enrolled on campus this fall. In addition, 49 more students came from Saudi Arabia (456 total).

Fulbright students also increased. The campus now hosts 38 Fulbright Fellows in 13 academic programs who represent more than 27 countries. Plus, the Center for English Language and Culture for International Students enrolled 212 full-time, non-degree students this fall and a higher enrollment is anticipated for spring 2015.

The Open Doors Report also includes data on study abroad participation, but those figures cover the 2012-13 academic year. U.S. students engaging in study abroad that year was up 2 percent to a total of 289,408. Meanwhile, WMU saw a slight decrease and sent 558 students abroad.

has achieved LEED gold certification, and the Lee Honors College Building and Zhang Legacy Collections Center, both of which have achieved LEED silver certification.



Homan (Photo by Mike Lanka)

The unveilings were streamed live to Sangren Hall on large monitors from the three other locations gaining LEED honors.

Taking part in the unveiling ceremony were WMU President John M. Dunn; Cheri Homan, executive director of the U.S. Green Building Council's west Michigan chapter; and WMU student Kelsey Pitschel, a mechanical engineering major who has earned LEED Green Associate certification.

The celebratory event marked the first time any college or university in Michigan was able to certify five buildings in a single year. It also marked what is believed to be the first time anywhere that five LEED plaques were simultaneously unveiled.

**DUNN TO ANSWER WHITE HOUSE INVITATION**—WMU President John M. Dunn will head to Washington, D.C., Thursday, Dec. 4, answering an invitation from the White House to take part in a summit being called a College Opportunity Day of Action. President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama both will speak at the event. Dunn and WMU First Lady Linda Dunn met Obama (pictured below) in 2010 when Obama gave Kalamazoo Central High School's commencement address in University Arena. The summit is a daylong set of discussions and panel presentations celebrating efforts



to expand access to college for low-income and disadvantaged students. Dunn will be a panelist for a session on innovation in Michigan to better prepare high school counselors to help students prepare and apply for college. He will talk specifically about groundbreaking required coursework that WMU has developed and made an integral part of its counselor preparation program. The summit will end with participants at the White House for the annual Christmas tree-lighting ceremony.

## Service

The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 45, 40, 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service during December.

**45 Years**—Umar F. Abdul-Mutakallim, Human Resources.

**40 Years**—Robert J. Dlouhy, Center for English Language and Culture.

**35 Years**—Tracie L. Sherburn, accounting.

**30 Years**—Sharon M. Van Dyken, College of Aviation.

**25 Years**—Ray T. Cool, human performance and health education; James C. Cotton, information technology; Jean R. Douglas, University Libraries; Nancy Eimers, English; Timothy A. Ender, information technology; Susan R. Stapleton, Graduate College; and Sharacene R. Sutton, building custodial and support services.

**20 Years**—Patti J. VanWalbeck, vice president for business and finance's office.

**15 Years**—Bradley J. Bazuin, electrical and computer engineering; Timothy B. Palmer,

management; Kenneth A. Randt, building custodial and support services; Michael P. Smith, public safety; Ineke F. Way, social work; Jennipher Wiebold, blindness and low vision studies; and Li Yang, computer science.

**10 Years**—Gregory A. Flamme, speech pathology and audiology; Beau C. Hartlerode, Miller Auditorium; Mary E. Peterson, speech pathology and audiology; and Helen M. Sharp, speech pathology and audiology.

**Five Years**—Charles R. Adams, blindness and low vision studies; Robert S. Armbrister, development and alumni relations; Nancy Lynn Burr, vice president for research's office; Richard Carbonneau, Registrar's Office; Joseph E. Houseman, maintenance services; Amell P. McFletcher, building custodial and support services; Jagjit S. Saini, accountancy; Randall Keith Walker, maintenance services; and Brian Young, chemical and paper engineering.

## Obituaries

**Robert L. Blefko**, emeritus in mathematics and statistics, died Nov. 1 at home in Kalamazoo. He was 82. Blefko joined the WMU faculty in 1968 and retired in 1997 after 29 years of service.



Blefko

**William M. Cremin**, emeritus in anthropology and a former co-director of the Archaeological Field School, died Sept. 10. He was 72. Cremin joined the faculty in 1975 and retired in 2007 after 32 years of service.



Cremin

**Jean E. Lowrie**, emeritus in librarianship and a former director of the School of Librarianship, died Nov. 9 in Florida. She was 96. Lowrie joined the faculty in 1951 and retired in 1983 after 32 years of service.

## On Campus with Sandra Kelly



ENTERPRISING ON AND OFF THE JOB  
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

Grass isn't likely to grow under Sandra Kelly's feet. She stays busy working in the Office of Information Technology as director of enterprise administrative applications and working in the community as a volunteer for her church as well as for a halfway house.

At WMU, she's involved with three key software applications that keep the University operating: PeopleSoft Financial Management; Kronos' time and attendance package; and the PeopleSoft Human Resources Management System, which includes the Employee Self Service portion of GoWMU. Kelly is responsible for maintaining, upgrading and enhancing those applications—a never-ending job. For instance, she helps to adapt PeopleSoft for WMU's specific needs, applies patches whenever taxes and withholding amounts change, and looks ahead to forecast what system changes may be necessary in the future.

"I'm a problem solver. My job is to use technology to translate complex business needs into innovative solutions. Sometimes the software can do what we need it to do, and sometimes we have to make modifications," she says. "The challenge is to keep my solutions simple but maintain customer satisfaction. Technology is constantly changing and the software must evolve to meet those challenges. We go through upgrades every year, so making sure everything keeps working is a constant struggle."

Her main goal is effecting efficient solutions. "I need to merge my changes with the vendor's solutions, and clients may ask for many things," she notes. "We have a big investment in this software. Limiting and simplifying modifications saves time and money for WMU."

The Kalamazoo native earned a bachelor's degree from WMU in 1990, then worked as a computer analyst and engineer for Electronic Data Systems in the Detroit area. Missing family, she returned home in 1997 after landing a post as a member of one of WMU's two PeopleSoft teams. The teams were later consolidated, and she gradually began to lead the new unit. When it was decided the unit should have a director, Kelly got the job.

She says her main hobby is traveling to warm places. But that doesn't mean she isn't busy in her off hours. Kelly spends about 10 hours each week running the business administrative office of Visions of Victory Church. In addition to that volunteer work, she also teaches women's programs at a halfway house. "I volunteer as a way to encourage, motivate and get them ready to reenter the community," she says.

## Campus procedures for removing snow, ice reviewed

Winter hours will soon begin for WMU's snow removal crews, who must plow, shovel, scrape and de-ice more than 26 miles of roads, more than 120 acres of parking, 39 miles of walks, hundreds of doorways, and 200,000 square feet of steps and ramps.

Plow schedules cover snow and ice removal activities 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Providing there is not a major storm, most areas on the main campus will be clear of snow and ice before the majority of students and employees arrive each day.

Students and faculty and staff members who have special mobility needs should call the landscape services office at (269) 387-8557, as snow and ice removal schedules can be adjusted to accommodate needs. Those making requests regarding weekend or other special activities also should direct their calls to landscape services. Callers are asked to provide as much advance notice as possible. Questions or concerns after normal business hours should be directed to the Department of Public Safety at (269) 387-5555.

Visit [wmich.edu/news/2014/11/20248](http://wmich.edu/news/2014/11/20248) for information about how to find out if WMU is closed and visit [wmich.edu/policies](http://wmich.edu/policies) to read the University's Closure Policy.



Crews had their hands full Nov. 18 when bad weather prompted a rare WMU shutdown. (Photo by Jeanne Baron)

## LSAT prep courses being offered in Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids

WMU will offer a preparation course for the Law School Admission Test in both Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids during the 2015 spring semester and summer II session.

The Grand Rapids course will be offered in the University's downtown Grand Rapids facility at 200 Ionia Ave. S.W. from Tuesday, Jan. 27, to Tuesday, April 21. The Kalamazoo course will be offered in Ellsworth Hall on WMU's main campus from Wednesday, Jan. 28, to Wednesday, April 22.

Offering nearly 40 hours of live instruction, both courses feature instructor-led,

face-to-face meetings where test-taking strategies and techniques are taught. Participants review sample questions, practice taking tests and receive advice from expert instructor Geoffrey Haveman.

The courses cost \$699, including books and all the necessary classroom materials. Other comparable test prep courses offer less or no face-to-face instruction and can cost more than twice as much as the WMU courses.

Registration and more information about the courses is available online at [wmich.edu/extended/lsat](http://wmich.edu/extended/lsat).

## Continued from page 1 MLK celebration

The day will conclude with a march to MLK Park that starts at 3:30 p.m. at the Campus Flagpoles by WMU's Kanley Chapel. Marchers will be at the corner of Thompson and Academy streets by Kalamazoo College at 4 p.m. and arrive at MLK Park at 4:30 p.m.

Other major MLK celebration events, described at [wmich.edu/mlk](http://wmich.edu/mlk), include:

- Wednesday, Jan. 14—WMU/Kalamazoo Public Schools Social Justice Book Bowl, 5 p.m., Linden Grove Middle School. This is an elimination contest for middle and high school students from area school districts.

- Thursday, Jan. 15—"The Legacy of Dr. King 46 Years Later: Where Are We on Affirmative Action? Are We Living the Same Reality?," 11 a.m., 4240, Student Commons Theater, Kalamazoo Valley Community College. The speaker is Buddy Hannah, a poet, author and radio commentator for "Talk It Up" on The Touch 95.5 FM in Kalamazoo.

- Friday, Jan. 16—Community Reflection, 11 a.m., Stetson Chapel, Kalamazoo College.

- Saturday, Jan. 17—Public School Students' Visitation, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., East Ballroom, Bernhard Center. This event is open to middle and high school students from surrounding school districts and their parents and guardians.

- Sunday, Jan. 18—The 29th Annual Ministerial Alliance Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, 4 p.m., Galilee Baptist Church, 1216 N. Westnedge Ave. The keynote speaker is Forrest Harris, president of American Baptist College.