



Western News

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For and about WMU faculty and staff

Events slated for employees' children

The children of WMU employees who are considering attending the University, as well as their parents, are invited to one of two breakfast programs at 8:30 a.m. Friday, March 20, or Saturday, March 21, in the Bernhard Center.

Those who are admitted high school seniors can attend the Admitted Student Event (wmich.edu/admissions/futurebronco) at 10 a.m. after the Friday breakfast. High school juniors can attend the WMU Spotlight program (wmich.edu/admissions/wmuspotlight) immediately after the Saturday breakfast. To register, contact Scott Hennessy at scott.hennessy@wmich.edu.

Funding applications due April 1

Faculty members are invited to apply for funding to support projects that improve international education at the University through the International Education Faculty Development Fund. The maximum award is \$1,200. Application deadlines via email submission for each academic year are Nov. 1 and April 1 for travel and projects that occur within the following 12 months. Visit wmich.edu/international/iefdf for details.

Campus Kids enrolling for summer

Enrollment is now open for the 2015 Campus Kids Summer Program offered by the WMU Children's Place Learning Center. The program, open to children who have completed kindergarten up to age 12, will run from June 8 through Sept. 4 and feature weekly themes. Enroll by the week or for the entire summer. Visit wmich.edu/childcare/campuskids for details.

Time to make APA award nominations

The Administrative Professional Association seeks nominations by Wednesday, April 1, for its Outstanding Professional Award, Outstanding New Professional Award and the Tony Griffin Service Award. Find the criteria and nomination form online. Visit wmich.edu/apa/awards for nomination guidelines and forms.

Assessment in Action conference set

Full- and part-time faculty members, staff members, and graduate teaching assistants are invited to attend the annual Assessment in Action conference from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Friday, April 3, in the Fetzer Center.

The conference is free, but registration is required by Friday, March 27, for the luncheon. To register, visit <https://wapps.wmich.edu/workshops>, log in and scroll down to the Assessment in Action link.

New President's Perspective online

The latest edition of the President's Perspective is available online at wmich.edu/president/perspective-2015-03. Highlights include state budget developments, enrollment updates and notable achievements.

Three grad programs named best in state

The latest annual *U.S. News & World Report* rankings of the top graduate programs in the nation shows WMU has seven offerings among the top-100 in their disciplines, with three of them named the best in Michigan.

In the round of rankings released March 10 in the magazine's graduate education edition, two occupational therapy programs and the speech-language pathology program captured the highest rankings in Michigan in those disciplines.

All seven programs ranked among the nation's top 100 are part of WMU's celebrated College of Health and Human Services. They are occupational therapy-Kalamazoo (21), speech-language pathology (35), occupational therapy-Grand Rapids (36), rehabilitation counseling (37), audiology (45), physician assistant (57) and social work (66).



HHS programs cited (Photo by Dale Jansen)

Another eight graduate programs also were highly ranked among those at the nation's more than 650 colleges and universities that confer master's and doctoral degrees. The additional ranked WMU programs are clinical psychology (114), earth sciences (113), English (125), history (125), education (136), psychology (141), art (146) and public affairs (149). **Continued on page 4**

Engineer wins NIH grant for research on heart disease

James Springstead, chemical and paper engineering, has been awarded a \$416,816 grant from the National Institutes of Health



Springstead

to continue his research into understanding the underlying biological mechanisms that lead to heart disease.

Springstead began studying the science behind what leads to blockage inside arterial walls as a postdoctoral researcher at the University of California at Los Angeles. He obtained his doctoral degree in chemical engineering at UCLA in 2008.

In the early stages of atherosclerosis, the

underlying condition leading to heart attacks and strokes, oxidized LDL—low-density lipoprotein—accumulates inside arterial walls. LDL is known as “the bad cholesterol.”

Springstead's research is focused on measuring the biological activity of oxidized phospholipids, which have been shown to inflame and eventually form lesions in arterial linings, and more recently is focused on oxidized fatty acids. He is trying to find the mechanism by which oxidized phospholipids initiate the beginning stages of heart disease.

The chemical engineer already has made the surprising discovery that an important active oxidized phospholipid, PEIPC, strongly inhibits inflammatory pathways. **Continued on page 4**

WMU icon being installed inside West Campus turnaround

Now that the weather has started cooperating, efforts are in full swing to complete the installation of a new iconic feature inside the turnaround in front of the Sangren Hall pedestrian mall.

The icon, a large symbolic representation of the University seal, will serve as a visual reminder of WMU's history and traditions. It also was intended to offer a more inviting entry to the pedestrian mall as well as celebrate WMU's connection with the local community.

Designed by Kalamazoo artist Joshua Diedrich, the piece features a raised University seal—tilted at an angle—with the seal's stylized tree rising up some 17 feet.

The base will be a combination of concrete and granite, and include dedicated lighting, landscaping and two ring fountains. Water will flow and cascade between the two fountains.

Markings on the seal as well as the tree have been done in bronze. Several of the tree's leaves contain the faces of WMU students, faculty and staff members, and historical figures



Above right:

Artist Joshua

Diedrich was on

campus for several days working in South Kohrman Hall assembling the icon's large, bronze tree. **Above left:** Founding WMU President Dwight B. Waldo, complete with parrot, is among the University people Diedrich put on some of the tree's leaves. (Photos by Mike Lanka)



Continued on page 4

Around campus and beyond

Regional 2015 Chávez events slated

Southwest Michigan will celebrate the life and work of César E. Chávez Saturday, March 21, during a fundraising dinner that includes the presentation of three regional awards and six regional scholarships. The event will be held in the Fetzer Center and begins with a reception at 6 p.m. Attendees may pay at the door.

Other local events planned this year in honor of Chávez include a Red Cross blood drive in the Bernhard Center Monday, March 23, and the annual Chávez Social Justice March and speaker Thursday, April 2. For more information, contact Miguel Ramirez at miguel.ramirez@wmich.edu or (269) 387-4420.

Great Recession lectures continuing

Two Wednesday talks at 3 p.m. in 2028 Brown Hall are up next in the 2014-15 Werner Sichel Lecture Series.

March 25 features “Hall of Mirrors: The Great Depression, the Great Recession and the Uses and Misuses of History” by Barry Eichengreen from the University of California-Berkeley. April 8 features “Cleansing Effects from the Great Recession” by Till von Wachter from the University of California-Los Angeles.

Event examines accessibility issue

A screening of the short documentary “Wheelchair Diaries: One Step Up” featuring Reid Davenport will take place at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 26, in the

Trimpe Building Multicultural Room. Following the film, Reid will discuss his journey, both abroad and on college campuses, navigating higher education as an individual with a disability.

Free art education events scheduled

A widely respected art education researcher, Olivia Gude, will make two presentations next month.

Gude will speak on “Evocative and Provocative Projects for a Contemporary Comprehensive Curriculum” from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 2, in the Richmond Center. Both the lecture and its broadcast as a webinar are free, but registration is required. For more information or to register, visit wmich.edu/online/gudewebinar.

Gude also will hold a workshop from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday, April 3, in 1311 S. Kohrman Hall. Called “Drawing ‘Dirty’ Pictures: Post-Neat Art as Curriculum,” the event is free and open to the public.

Annual ‘Senior Prom’ set for April

It’s time for area senior citizens to lace up their dancing shoes and come to campus for the 27th annual Senior Prom Thursday, April 2, in the Bernhard Center’s East Ballroom. Pre-entertainment begins at 5 p.m., and the dance will run from 7 to 10 p.m. For more information, email Dean Kruse at dean.kruse@wmich.edu or contact the Ernest and Smith Burnham residence halls office at (269) 387-6632.

Chair selected to be journal editor

Steven M. Durbin, electrical and computer engineering, was recently named editor of the Elsevier journal, *Materials Science in*



Durbin

Semiconductor Processing. He takes over from Al Hepp of the NASA Glenn Research Center, who has assumed the role of editor-in-chief.

The multidisciplinary publication has seen a recent surge in submissions and focuses primarily on leading-edge semiconductor-related topics, including functional materials, optoelectronics, sensors and detectors, as well as devices for biotechnology applications and green energy.

Durbin is professor and chair of his department. His research interests focus on novel electronic materials and devices, particularly those based on oxide and nitride compounds; molecular beam epitaxy and pulsed laser deposition; defects and doping in semiconductors; earth abundant element semiconductors; and photovoltaics and optoelectronic devices.

Artist appointed to international board

James A. Hopfensperger, art, has been appointed to the College Art Association Board of Directors, the preeminent international leadership organization in the visual arts.



Hopfensperger

The organization, which celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2013, serves more than 10,000 individual and 2,000 institutional members. It promotes the arts

and their understanding through advocacy, intellectual engagement, and a commitment to the diversity of practices and practitioners.

Hopfensperger also continues to serve on the National Council of Arts Administrators Board of Directors as past president and is an accreditation visitor for the National Association of Schools of Art and Design. A professor, he has created works of art that have been shown nationally and internationally in more than 100 exhibitions.

Counselor’s book addresses diversity

Tiffany K. Lee, specialty program in alcohol and drug abuse, has written a book titled “Embracing Diversity: Treatment and Care in Addiction Counseling.” The text was published by Cognella Academic Publishing and released last fall.



Lee

“Embracing Diversity” addresses diversity concerns in addiction counseling. It explores students’ self-awareness, knowledge and skills regarding various population groups and provides information on substance-use issues, screening and assessment concerns, and treatment recommendations specific to diverse populations.

Lee, an assistant professor, has experience as an addictions counselor, circuit court advocate and child protective investigator. Her research interests include addiction training in counselor education, diversity issues in treatment, and alcohol use by college students.

WMU participating in first online LGBTQ-friendly college fair

Admissions will take part in the first national LGBTQ-friendly Online College Fair from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday, March 19.

The fair will help lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer students connect nationwide and obtain information about LGBTQ-friendly campuses and the college admissions process. It will address questions LGBTQ students and their allies have about academics, student life and campus safety.

Christopher Tremblay, associate provost for enrollment management, says the fair will include a live chat from 1:30 to 6 p.m. with college representatives, giving the University an opportunity to showcase a variety of its friendliness factors.

To make a reservation or obtain more information, visit campuspride.org/collegefair.

Exchange

For sale—House at 320 S. Dartmouth in a private area of all home owners just three minutes from campus. Colonial, 1,870 square feet, three bedrooms, 2.5 baths and two-car garage with large workshop. Price: \$185,000. Contact: briacris@yahoo.com or (269) 342-5576.

For sale—Two-story, 2,100-square-foot home in Portage. Four bedrooms, two renovated bathrooms and renovated basement. New kitchen with granite countertops, porcelain tile floor and stainless steel appliances. Two-car attached garage, new storage shed and fenced-in yard. Call (269) 998-5980 before home goes on the market April 3.

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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W WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Engage with world cultures at annual International Festival



Officials from nearly all 17 participating groups invite the campus and local community to the 2015 International Festival. (Photo courtesy of the Haenicke Institute)

The music, dance, food and fashions of 17 cultures will be showcased on campus during the 26th annual International Festival from 4 to 8 p.m. Sunday, March 22, on the second floor of the Bernhard Center.

The popular event features cultural display tables and four hours of staged performances. Admission is free, and for a nominal fee, attendees may sample traditional foods

prepared by international students in campus kitchens under the supervision of WMU Dining Services employees.

The International Festival annually attracts about 5,000 students and community members. It has outgrown its former venue in the Bernhard Center's East Ballroom, so the center's entire second floor will be utilized to host the 2015 festival.

During the event, attendees are able to "travel" around the world in a single evening while gaining an appreciation for the diversity of cultures represented on campus.

The University enrolls more than 1,800 international students from some 100 countries and has numerous international student groups.

This year's festival is being hosted by 17 of those groups: the Association of Chinese Students and Scholars, Brazilian Students Association, Fulbright Student Organization at WMU, Dominican Student Organization, German Club, Indian Student Association, Indonesian Overseas Association, Iraqi Students Union, Japan Club, Korean Student Association at WMU, Latino Student Alliance, Malaysian Students' Association, Pakistani Student Association, Persian Student Organization, Saudi Arabian Students Association, TRiO Student Success Program, and Association of Vietnamese Students at Western.

WMUK wins 8 state awards; readies for spring drive

WMU's public radio station, WMUK-FM, will begin its annual spring campaign Saturday, March 21, on the heels of winning eight Broadcast Excellence Awards from the Michigan Association of Broadcasters.



The station will once again feature a shorter pledge drive designed to raise all of the dollars needed in half the live on-air pledge hours. Supporters can contribute by mail, online at wmuk.org or during the live portion of the pledge campaign.

Contributions offset the cost of purchasing programs and producing local ones, such as the MAB award-winning productions. All told, WMUK picked up five major awards, from Best Public Radio Marketing Materials & Promos to Best Public Radio Mini-Documentary or Series, as well as three merit awards.

Major awards went to Sehvilla Mann for "Biliteracy Thrives at El Sol Elementary" and "In Kalamazoo, Many Rentals, Few Inspectors"; Cara Lieurance for "Let's Hear It' Promo: Jeremy Siskind"; Keith Hall and Martin Klemm for "Jazz Currents: Drummer Carl Allen, Part 1"; and Earlene McMichael and Gordon Evans for "WestSouthwest: Black Infant Mortality/Iraq Oil Report."

Merit awards went to Chris Killian, Rebecca Thiele and Gordon Evans.

Inclusiveness talk follows up campus diversity-climate study

"Strategic Diversity Leadership at WMU: Building Capacity for Inclusive Excellence" is the topic of a public lecture from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, March 26, in 157-159 Bernhard Center.

Damon Williams, senior vice president and chief education officer of the Boys and Girls Club of America, will present the talk.

It is sponsored by WMU's Campus Climate for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Tactical Action Community with funding from the W.K. Kellogg Racial Healing

Planning Grant. The tactical action community is bringing Williams to campus to continue the progress from the recommendations of the 2013 campus climate study. His visit also is a follow-up to the review of the implementation, accomplishments and next-steps planning that took place during action forums in 2014.



Williams

Service

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

35 Years—Joel M. Fletcher, information technology.

30 Years—Dennitta L. Hill, building custodial and support services, and Theresa Paul, building custodial and support services.

25 Years—Jacquelyn E. Bizzell, College of Arts and Sciences; Erica J. Krol, Sincuse Health Center; Terylle D. Lavender, University Libraries; and Thomas Bruce Maida, power plant.

20 Years—Cleon Ludwick, building custodial and support services.

15 Years—Phyllis LaRue Dungey, University Libraries; Jeremy C. Hierholzer, College of Aviation; Thuy T. Martin, Bernhard Center Dining Services; and Norma L. Sylvester, University Libraries.

10 Years—Anne-Marie Adams, University Libraries, and Sherry L. Sandlin, Bernhard Center Dining Services.

Five Years—Connie Ann Fox, building custodial and support services; James Hilliker, Unified Clinics; and Emelda M. Rhodes, Valley I Dining Service.

Obituaries

Editor's note: Visit wmich.edu/news/obituaries for additional details.

Ellen Page-Robin, emerita in community health services, will be honored during a memorial service at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 21, in the Kiva Room at Friendship Village, 1400 N. Drake in Kalamazoo. As previously announced, she died Jan. 3 at age 82.



Spradling

years of service.

Judith Peppel, a former staff member in the Department of Sociology, died Dec. 30, 2014. She was 74. Peppel was an office assistant when she retired in 2005 after 16 years of service.

Marjory Spradling, emerita in biological sciences, died Feb. 12. She was 92. Spradling joined the faculty in 1959 as a part-time instructor, becoming a full-time instructor in 1963. She retired in 1983 after 24



Woodworth

Shirley C. Woodworth, emerita in communication, died Feb. 26. She was 86. Woodworth joined the communication department in 1963 and retired in 1997 after 33 years of service to the

University. She was honored as WMU's Woman of the Year in 1987.



Zegree

same year he was inducted into *DownBeat* magazine's Jazz Education Hall of Fame and became Burks Professor of Music and director of the Singing Hoosiers at Indiana University.

Steve Zegree, legendary jazz educator and former Gold Company director, died in Bloomington, Indiana, March 7. He was 61. Zegree retired from WMU in 2012 after 34 years of service. The

On Campus with DeVon Miller



BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE
(Photo by Deanne Puca)

WMU is active with building projects across campus, and it's DeVon Miller's job to make sure they are constructed as planned.

As building commissioning administrator in Facilities Management, Miller oversees the commissioning process for new construction and renovations to ensure design work meets the standards approved by the University. His current projects include the renovation of East Campus, construction of a new residence hall complex in the center of campus, and planning for the new Valley Dining Center.

"There are some challenges but, at the end of the day, it's good to know that what was designed is what was received—and that it's a building everyone's happy with," Miller says.

He also works with several entities in Facilities Management, including the Office for Sustainability as well the planning and projects, and construction teams, to ensure that LEED initiatives are incorporated into construction projects, work that led Miller to be recently elected to the Board of Directors of the U.S. Green Building Council's West Michigan chapter. On this board, Miller has input and insight into sustainability initiatives as a whole across West Michigan, including in schools and universities.

WMU is a model for other institutions for its building information modeling, or BIM, system that transfers physical specifications of a building into a digital, three-dimensional modeling software system. Miller oversees this system at the University and conducts presentations for other institutions on BIM for existing structures.

A native of Lansing, he earned a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering from Michigan Technological University. Through an internship and after graduation, Miller worked as a mechanical engineer for Meijer Inc., where he became interested in energy initiatives and systems.

He left Michigan to work for a few years in Atlanta for a company focusing on energy projects. He returned to the state to take a job as a commissioning agent for an architectural and engineering firm in Grand Rapids, a position he held before coming to WMU.

Miller and his wife, Angela, live in Plainwell. The couple have two children: a daughter age 8 and a son age 4. When not working at WMU, he enjoys playing golf as well as spending time with his family.

Discovery successes recognized during special event

University research took center stage recently during the first Excellence in Discovery luncheon hosted by President John M. Dunn and Provost Timothy J. Greene.

During the event, Daniel M. Litynski, vice president for research, praised WMU faculty members as a whole as well as singled out those most responsible for record external funding dollars received in the first quarter of the 2014-15 fiscal year.

This year alone in the first quarter, grants to WMU topped \$13 million, and by mid-year reached \$21 million, Litynski said.

Continued from page 1

WMU icon being installed

selected by Diedrich. They include Dwight B. Waldo, WMU's first president, and other recent chiefs, including current president John M. Dunn.

In process since 2013, the icon is the final element in the design of the Sangren mall, which is now the University's principal location for large outdoor events.

The project, meant to imbue that outdoor gathering space with a visual representation of the WMU identity, has involved several community members and companies in the design, production and installation of the piece.

The tree portion of the icon was set March 11. A formal dedication will take place at a later date, once the entire installation is completed and the water and lighting elements activated.

Among those singled out for their outstanding work were 35 principal investigators who over the past five years have received external funding awards of more than \$1 million. Together, they garnered \$77 million, or 62.3 percent of the total amount. During the same five-year span, 260 PIs garnered more than \$124 million.

Receiving honorable mentions for research funds acquired from 2009 to 2014 were Robert J. Bensley, human performance and health education, who brought in \$5.2 million and James A. Henry, social work, who brought in \$4.8 million.

"Our mission is to support you in your discovery activities even as we continue to do the work of the University in generating knowledge and educating our students," Litynski says.

For more information and a list of the faculty members recognized, visit www.wmich.edu/research/news.html and download the January 2015 issue of Discovery.

Engineer wins NIH grant for heart research *Continued from page 1*

Furthermore, PEIPC is likely to exist in humans and has potential to be an important anti-inflammatory mediator in the body. This particular lipid will be the main focus of Springstead's new NIH grant.

"As an engineer, I like to look at the beginning process," he says. "The take I'd like to go after, is to try to block initial stages so that the body can take care of itself."

Stents can hold open arteries, he says. But since they are a foreign object, they can cause more inflammation. Springstead likes the idea of choking off the beginning stages.

He is collaborating on the grant with Sangderk Lee of the Saha Cardiovascular Research Center of Kentucky, Mete Civelek of the UCLA Atherosclerosis Research Unit, Greg Cavey of the Southwest Michigan Innovation Center and Walt Shaw of Avanti Polar Lipids.

Continued from page 1

Three grad programs named best

In a new listing unveiled this year, the WMU Thomas M. Cooley Law School was named Michigan's most diverse law school, based on total proportion of full- and part-time minority law students. WMU-Cooley tied for 36th place nationally with schools at such other universities as Harvard, Northwestern and Illinois, Urbana Champaign.

Film festival expands scope

A new name, a new location and a broader array of foreign films are on tap for the first Kalamazoo World Languages



Film Festival. Formerly the Francophone Film Festival, the event unfolds Friday through Sunday, March 20-22 and March 27-29 in 1025 Brown Hall. Visit wmich.edu/worldfilmfestival for details.