



Western News

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For and about WMU faculty and staff

June commencement ceremonies set

WMU will confer 1,370 degrees during two commencement ceremonies Saturday, June 27, in Miller Auditorium.

The 9 a.m. ceremony is for graduates of the colleges of Education and Human Development, Engineering and Applied Sciences, and Health and Human Services and for Extended University Programs. The 12:30 p.m. ceremony is for graduates of the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Aviation and Fine Arts and for the Haworth College of Business.

Summer highway construction in the Kalamazoo area and closure of part of WMU's Ring Road mean that attendees should plan their routes carefully. Visit wmich.edu/commencement for more information.

Board of Trustees meeting scheduled

The next meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees will be held Wednesday, July 8. The starting time and location, and information about the agenda will be released shortly before the meeting.

Dunn re-elected to head MAC council

WMU President John M. Dunn has been selected to fill a second two-year term as chair of the Mid-American Conference Council of Presidents. Dunn was first elected to the post in 2013. The council is the governing body for the conference and includes the presidents of all 12 universities in the MAC.

Dunn has served on the council since he became WMU's eighth president in 2007. In 2009, he led the council's extensive national search that resulted in the appointment of Jon A. Steinbrecher as MAC commissioner. Steinbrecher's contract was extended for three additional years during the same 2015 spring meeting at which Dunn was re-appointed.

Third Teaching & Learning Bash slated

The third annual Teaching & Learning Bash is set for Thursday and Friday, Sept. 17 and 18, in the Bernhard Center. The invited speaker for both days is Susan Robison, author of the "Peak Performing Professor." The event also will include two keynote speakers, mini workshops and resource tables.

All full- and part-time faculty members and graduate teaching assistants are welcome to attend. Thursday from 5:30 to 8 p.m. is geared toward part-time faculty and graduate teaching assistants. Drop-in attendance is set for Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. More information will be available soon on the Office of Faculty Development website at wmich.edu/facultydevelopment.

Western News goes on summer hiatus

This is the last issue of *Western News* for the summer. The publication will return Thursday, Sept. 10. During the hiatus, keep up with campus happenings by regularly visiting the WMU News website at wmich.edu/wmu/news.

Cancer claims former President Elson Floyd

Elson S. Floyd, WMU's sixth president and a nationally respected voice for affordable, accessible higher education, died in Washington June 20 after a battle with cancer. He was 59.

Floyd's death was announced by Washington State University, where he had been serving as WSU's 10th president since 2007. Just three weeks before, he had announced he was taking a leave to focus on cancer treatment.

Floyd was president of WMU from 1998 to 2003. His tenure was marked by a series of major developments that have had a lasting impact on the campus and community.

"I know I speak for the entire University community when I say the death of Dr. Floyd represents a profound loss for both Western

Michigan University and higher education as a whole," WMU President John M. Dunn said in a statement shortly after hearing of Floyd's death. "Here at WMU, we are still building on some of the accomplishments of his presidency and the initiatives he launched."

Dunn noted that one such effort—the establishment of the Business Technology and Research Park—has had a tremendous impact on Greater Kalamazoo's economy and has meant hundreds of new jobs in dozens of high-tech businesses. Among several other major developments during Floyd's tenure were acquiring 106 acres of Kalamazoo Psychiatric Hospital property, collaborating with area citizens and communities to site the new engineering campus in Kalamazoo, elevating the aviation school in Battle Creek to WMU's seventh college, making the case to the Carnegie Foundation for raising WMU's research classification and launching the successful Partnering for Success: The Centennial Campaign for WMU.

Memorial service details are pending and will be posted at wmich.edu/news when they become available. Visit news.wsu.edu for more information about Floyd's tenure at WSU.



Elson S. Floyd at WMU's Fountain Plaza in 2003 (Photo by John Gilroy)

Participation needed for WMU transformation

WMU is creating professional learning communities that focus on improving persistence toward graduation for all undergraduate students, particularly low-income students.

The learning communities are being set up through the Broncos FIRST program, which is being implemented by the new Center for Research on Instructional Change, a University-level research center that conducts and supports interdisciplinary research aimed at promoting transformative change in postsecondary education.

Broncos FIRST is looking to connect all the disparate initiatives aimed at student success at WMU and turn them into one strong and successful effort with the support of a more than \$3.2 million grant that was received in 2014 from the U.S. Department of Education's First in the World Grant program. Andrea Beach, education leadership, research and technology, and Charles Henderson, physics and the Mallinson Institute for Science Education, are co-directing the WMU grant.

The two wrote that grant proposal, and theirs was the only one from a Michigan institution to be funded in the grant program's initial funding cycle.

The federal First in the World Grant seeks to create and validate, through ongoing research, student success programs that can tackle the problem of low rates of degree completion. The goal is to create programs that other universities can adopt, knowing there is sound research data behind the strategies embraced and replicated.

"You're invited to be a part of WMU's institutional change," Beach says. "Actualizing student success requires integrated institutional transformation involving the whole campus."

Learning community applications for the 2015-16 academic year are being accepted through Friday, July 24. All administrators and faculty and staff members who are researching or studying or who have an interest in student persistence are encouraged to apply.

Participants will make a two-year commitment to the project and meet with their groups

Continued on page 4



Around campus and beyond

BTR Park bike race marks 10th year

This year's Miller Energy Criterium bike race at the Business Technology and Research Park will take place Saturday, July 11. This is the 10th anniversary of the event and will include state championship races for women, masters and juniors. Some \$6,000 in prizes will be awarded.

Frankie Andreu will be the special guest race announcer for the criterium. Andreu competed in the Tour de France nine times and competed in two Olympic Games, placing eighth in 1988 and fourth in 1996.

Register online at usacycling.org or visit wmich.edu/btrrace for complete race information, including costs, full registration details, and special events slated for Friday, July 10, and Sunday, July 12.

Lee Honors College holding reunion

The Lee Honors College is hosting its second reunion from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, July 25. A dedication to honor the late John Martell, associate dean emeritus of the college, will close the day's activities. Visit bit.ly/1CqGQV8 for more information on this free event.

OFD institute rescheduled for July

The Office of Faculty Development's Flip Your Class Institute has been rescheduled for 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, July 28-30. Registration information can be found at wmich.edu/facultydevelopment.

Blood drive taking place on campus

A blood drive will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, July 30, in Miller Auditorium's grand tier.

Osher Institute sets fall open house

Steve Thaxton, executive director of the Osher National Resource Center, will be a presenter during an event from 3 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 20, in Miller Auditorium's grand tier. The event will kick off the fall courses lineup for WMU's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

Date selected for 35th Bronco Bash

Bronco Bash will be held from 3 to 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 11, on the pedestrian mall in front of Sangren Hall. Visit wmich.edu/broncobash to apply for a booth, sign up as a volunteer or obtain more information.

Department chair's book wins award

Susan Freeman, chair of gender and women's studies, is the co-author of a book that has won the prestigious 2015 Lambda Literary Award.



Freeman

"Understanding and Teaching U.S. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender History" was co-written with Leila J. Rupp from the University of California, Santa Barbara and was published by the University of Wisconsin Press.

The book was recognized in the LGBT Anthology category during the 27th Lambda Literary Awards celebration June 1 in New York. The event honors the year's best gay, lesbian and transgender books. Actors, celebrities and activists presented the awards.

It is believed that Freeman and Rupp's book is the first designed for university and high school teachers who want to integrate LGBT history into the curriculum. Its inspiring stories and classroom-tested advice offer a valuable resource for those who think history should be an all-inclusive story.

Counselor reappointed to board

Patrick H. Munley, chair of counselor education and counseling psychology, was reappointed to the Michigan Board of Counseling, Gov. Rick Snyder announced



Munley

June 5. The nine-member board assists the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs with the licensing and oversight of more than 9,000 counselors in Michigan and consists of counselors, public members and a mental health professional.

Munley will finish his current four-year term on the board at the end of this month and will continue to represent individuals engaged in teaching, training or research in counseling. Then, pending advice and consent of the state Senate, he will serve another four-year term that expires in 2019.

A licensed professional counselor and psychologist, Munley has more than 40 years of experience in the mental health field, including 26 with the federal Department of Veterans Affairs.

Dean elevated in rank by France

Joseph G. Reish, dean of University Libraries, has again been recognized by the French government for his "eminent service



Reish

to French education and contributions to the prestige of French culture."

After an extensive review of his credentials begun in 2013, Reish was this year advanced in grade in the Ordre des Palmes académiques from Chevalier (Knight) to Officier (Officer).

Napoleon Bonaparte created the Academic Palms as a title for outstanding members of the Imperial University in 1808. It is the oldest honorific distinction granted to civilians. Today, the order honors academics who, through their teaching, scholarship, and leadership, promulgate the language, literature and culture of France within the university and globally.

Service anniversaries-June

Editor's note: The July and August lists will be published in the first issue in September.

35 Years—Barbara K. Rhodes, admissions.

30 Years—Andrew C. Robins, WMUK Radio, and Toni Y. Woolfork-Barnes, First-Year Experience.

20 Years—Robyn C. Boyle, vice president for research's office; Daniel R.

Brimmer, maintenance services; Kristal E. Ehrhardt, special education and literacy studies; Michael L. Glenn, building custodial and support services; John Mackenzie, information technology; and Karen Stokes Chapo, University Assessment.

15 Years—Joshua Grant, information technology; Jennifer Wendling Holm, Graduate College; Sally A. Laws, accounts receivable; Dennis M. McFall, College of Aviation; Tracie N. Sams, Residence Life; Dawn Wesaw, vice president for research's office; and Daoli Zheng, information technology.

10 Years—James A. Hopfensperger, art, and Katie M. John, government affairs.

Five Years—Rachel M. Carlson, College of Education and Human Development, and William M. Gernon II, intercollegiate athletics.

Retirement reception

Mark Delorey, student financial aid, will be recognized for his 10 years of service to the University during a retirement reception from 3:30 to 6 p.m. Monday, July 6, in the Fetzer Center atrium lobby.

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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Exchange

For sale—Immaculate, move-in ready single-family home on .48-acre lot in Mattawan schools area, 10 minutes from WMU's main campus. Three bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, open-concept and partially finished basement. Three-car garage, back patio with arbor, beautifully landscaped lot and 8-foot-by-10-foot storage shed. Asking \$219,900. Showings: Call (269) 377-9268. View: Visit zillow.com and search for 3534 Smithfield Way.

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.

Foster youths to benefit from partnership

With the aid of a \$75,000 Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation grant, an interdisciplinary research team from Wayne State University and WMU will determine whether Michigan's foster youth are receiving adequate preventive, dental and prenatal health care services.

Leading the project is Angélique Day from WSU. Day, a WMU alumna, will collaborate with graduate students from both universities and with WMU's Amy Curtis, physician assistant; Rajib Paul, statistics; and Kathleen Baker, geography. They will analyze Medicaid and foster youth casework data in order to track county-by-county utilization.

The study builds upon WSU-funded research conducted last year by Day and Curtis to gauge adherence to a requirement—imposed in 2010 when Michigan converted most foster youth health care administration from a fee-for-service model to a managed care system—that youth entering the system have a well visit within 30 days.

Access to health care services is critically important to foster care youth. As many as 95 percent of this population has at least one physical health condition, and more than 50 percent of this population experiences two or more, due in large part to childhood abuse and neglect.

Welcome pack donations sought

Donations are needed to fill more than 40 welcome packs for WMU's Seita Scholars. Many of these former foster care youth will arrive in September without basic items to help make their school year successful. For details, including a list of item drop-off dates, visit wmich.edu/fosteringuccess/seita and click Seita Scholars Program, then Volunteering followed by Welcome Pack.

University launches new online application process

For students who want to pursue a bachelor's degree at WMU, the University community has one overriding piece of advice: "Apply Yourself."

That's the name of an online application system the University has just activated and will use for applicants headed to WMU in 2016 and beyond. The new, comprehensive system replaces one the University had been using for 10 years. It offers potential students a seamless application experience with all of WMU's application forms, including specialty forms, completely online.

"There are some terrific built-in conveniences," says Dachea Hill, director of admissions, "like the fact that the application can be stopped and restarted without losing data and the ability to select links during the process to get questions answered that apply to individual situations."

Added elements to the online application include special questions that focus on international, military, dual-enrolled or early/middle college status. Other elements focus on readmission applications and academic areas that may need to incorporate audition outcomes or additional student information.

The Graduate College successfully transitioned to the new system a year ago. Now, except for a few small groups of students, the University will have a uniform application system for both graduate and undergraduate students.

The Apply Now link on the University's homepage—wmich.edu—takes prospective students directly to Apply Yourself and the range of options for admissions.

Associate dean appointed for College of Fine Arts

Scott R. Irelan has been appointed associate dean of the College of Fine Arts, effective July 6.

Irelan comes to WMU from Youngstown State University, where he has been serving as associate professor and chairperson of its theatre and dance department.

He has taught and directed for many youth theatre projects and won the 2007 Robert A. Schanke Award from the Mid-America Theatre Conference.

A former professional theatre worker, Irelan has an extensive background in dramaturgy and grant writing as well as in scholarly publications.

His writings include three books: "Experiencing Theatre" and "The Process of Dramaturgy," which he co-wrote, and "Enacting Nationhood," which he edited.

Irelan's work also has appeared in *Modernism/Modernity*, *Shakespeare Bulletin*, *Journal of American Drama and Theatre*, *Theatre Annual*, and *Theatre History Studies*, among other publications.

He earned both a bachelor's and a master's degree from Bowling Green State University. He also earned a doctoral degree in theatre history, criticism, literature and performance studies from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.



Irelan

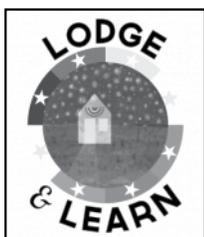
Area host families sought

Families that enjoy meeting new people, exploring new cultures and introducing international visitors to American culture are needed to host visiting international students arriving from Japan in August.

Host families are required to provide their assigned visitor with a private bedroom and two meals daily—breakfast and dinner. The guest pays for all other personal expenses while in the United States.

A stipend of \$450 a month will be paid to each hosting family for the duration of the guest's stay, which can range from four weeks to one year. A simple, online application process is utilized for host family selection.

Interested families should contact Barb Curley at (269) 217-9094 or findyournest@gmail.com.



GROUND-BREAKING

SELFIE—Director Judy Gipper, far left, and other staffers in Dining Services commemorated the official groundbreaking ceremony for the Valley Dining Center by gathering together for a cell phone photo. During the June 12 event, Gipper told the crowd that the center celebrates the visible beginning of a tremendous step forward to provide contemporary and high-quality dining services to students, employees, guests and the public. During his remarks, WMU President John M.

Dunn called the new center a "game changer in terms of the life of the University." Dunn also noted that the University has set LEED-Silver certification as a minimum goal for the center and that the facility will be sustainable and truly integrated into its beautiful setting. (Photo by Mike Lanka)



Soga Japan Center receives local Champs award

The Soga Japan Center is one of eight recipients of 2015 Champs awards from Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo.

The award recognizes CIS' partners as well as individual volunteers, teachers and other Kalamazoo Public Schools staff members who help the district create successful collaborations.

The national organization and its Kalamazoo and other local affiliates surround students with a community of supportive resources, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.

CIS of Kalamazoo presented this year's Champs awards during a May 19 ceremony. Among those from the University attending were Michiko Yoshimoto, the Soga Japan Center's outreach coordinator, whose work was a key factor in WMU winning the award.

At the same ceremony, the local CIS group presented its annual Diether Haenicke Promise of Excellence Award to the late James A. Harrington, a longtime member of its board of directors and a past president of both KPS and the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency.

Obituary



Hobbs

George W. Hobbs, former coach and health, physical education and recreation professor, died March 12. He was 75. Hobbs came to WMU in 1965 and retired in 2000. Visit wmubroncos.com for details.

On Campus with Eleonora Philopoulos



THINKING AHEAD
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

The director of Facilities Management's architecture and design division, Eleonora Philopoulos, oversees architectural and interior design work for non-capital building projects at the University. In that role, she must consider all the angles when clients want a space reconfigured or renovated or a recently constructed building furnished.

"I love my job. Working in a facilities management design department has always been my dream. You work with clients and get to know them and understand their needs. You start with a vision and have it in your mind three dimensionally—how is this space going to look and function," she says. "It's very rewarding to see it all come together. It's something that enhances the students' experience, and everyone can see, use and enjoy it."

Philopoulos supervises a professional staff of interior designers, a project architect and project manager, and the WMU Sign Shop, as well as interior design students who annually conduct a building interior condition analysis audit. She also provides oversight for projects involving outside contractors.

"Design can be subjective, but there's a lot more to it than meets the eye. We have to be very responsible with the solutions that we make. Projects have to be cohesive, functional and sustainable, and meet codes for things like life safety. They have to be aesthetically pleasing while promoting University branding and culture," Philopoulos notes. "We're always juggling those things. I am very lucky to work for such a great institution and with talented professionals who are passionate about what we do."

A Kalamazoo native and first generation Greek, Philopoulos has family members in Kalamazoo and Greece. She earned a bachelor's degree in interior design from WMU, and her father and brother are alumni of the University. After graduating, Philopoulos spent several years working in Europe as an interior designer and retail development manager for large companies like Nike and Harley Davidson. She returned home in 2006, joined WMU's staff and was promoted to her current post in 2015.

Philopoulos loves to travel and to work with her hands doing crafts and home renovations. She is fluent in Greek, visits Greece frequently and has taught part time for eight years in WMU's interior design program. This year, as director for the Greece study abroad course, she piloted the interior design program's first study abroad course, taking students to Greece to study classic Greek design. "I really enjoy being with the students and seeing things through their perspective," says Philopoulos, who has won several national design awards. "It truly is inspiring."

WMU trustees approve retirements of 7 faculty, 13 staff members during their June meeting

Twenty employee retirements, one faculty resignation and other personnel changes were approved during the WMU Board of Trustees meeting June 3.

All of the faculty members who are retiring are doing so with emeritus status. Their names, positions, years of continuous service and effective dates of retirement are: Hans Dykxhoorn, accountancy, effective Aug. 14, 2016; Lauren Freedman, special education and literacy studies, effective May 3, 2016; Mark Kerstetter, computer science, effective Dec. 31; Christopher Korth, finance and commercial law, effective July 31, 2016 (change in effective date only); Michael Pritchard, philosophy, effective June 30, 2016 (change in effective date only); Kath-

leen Sinning, accountancy, effective Aug. 14, 2016; and Quentin Smith, philosophy, effective May 1.

The staff members retiring are Bonnie S. Adduci, Valley #1 Dining Service, 18 years, effective July 31; Carol A. Carpenter, student financial aid and scholarships, 32 years, effective June 5; Robert D. Champion, maintenance services, 29 years, effective July 31; Mark Delorey, student financial aid and scholarships, 10 years, effective July 6; Lou Ann Grover, teaching, learning and educational studies, 30 years, effective June 30; Elizabeth W. Kuhle, intercollegiate athletics, 32 years, effective June 30; Gail L. Kurtz, associate vice president for finance's office, 36 years, effective Feb. 29, 2016; He-

lene Landon, Valley #1 Dining Service, 10 years, effective Aug. 23; Charles K. Lantto, landscape services, 34 years, effective July 31; Gaylene Luhman, information technology, 33 years, effective May 31; Donald VanderRoest, maintenance services, 25 years, effective April 30; and Margaret J. Watson, information technology, 33 years, effective May 15.

The faculty member resigning is Christopher Pearl, biological sciences, effective Aug. 16. In other personnel moves, trustees OK'd Jonathan Bush stepping down as chair of English, effective June 30; the return to the faculty of Gene Freudenburg, mathematics, effective July 1; and a sabbatical leave for Freudenburg, effective for fall 2015.

Continued from page 1

Participation needed

twice a month during the academic year.

"At WMU, we strive to put students first in everything we do," says Beach, formerly director of the Office of Faculty Development.

"We want to meet students where they are and help them discover their path to success. We have the opportunity to be a national leader in student retention and success."

For more information about Broncos FIRST or a learning community application, visit wmich.edu/changeresearch/broncosfirst/plc.

Classic air race competitors include two University aviators

Two WMU aviators have joined more than 50 other teams of women pilots for the 2015 Air Race Classic, an 86-year-old, cross-country race from June 22-25 that this year traveled through Kalamazoo.

Students Sara Karsten and Katherine Vena of Plymouth are competing in the event, which covers more than 2,100 nautical miles. A race map and more information can be found at airraceclassic.org. Visit wmich.edu/news/2015/06/24905 for complete details about the team and links to their progress reports.



Sara Karsten, left, and Katherine Vena get ready for the Air Race Classic. (Photo by Mike Lanka)