



Western News

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For and about WMU faculty and staff

Teachers invited to KIA's Faculty Day

The Kalamazoo Institute of Arts will hold its second Faculty Day reception at 4 p.m. Friday, April 10. The event will end in time for attendees to attend the rest of the evening's Art Hop in downtown Kalamazoo.

During the reception, faculty members will have an opportunity to share what is happening at WMU, network with colleagues, get an update on the KIA's post-baccalaureate studio art program, provide feedback on services provided by the KIA, and learn about fall exhibitions by Manierre Dawson and faculty of the KIA's Newman Art School.

Library drop-in sessions announced

Several drop-in sessions have been scheduled to allow faculty and staff members to try out the Library Search interface, a new discovery system that connects researchers to library resources. The more intuitive and comprehensive search engine is in its preparation phase, but it is available to test drive.

The following sessions have yet to be held: 3 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 7, Waldo Library; 9 to 11 a.m. Thursday, April 9, Maybee Music and Dance Library; and 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. Wednesday, April 8, Schneider Hall. Visit <http://wmulibrariesils.blogspot.com> for more information.

APA slates luncheon, awards ceremony

The Administrative Professional Association's 2015 spring luncheon and awards ceremony will take place from noon to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, April 23, in the Fetzer Center. The event will celebrate the winners of the non-bargaining employee group's 2015 Outstanding New Professional, Outstanding Professional and Tony Griffin Service awards.

It also will feature good food, good company and door prizes. The cost is \$5 for active, dues-paying, APA members and \$10 for others. To attend, make a reservation at mywmu.com/apaawards by Sunday, April 19.

Lavender Graduation scheduled

A Lavender Graduation and awards ceremony will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 23, in the Bernhard Center to acknowledge the achievements of WMU's lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender and ally students. Family members and friends of the graduates, as well as of the award recipients, are encouraged to attend.

Up to five awards will be presented. WMU students, employees, units and organizations are eligible to win, and anyone on or off campus may make a nomination. Graduates who wish to receive a certificate during the ceremony must register online. The deadline to submit award nominations and scholarship applications is Friday, April 10.

For details, visit wmich.edu/diversityand-inclusion/lbg.

WMU grads headed for 89 percent success rate

Thousands of WMU seniors are hurtling toward their May 2 graduation with the knowledge that last year's WMU graduates saw an 89 percent rate of success within just three months of commencement.

A five-year-old effort to track the postgraduate activities of WMU alumni has emerged as what is believed to be the most comprehensive documentation of life after graduation for students at any Michigan university. The annual survey garnered responses from more than two-thirds of 2013-14 WMU graduates, and a similar survey process is already underway for 2014-15 alumni.

The core finding for 2013-14 was that 89.1 percent of graduates were "actively engaged" in the next steps of their professional development within three months of graduation.



Active engagement is defined as full-time employment (62.5 percent), attendance in graduate school (14.6 percent), part-time employment (11 percent) or military service (1 percent). For those employed full time, 81 percent were employed in jobs related to their academic discipline, and the median salary was in the \$45,000 to \$50,000 range.

"One of the great myths that has captured the public dialogue in recent years is that college graduates can't find jobs or are relegated to trying to get by on jobs that don't allow them to use the skills they've developed in college," says President John M. Dunn.

"We can show that a college degree significantly enhances their prospects. We need to keep reminding families that we're happy to provide them with very specific information

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Board OKs bond sale, amends president's contract

Acting at its March 25 meeting, the WMU Board of Trustees approved two action items—one that authorizes borrowing funds for two major campus building projects and a second that updates the president's contract.

Approval of the bond resolution means that the University is authorized to borrow funds on a tax-exempt basis by issuing bonds. Bond proceeds in the amount of \$28 million will be used for construction of the new Valley Dining Center due to get underway this spring and to help complete the new WMU Alumni Center in East Hall. That renovation is in progress, and the center is due to open in October. Additional bonds will be issued to refund existing debt.

In a second board action item, President John M. Dunn's employment agreement was updated for the first time since 2012 to formally incorporate a contract extension to June 30, 2017, that the board approved by voice vote in November 2014; reflect changes and additions to his post-retirement health care benefits, as well as language relating to the Affordable Care Act; and provide the tools needed for the post-presidential campus role Dunn has agreed to take on when he becomes president emeritus.

That role includes assisting a new president with transition, drafting a history of his term as president; assisting with fundraising and capital campaigns, as requested; and representing WMU in ways determined by the board and new administration. To accomplish those tasks, the contract was amended to include access to a car, office and support staff, as well as funds for approved University travel and a six-month subsidy for housing in the Kalamazoo area.

Prospective students get into the spirit of 'get-branded' initiative

Temporary "W" tattoos are showing up on prospective students from numerous places, as an initiative inviting them to "get branded" gains traction. In an effort to make earlier contact with students applying



to WMU, the University is sending out postcards that include a "W" tattoo. Those receiving the postcards are invited to apply the tattoo, then post pictures of it on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter (#brandedWMU). Prospective students seem to be enjoying the light-hearted communication effort. They've been posting a variety of pictures of themselves and others sporting the tattoos, from feet faces, along with comments such as, "WMU sent me a temporary tattoo...I feel loved." Some responses are even more heartening.

"I think I've finally decided what my No. 1 choice is," one "W" recipient wrote. "Their campus makes me feel at home and I haven't felt that way at any other college visit. Plus, they just gave me this temporary tattoo..." The get-branded initiative is a joint project of Enrollment Management and the Office of University Relations. (Photo by Mike Lanka)

Around campus and beyond

Annual Peace Week events begin

The 31st annual Peace Week begins Sunday, April 5, with numerous events throughout the week sponsored by the Kalamazoo Peace Center.

That organization is hosting two events on Sunday: a vigil for peace from noon to 1 p.m. at the Federal Building in downtown Kalamazoo, as well as Hullabazoo, a free daylong celebration featuring workshops, music and local artisans selling goods from 2 to 10 p.m. at the Wesley Foundation.

Prisoner letter writing workshops will be from 7 to 8 p.m. Monday, April 6, and from 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday April 7, at the Wesley Foundation Cafe. A keynote address featuring Mia McKenzie will wrap up the week from 7 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, April 8, at the Little Theatre.

For more information, visit <http://kzooppeacecenter.org>.

Women, decolonization lecture topic

The Burnham-Macmillan Speaker Series wraps up with a talk by Philippa Levine from the University of Texas. Levine will speak on "A Place at the Table: Women and Decolonization, a Story As Yet Untold" at 5 p.m. Monday, April 6, in 2500 Knauss Hall. A reception will follow the free event.

Tobacco whistleblower to speak

The former tobacco company researcher who went public with accusations that his company intentionally manipulated the

blend of its products to make them more addictive will speak at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 7, in the Fetzer Center's Kirsch Auditorium. Jeffrey Wigand, former chief scientist at Brown & Williamson, will present the free talk, "Inside the Tobacco Industry."

After being sued by his former company, Wigand formed the foundation Smoke-Free Kids and conducts interactive educational and provides scientific and technical input to governmental organizations developing policy or regulating tobacco products and creating smoke-free environments.

Wigand's presentation is part of the spring 2015 Center for the Study of Ethics in Society Lecture Series. For more information, visit wmich.edu/ethics.

Immigration law's impact on families to be subject of lecture

Guest lecture Cecilia Menjivar from Arizona State University will speak on "The Reconfiguration of Immigrant Families Through Immigration Law" from 2 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, April 8, in 2720 Sangren Hall.

Menjivar will discuss the legislative and enforcement side of the contemporary immigration system and how it can keep families separated for indefinite periods of time, creating conditions for family reorganization and reconstitution with short and long term effects.

Mathematicians co-write book

Gary Chartrand, emeritus in mathematics, and Ping Zhang, mathematics, are displaying WMU's long-standing international reputa-



Chartrand



Zhang

tion in graph theory in a new book.

"The Fascinating World of Graph Theory," which also is co-written by Arthur Benjamin from Harvey Mudd College, was published recently by Princeton University Press. It was introduced with a book signing this winter at a meeting of the American Mathematical Society in San Antonio.

Graph theory, a nearly 300-year-old discipline considered an element of discrete mathematics,

is used to model many types of relationships and processes in physical, biological, social and information systems. The book is designed to introduce the field to a broad audience and to also serve as an introductory textbook.

Miller elected to law school board

Kenneth V. Miller is one of two people recently elected to four-year terms on the board of directors of the WMU Thomas M. Cooley Law School. Miller is a Kalamazoo businessman who serves as vice chair of the WMU Board of Trustees.



Miller

He was elected to the Cooley board along with Richard F. Suhrheinrich, senior judge of the United

States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit and former president of the Detroit College of Law.

Miller earned both a bachelor's degree and an MBA from WMU as well as a Juris Doctorate from the WMU Cooley Law School. He is a principal of Havirco, a Kalamazoo investment management firm as well as owner and CEO of the Millennium Restaurant Group LLC.

Prof produces music album

Andrew Rathbun, music, has produced an album by the Songsmith Collective. The advanced jazz ensemble is directed by Rathbun and has 11 student members. The album marries music and poetry and includes settings to poems by Yeats, Frost and WMU alumna Traci Brimhall.



Rathbun

Rathbun describes the new album as irreverent and wonderful.

"On eight diverse tracks, the group's eleven members write and play as though they don't know how hard setting poetry is supposed to be or how hallowed scholars consider the poems they've chosen," he says. "...the collective creates music with an ease and freshness that clearly belongs in the present moment."

The album project was funded by the College of Fine Arts Fellowship Grants program. For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/1CwYpEX>.

Time to nominate outstanding graduate students for program

The Office of Faculty Development and the Graduate College invite department and program chairs as well as graduate directors and advisors to nominate outstanding graduate students for the 2015 Graduate Student Teaching Intensive (GSTI).

This five-day professional development opportunity, held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 13 through 17, will help graduate students assess their teaching practices, refine teaching and

learning approaches, improve communication for diverse learners, and gain skills to apply immediately in college classrooms and into their chosen professional careers.

Held in Sangren Hall, GSTI will offer an interactive learning environment consisting of workshop sessions, small group mentoring and guided reflection.

The deadline to make nominations is Monday, May 15. Sponsoring programs and departments are required to pay a \$200 fee per student. Access the nomination forms at wmich.edu/facultydevelopment.

Exchange

For sale—Three-bedroom, 1,300-square-foot home within walking distance of WMU and Kalamazoo College. Exceptional interior updates, including fresh paint, stainless steel appliances and remodeled bathroom. Several special features, some hardwood floors, lots of storage space, 1.5-car garage, fenced-in and landscaped private backyard with deck. Contact marcypeake@yahoo.com before the home goes on the market.

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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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Student group reviving WMU Pow Wow

After nearly a decade-long hiatus, the pageantry and artistry associated with a traditional powwow are returning to campus.



WMU Pow Wow performers in 2003 (Photo by Neil Rankin)

The public is invited to attend the 2015 WMU Pow Wow from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, April 11, on WMU's main campus in Read Fieldhouse's University Arena.

WMU's Native American Student Organization is hosting the event. The theme for this celebration of Native American culture, "Reviving Tradition," pays homage to the 16 years of nearly annual powwows that were held on campus until 2006 and that at their peak, drew some 8,500 spectators.

This year's powwow will include the Ribbon Town Singers, a Native American northern style drum group based in Indiana, serving as the "host drum." That group will open all grand entries as well as other songs during the powwow. Grand entries, which involve dancers, singers, drummers and flag

bearers in colorful traditional dress, are one of the few times all of the event's dancers will be on the floor together. The grand entries will be held at 1 and 6 p.m.

WMU Pow Wow attendees will be able to view drum and dance exhibitions, and browse several informational and authentic Native American arts and crafts booths. Native American food vendors will be offering a chance to try some buffalo burgers and Indian tacos. Admission is free for WMU students with a valid student ID and those age 17 and under. Regular adult admission is \$5.

Free parking will be available in Parking Lot 13 and Parking Structure 1. For more information, contact Paula Hill, WMU alumna and Pow Wow Committee member, at wmu.naso@gmail.com or (231) 649-0472.

Black identity expert to present free, public talk

Renowned psychologist and scholar William E. Cross Jr. will speak on "Exploring the Everyday Functions and Enactment of Black Identity in Daily Life" at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 9, in 1910 Sangren Hall.

Cross is a professor in both higher education and counseling psychology at the University of Denver and professor emeritus of social psychology at the Graduate Center City University of New York. He is a leading theorist and researcher in the psychology

Social justice forums set

The Walker Institute has launched a series of community forums called Unequal Justice: Race, Class and the Criminal Justice System.

The next three scheduled forums will take place at 7 p.m. around Kalamazoo. Their dates, topics and locations are:

- Tuesday, April 14—"The Juvenile Justice System: Disrupting the Pipeline to Prison," Kalamazoo County Juvenile Home, 1424 Gull Road.

- Tuesday, April 28—"Challenges Facing Ex-offenders," Bethany Reformed Church, 1833 S. Burdick St.

- Tuesday, May 12—"Re-Imagining Kalamazoo With Justice for All," Bethany Reformed Church, 1833 S. Burdick St.

Timothy Ready, Walker Institute director, says the series will look for solutions to community issues that deal with racial isolation, racial differences and the functioning of the criminal justice system. Visit wmich.edu/walkerinstitute for more information.



Cross

and identity development of various cultural minorities.

His most noted contribution to the field was the development of the Nigrescence Theory in 1971, distinguishing the different stages of a person's life as they explore their identity as it relates to their race and the race of others around them.

Cross's Nigrescence Theory on identity development has been adapted to apply to both racial and social minority groups. A follow up to the 1971 model was the 1991 publication of his book, "Shades of Black," which is considered a classic in the field of racial identity.

Over his 40 years of theorizing and research, Cross has become a major figure in the discourse on social movement identity change. His work has inspired discourses for other members of the disabled, LGBTQ and other social identity groups. His more recent work has focused on the way social identity is performed or enacted in everyday life.

Sustainability office plans celebration

WMU will celebrate students and employees who are committed to and engaged in making campus sustainable during the WeSustain Community Celebration, Thursday, April 16, in the Office for Sustainability. The free event is open to the public. It will feature a series of drop-in events from noon to 6 p.m. and include food and live music. From noon to 1 p.m., there will be a student-focused town hall-style presentation of the 2015 Student Sustainability Survey, with students exploring survey results, discussing campus sustainability trends, and brainstorming campus sustainability opportunities and interests. Snacks and survey-related prizes will be provided. From 1:30 to 4 p.m., attendees may take part in a variety of do-it-yourself demonstrations during an Office for Sustainability open house. Attendees can learn how to prepare Student Sustainability Grants as well as experience hands-on demonstrations by student experts in aquaponics, green woodworking, composting and bicycle repair, after which, the winner of a bike raffle will be announced. At 4:30 p.m., a celebration will be held to recognize sustainability leaders working to infuse sustainability across the campus and the curriculum. Sustainability Champion awards were selected from nominations collected earlier in the semester. This festive event also will highlight a number of awards WMU has received in the last few years for its sustainability efforts. (Bicycle repair photo from last year's celebration by Mike Lanka)



Service

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

35 Years—Vicki L. Cox, Logistical Services, and Norma J. Lockway, Valley I Dining Service.

30 Years—Dora L. Secondi, building custodial and support services.

25 Years—George A. Boston, University Libraries; James M. Brown, maintenance services; Raymond V. Kezenius, maintenance services; Mary E. Palmer, admissions; and Donald VanderRoest, maintenance services.

15 Years—Barbara A. Ballard, Bernhard Center Dining Service; Stephen G. Hawkins, intercollegiate athletics; and Judy A. Tice, building custodial and sup-

port services.

10 Years—Cheri A. Butler, Registrar's Office; Timothy J. Greene, provost and vice president for academic affairs; Jeffrey D. Long, accounting; Smith M. Moore III, catering; Carrie J. Puckett, accounting; and Christopher W. Tremblay, enrollment management.

Five Years—Scott M. Fawley, building custodial and support services; Russell G. Frey, building custodial and support services; Bradford W. Kelly, maintenance services; Dennis C. McCrumb, educational leadership, research and technology; Ericka K. Perkowski, building custodial and support services; and Vince B. Renda, maintenance services.

Obituaries



Castel

Albert E. Castel III, emeritus in history, died Nov. 14, 2014. He was 86. Castel joined the faculty in 1960 and retired in 1991 after 31 years of service.

Visit rutherfordfuneralhomes.com to make a memorial guestbook entry.



Grandstaff

Russell J. Grandstaff, emeritus in theatre, died Dec. 20, 2014. He was 86. Grandstaff joined the faculty in 1965 and retired in 1991 after 26 years of service.

Memorial gifts may be made to Sue's Loving Care, 2827 Courtlandt Ave., Kalamazoo MI 49004. Visit avinkcremation.com to make a memorial guestbook entry.

On Campus with Tom Howe



COVERING A LOT OF GROUND
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

Even with an incredibly lengthy and varied job description, being the Department of Geology technician and staff geologist is something of a dream job for Tom Howe.

But the Mattawan native got to the post by a nontraditional route. After high school, he joined AmeriCorps and worked in the Michigan Civilian Conservation Corps. What followed was a job with a Kalamazoo sign company and marriage to another MCCC member. Then, just before turning age 30, he enrolled at WMU to use up the college tuition grants he'd received through his AmeriCorps service. Howe earned a bachelor's degree in hydrogeology in 2010, worked for a couple of years with a local engineering and geological consulting company, then applied for his current job.

"I've been here a little over three years, and now I direct and coordinate the summer field course I took as a student," Howe says. "That's a big part of my job. We get students from all over the world. We're rare because our course focuses on hydrogeology not general geology. I have employers contact me all the time saying, 'give us your students.' When the students leave, they can pretty much do whatever they want."

Howe also is curator of the Schmaltz Geology and Mineral Museum, which has some world-class rock and mineral specimens and is open for tours; handles the department's social media and website; maintains the department's equipment, from shovels to mass spectrometers; and acts as his unit's computer tech. In addition, he's the staff geologist for the Michigan Geological Survey, advises the American Institute of Professional Geologists chapter; supports the Geology Club and Michigan Geological Repository for Research and Education, does public education and outreach, and is a member of the National Ground Water Association and serves as a delegate from Michigan to its national convention.

"I try to take every chance I get to go out and talk to people and educate them more about earth science. I feel I owe it to society to advocate for my profession," he says. "But my favorite part of the job is helping students get jobs. I put a lot of time into writing references and answering phone calls. There are big, high-paying, rewarding careers in geology. And it's a growing field. There are less resources, more people. Do the math."

Howe and his wife have three children ranging in age from 5 to 12. He's working on a master's degree in geosciences at WMU and has been a board member of the Two Rivers Coalition, a local watershed management group, since its inception in 2009.

He enjoys spending time with his family as well as outdoor activities such as canoeing, hunting, fishing, golfing and especially ice hockey.

Campus locations will 'light it up blue' for autism awareness

Campus facilities management personnel have three campus locations ready to take part in the Light It Up Blue campaign to observe World Autism Awareness Day.

From sunset today to sunrise April 3, Sprau Tower, part of Sangren Hall and the icon at the Parkview Campus will be bathed in blue to help shine a light on autism and kick off Autism Awareness Month.

Landmarks and locations like the Empire State Building and the International Space Station will join homes, businesses and colleges and universities around the world to

turn their lights blue to signal their awareness, advocacy and commitment.

While WMU participates in the event annually, this year has been a particularly significant one in the University's long-running commitment to training professionals to work with those with autism.

Last year, the state of Michigan announced that the University would receive \$4 million to boost its autism research and professional training initiatives, which have been recognized as some of the nation's best.

Scholar to address caregiving

Arthur Kleinman will take a broader look at caregiving when he speaks at 7 p.m. today in Shaw Theatre as part of the University Center for the Humanities' Healing Arts Speaker Series.

Kleinman, who will discuss "Caregiving and the Moral Experience," is a Harvard University professor of medical anthropology and professor of psychiatry.

In his talk, he will call for a serious discussion about caregiving and a reconsideration of its place in medical education, medical practice and medical research.

WMU grads headed for 89 percent success rate

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like this, but the most significant outcomes are our students' abilities to experience personal and professional growth—success—that occurs over a lifetime because of the broad-based education they receive at our University."

The comprehensive survey, posted at wmich.edu/career/planning/reports, is the product of five years of work by Ewa Urban, Career and Student Employment Services. Starting with a 25 percent response rate in 2009-10, she has built a survey and outreach program that last year netted responses from 68.5 percent of graduates.

Working with graduate assistant Amy Galick, that year's survey report is the most thorough one to date.

In addition to active engagement and salaries, it showcases information including:

- WMU graduates found employment in 41 states, but the majority—74 percent—stayed in Michigan.

- Internships play a critical role in post-graduate employment. Just over 68 percent of WMU graduates completed an internship or other experiential opportunity while in school, and 20 percent were hired by the organization in which they interned.

- Pre-graduation employers hired 35 percent of alumni after graduation.

- Those continuing their education were enrolled at more than 100 graduate schools around the world.

Over the years, Urban says, the primary

aims of the survey have been to get higher response rates and better data. About 80 percent of the data in her report is gleaned from an email survey, and Urban works with departments across campus to continually refine the questions posed and get input on where graduates have landed. She even uses social media like LinkedIn to round out information.

Dunn began sharing the information with West Michigan audiences earlier this year—focusing, in addition to the success rate, on another of the popular myths about higher education.

The WMU numbers, he says, strongly refute the idea that students should focus only on technical disciplines.