



# Western News

OCTOBER 8, 2015  
Volume 42, Number 3

For and about WMU faculty and staff

## WMU gets pension payment refund

WMU is one of seven Michigan universities to receive a refund on nearly 20 years of overpaid pension fund contributions. It will use a \$24.2 million refund received Sept. 30 to create a designated endowment that will help offset future payments to both employee retirement and health care costs connected with the Michigan Public Service Retirement System—MPSERS.

The Michigan Office of Retirement Services discovered earlier this year a mistake in how it had accounted for the seven universities' payments. Since 1997, the seven universities were making payments greater than required by law.

## Ethics Center issues call for papers

The Center for the Study of Ethics in Society is celebrating 30 years at WMU with a bioethics conference Thursday and Friday, March 17-18, in the Fetzer Center and has issued a call for scholars to submit papers by Monday, Nov. 16. The theme of the conference is "Bioethics: Preparing for the Unknown." Visit [wmich.edu/ethics/call-papers](http://wmich.edu/ethics/call-papers) for more information.

## APA to hold quarterly gathering

The Administrative Professional Association will hold a quarterly general membership meeting at noon Wednesday, Oct. 14, in 157-59 Bernhard Center. Renee Pearl, development and alumni relations, will give a short presentation on the renovation of Heritage Hall, formerly East Hall.

## PSSO sets bus trip, general meeting

Members of the WMU community and their guests have until Friday, Oct. 16, to sign up for the annual bus trip to Chicago being sponsored by the Professional Support Staff Organization. The trip costs \$35 per person and is set for Saturday, Nov. 7. Visit [wmich.edu/pssso/chicago](http://wmich.edu/pssso/chicago) to obtain more information or reserve a spot. Additionally, the group will hold its next general meeting from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 3, in 105-107 Bernhard Center.

## Faculty invited to apply for exchange

WMU and the University of Passau invite applications by Friday, Oct. 30, for a short-term faculty exchange between May 1 and June 30, 2016. For details, visit [wmich.edu/news/2015/09/26542](http://wmich.edu/news/2015/09/26542).

## StoryCorps to archive LGBTQ stories

The StoryCorps OutLoud Initiative is coming to Kalamazoo Thursday through Saturday, Nov. 5-7, in partnership with WMUK, WMU's public radio station, and the Kalamazoo Gay Lesbian Resource Center. Applications are now being accepted from those who would like to sign up for an interview recording time. Visit [wmuk.org/post/storycorps-outloud-initiative](http://wmuk.org/post/storycorps-outloud-initiative) for more information.

## 'Heritage,' community values to be celebrated

Members of the campus and Kalamazoo communities will get their first look this month inside a renovation effort that has stirred conversation areawide and left people eager to see the interior of the building Kalamazoo has watched re-emerge as the city's crown jewel.



A renovated Heritage Hall overlooks downtown Kalamazoo. (Photo by Mike Lanka)

"If you see Heritage Hall and your heart doesn't skip a beat, you may want to check your pulse to see if you have one," Jim Thomas, vice president for development and alumni relations, told a local audience recently. He was describing reactions he is hearing from community members to seeing just the exterior of the

newly renovated home to the WMU Alumni Center that is set for a grand opening homecoming weekend Oct. 23-25.

Heritage Hall is the birthplace of WMU that has graced the top of Prospect Hill overlooking downtown Kalamazoo since it opened in 1905—just

two years after the University was established. Following a 16-month renovation, the building will now take its place once again as an active location for daily campus activities.

A gala grand opening celebration is set for 2 to 4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 23. The event is free and open to the public, with a formal

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## Dunn outlines focus areas, lauds discovery gains

An emphasis on interdisciplinary research and focus on three areas that will enhance the campus learning environment were laid out by President John M. Dunn in his annual State of the University address Oct. 2.

"The state of Western Michigan University



President Dunn issues his State of the University address. (Photo by Mike Lanka)

is strong, intensely focused and completely immersed in using its unique resources to propel the state and nation forward," Dunn told a crowd of more than 400 attending Academic Convocation. "Our University is learner centered, discovery driven and globally engaged—and we are focused on the outcomes that those qualities allow us to achieve. We make things happen."

The president lauded the success of faculty and student research, service and discovery in such areas as autism, criminal justice, hybrid flexible electronics and neonatal respiration. He also praised the University's internal discovery process that included both Academic Program Review and Planning, and strategic planning efforts.

Moving forward, he noted, the campus will

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## WMU readying for homecoming, Family Weekend

History and traditions are taking center stage during this year's homecoming week Monday through Sunday, Oct. 19-25, and Family Weekend, Friday through Sunday, Oct. 23-25.

"Generations Evolve, Traditions Remain" is the 2015 homecoming theme, and a host of exciting activities are taking place on and off the campus. Many are open to the public and a number are free or low-cost, although advance registration is required even for some of the free activities. Numerous groups are gathering around campus at special pre-game tailgates.

In addition, the WMU Bookstore is offering discounts to alumni during homecoming weekend. Plus, shops and restaurants in

downtown Kalamazoo are getting into the spirit by putting up window displays and providing discounts to students and holders of WMU's free Concierge Card.

Details about most events are posted at [wmich.edu/homecoming](http://wmich.edu/homecoming). A



rundown of some of the major activities is a blast from the past with a few new twists:

- Multicultural Review student talent showcase, 7 p.m., Oct. 19, Dalton Center.
- Western Wednesday (spirit day), 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Oct. 21, campus flagpoles.

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# Around campus and beyond

## CHHS exhibiting alumna's photos

"Nature's Embrace," a nature photography exhibit by alumna Kallerine "Kallie" Strazdas, is on display through October from 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the College of Health and Human Services building's second-floor art gallery. The exhibit is a unique collection of landscape images that celebrate the environment. Strazdas uses Photoshop to manipulate digital photographs, presenting unusual, quirky perspectives that deviate from traditional landscape pictures.

## New residence halls to be on display

An open house for the new Western Heights residence hall complex will take place from 3 to 5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 12.

## Author to read from poetry book

Hedy Habra, Spanish, will read selections from her new poetry collection, "Under Brushstrokes," at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13, in Kazoo Books II, 2413 Parkview Ave. in Kalamazoo.

## Event focuses on Mexican migration

The 15-minute documentary "Both Sides of the Fence (Los Dos Lados de la Frontera)" will be shown in a free, public screening at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 15, in the Fetzer Center's Putney Auditorium. Experts in the field of Mexican-U.S. migration will host a panel discussion following the screening.

The documentary focuses on understanding the barriers and challenges faced by Mexicans who migrate to the U.S. It was filmed by Hector Lara with Luis Hernandez. Along with Lara, WMU's

Denise Bowen, physician assistant and co-director of the University's Both Sides of the Fence study abroad program, and Maureen Mickus, occupational therapy, served as directors.

## Lecturer to discuss 2016 elections

Daron R. Shaw from the University of Texas, Austin, will present the 2015 Samuel Clark Lecture at 7:30 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 20, in the Fetzer Center's Putney Auditorium. The talk is titled "A Brief But Useful Guide to the 2016 Elections."

## Untested Detroit sexual assault kits subject of next evaluation program

The Evaluation Cafe program topic for Wednesday, Oct. 21, is "The Detroit Sexual Assault Kit Action Research Project: Developmental Evaluation in Practice." The program, set for noon to 1 p.m. in 4410 Ellsworth Hall, will be presented by Rebecca Campbell from Michigan State University. Free coffee and lunch will be provided.

## Civil War is topic of upcoming talk

"Renaming the Civil War" is the topic of the Thursday, Oct. 22, installment in this year's Burnham-Macmillan Speaker Series sponsored by the history department. The talk by Gaines Foster from Louisiana State University will be held in the Fetzer Center's Kirsch Auditorium. There will be an alumni and emeriti reception at 6:30 p.m. The talk will follow at 7:30 p.m. For details about the lecture series and upcoming topics, visit [wmich.edu/history](http://wmich.edu/history).

## Emeritus re-elected to national group

Peter W. Krawutschke, emeritus in world languages and literatures and a Lee Honors College Fellow, was recently re-elected



Krawutschke

treasurer of the Joint National Committee for Languages. This is Krawutschke's third and final JNCL term.

The organization represents more than 300,000 language professionals.

Through the National Council for Languages and International Studies, it engages in public advocacy on behalf of languages and international education by translating professional priorities into national policy.

Krawutschke is a past president of the American Translators Association, a director of the American Foundation for Translation and Interpretation, and an honorary advisor to the International Federation of Translators.

## Chemist receives \$298,602 NSF grant

Andre Venter, chemistry, has been awarded a \$298,602 chemical measurement and imaging grant from the National Science



Venter

Foundation. Venter's project is titled "Protein Analysis by Desorption Electrospray Ionization Mass Spectrometry."

The three-year grant funding will be used to investigate various methods to improve the analysis of protein molecules by desorption electrospray ionization mass spectrometry—DESI-MS.

Imaging of tissue samples by DESI is an important new tool to aid in biological tissue imaging. DESI-imaging applications are currently limited to the analysis of small molecules such as lipids, fatty acids and small molecules. Developing the ability to analyze proteins would extend the capabilities of imaging DESI-MS.

Venter also will work to increase participation of undergraduate students, especially from underrepresented groups in research, and educate the general public about the importance of chemistry in their everyday life through collaboration with the Gwen Frostic School of Art.

## Historian's novel released in U.S.

Victor C. Xiong, history, has had his first novel, "Heavenly Khan: A Biography of Emperor Tang Taizong," released in the



Xiong

United States. The book was published by Airiti Press and now is available on Amazon.

Intended as supplemental reading for his World History to 1500 class, Xiong says he strove to make it as fact-based as possible, drawing all the characters and major events from history. The protagonist is Li Shimin, who is considered by many as China's greatest emperor.

Shimin proved himself to be a brilliant commander and an extraordinary ruler. He was particularly renowned for his tolerance for religions—Buddhism, Daoism, and Christianity—and for his willingness to accept criticism by his court officials.

## Service-July additions

**Editor's note:** The following employees were left off the July service list that ran in the Sept. 10 issue of Western News.

**20 Years**—Robin Hook, intercollegiate athletics.

**15 Years**—Kathy L. Leitke, intercollegiate

athletics; Joan Ann Morin, University Libraries; Tracy Pattok, Institutional Research; Christopher E. Sligh, Student Activities and Leadership Programs; and Tammi R. Smith, arts and sciences advising.

**10 Years**—Kelly F. Bates, College of Aviation; Mark A. Roman, student affairs-information services; Lynnae J. Stankus, Residence Life; and Kristen Wierich, Residence Life.

**Five Years**—Andrew J. Holmes, Extended University Programs; Darin Eugene Leigh, University Recreation; Blaine L. McFerrin, intercollegiate athletics; Michelle M. Metro-Roland, Haenicke Institute; and Kay M. Palan, Haworth College of Business.

## Reception-Retirement

Robin Lenkart, chemistry, will be honored for her eight years of service to the University during a retirement reception at 2:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 16, in 2401 Chemistry Building.

## 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.

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# Campus event to celebrate life of former President Elson Floyd

The life and accomplishments of WMU's sixth president, Elson S. Floyd, will be celebrated in an event set for 4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 16, at the Dalton Center Recital Hall.

Floyd died June 20 after a battle with cancer. He was 59. Campus colleagues and community friends of the Floyd family as well as the general public are invited to the celebration of Floyd's life.

It will feature remarks by WMU's former first lady, Carmento Floyd, as well as WMU President John M. Dunn. The Voices of WMU gospel choir will perform, and videotaped comments will be played from campus and community members sharing their personal recollections of the Floyd presidency. Bob Miller, WMU associate vice president for community outreach, will serve as emcee.

Earlier in the day, there will be a formal ceremony to note the naming of the WMU College of Engineering and Applied Sciences building for Floyd. Attendance at that ceremony is by invitation only.

WMU was Floyd's first college presidency. Among his major accomplishments was establishing a new campus for the engineering school and the Business Technology and Research Park. Floyd left



**Top left:** The building housing the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences is now named Floyd Hall. (Photo by Mike Lanka) **Top right:** Floyd was president of WMU from 1998 to 2003. (Photo by John Gilroy)

WMU in 2003 to become the president of the University of Missouri. He was named president of Washington State University in 2007. In September, WSU announced the naming of its new medical school for Floyd, recognizing his role in making that initiative a reality.

## WMU, law school innocence project garner \$418,000

The WMU Cooley Law School Innocence Project, a legal clinic that seeks to exonerate people who have been wrongfully convicted



WMU Cooley Innocence Project Director Marla Mitchell-Cichon, center, with (from left) Ken Wyniemko, the project's first exoneree, and Donya Davis, its latest exoneree (Photo courtesy of WMU Cooley Law School)

of serious crimes, has received a \$418,000 U.S. Department of Justice grant.

The DOJ grant was made to WMU, but students from both Cooley and WMU are deeply involved in the work of the project. It is one of the largest wrongful conviction grants awarded by the Justice Department so far in 2015.

WMU's Ashlyn Kuersten, gender and women's studies, is the grant's principal investigator. Marla Mitchell-Cichon from Cooley directs the project and is a co-principal investigator along with WMU's Mark Hurwitz, political science.

Cooley's innocence project has screened more than 5,300 cases and exonerated three Michigan men. It was established by Cooley Professor Emeritus Norman Fell shortly after Michigan's post-conviction DNA testing law was enacted in 2001. It investigates and pursues claims of factual innocence, as well as trains law students in best practices.

## Enrollment dips; new student numbers still positive

WMU's incoming freshman class increased slightly this fall, while the overall number of students enrolled took a slight dip.

The fall 2015 census showed a total enrollment of 23,556 students, down 1.5 percent compared to last fall's total. Of those, 4,989 or 21.2 percent are studying at the graduate level.

Beginner numbers inched up by just 0.1 percent to nearly 3,100 students, and the

## Drawings to begin for United Way campaign

Employees who give any amount to the 2015 campus United Way campaign will be eligible for six weekly drawings to be held each Friday afternoon from Oct. 16 through Nov. 20.

In addition to the drawing for the regular weekly prizes, grand-prize drawings will be held Friday, Nov. 20.

For details, read the story at [wmich.edu/news/2015/10/27530](http://wmich.edu/news/2015/10/27530) for campaign updates.

number of new graduate students increased slightly as well, to 1,413. The number of transfer students declined by 3.5 percent.

The fall 2015 enrollment report shows that a number of multi-year enrollment trends are continuing.

- The freshman-to-sophomore retention rate saw its fourth year of growth, increasing to 79 percent—the highest rate in 17 years.

- A 2.6 percent increase in the number of doctoral students brings that total to 919—the largest doctoral enrollment in University history.

- Enrollment in the Lee Honors College was up 2.8 percent to 1,756, continuing a growth trend that has seen a 56 percent enrollment increase since 2010. At 401, the incoming honors college freshman class is the largest in University history.

- Minority enrollment rose 1.5 percent to 5,043, and minority students now comprise more than 21 percent of the student body.

- International enrollment held steady, increasing slightly to a total of 1,859 students.

## Service-October

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

**40 Years**—Ruth A. DeYoung, Valley II Dining Service.

**35 Years**—Dennis E. Boyle, information technology.

**30 Years**—Julie A. Scott, information technology; Laverne Jones, building custodial and support services; Lois J. Tolhurst, University Libraries; Patricia A. Putman, building custodial and support services; Terri D. Stowers, University Libraries; and William E. Rotgers, Haworth College of Business.

**25 Years**—Bryan K. Sutton, maintenance services; Carolyn R. Noack, sustainability; Diane M. Sayers, Valley I Dining Service; Moon Walters, Bernhard Center Dining Service; Roy A. Middlebrooks, Bernhard Center Dining Service; and Tony M. Thompson, Bernhard Center.

**20 Years**—Debra K. Stoyanoff, environmental and sustainability studies; Don R. Beyer, intercollegiate athletics; Kathryn A.

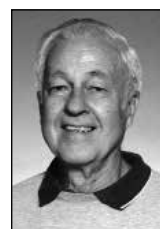
Wright, geosciences; and Susan Ann Nap, College of Arts and Sciences.

**15 Years**—John M. Coffey, building custodial and support services; Michael D. Wolfe, West Hills Athletic Club; Peggy L. Miller, Human Resources; and Rainer B. Liebert, Sindecuse Health Center.

**10 Years**—Kara J. Nuismer, catering; Ken R. O'Conner, maintenance services; Melissa K. Kuepfer, student conduct; Nicholas K. Petruska, catering; Nicole Marie Lockwood-Womack, teacher and administrator certification; Shari L. Bissenden, admissions; Terri L. Riemland, Student Activities and Leadership Programs; and Theresa L. McGee, biological sciences.

**Five Years**—Daniel S. Reynolds, music; James S. Thomas, development and alumni relations; Jan Watson, communication; Jason Rivas, human performance and health education; Karen Elizabeth Boyd, counselor education and counseling psychology; Kimberly Ann Squiers, research; Linda Martinez, public safety; Mark A. Johnson, public safety; and Melissa A. Knapp, Human Resources.

## Obituary



Kenz

**Herbert W. Kenz**, retired associate director of student financial aid and scholarships, died Sept. 17. He was 87. A memorial mass will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, Oct. 19, in Kalamazoo's St. Augustine's Cathedral.

A luncheon will follow on WMU's main campus. Visit [langelands.com](http://langelands.com) for details.



# On Campus with Kyle Oberhill



MAKING A SPLASH  
(Photo by Deanne Puca)

Working with students is one of the most rewarding parts of Kyle Oberhill's job as assistant manager for Lawson Ice Arena and Gabel Natatorium. Oberhill adds that training staff and overseeing events such as hockey games, swimming lessons and birthday parties has afforded him an opportunity to work with many different groups of people.

"There is such a variety of things going on in this building. Every day is different, and there is so much happening here," he says. "Western is such a great place to work, and Kalamazoo is a great community with so much to do."

Originally from Plainwell, Oberhill was a diver at Plainwell High School and at Kalamazoo College until a skiing accident prevented him from continuing with the sport. He turned to coaching, and still coaches the Kalamazoo College diving team. Oberhill became more and more of a fixture at Gabel, bringing the Mattawan and Hackett high school and other younger teams he coached to the natatorium.

He ultimately transferred to WMU as a student and started working for the University in 2004 as a lifeguard, and swimming and diving lesson instructor. He was promoted to head lifeguard in 2006 and landed his current job in 2011.

Oberhill earned a bachelor's degree in general university studies from WMU in 2008 and a master's degree in coaching sport performance from WMU in 2012. He is considering pursuing a second master's degree.

Besides working with students and staff, he is responsible for payroll for the ice arena and natatorium facility office, first aid training, program management and working with the facility's website. He recently moved to Kalamazoo in the Henderson Park area with his cat and three-month-old Bernese mountain dog.

Oberhill enjoys skiing, wake boarding, wind surfing, kiteboarding and visiting his family members, who live in Plainwell, Denver and Sanibel, Florida.

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## Campus readying for homecoming, Family Weekend

- Golden Apple and Keystone Awards reception and dinner, 5:30 p.m., Oct. 22, Bernhard Center.
- Tug of Oar and food drive, 9 p.m., Oct. 22, Gabel Natatorium.
- Yell Like Hell, 6 p.m., and Pep Rally, 7 p.m., Oct. 23, Student Recreation Center.
- Pride Alumni Network and friends social, 5 to 7 p.m. Oct. 23, Zhang Legacy Collections Center.
- Onyx Society Meet and Greet, 3 to 7 p.m. (happy hour) and 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Oct. 23, Frazier's Lounge, Kalamazoo.
- Distinguished Alumni Awards reception and dinner, 6:30 p.m. Oct. 23, Bernhard Center.
- Homecoming Campus Classic, Oct. 24, 1K fun run at 8:45 a.m. and 5K run/walk at 9:15 a.m.
- WMU Alumni, Family and Friends Homecoming Tailgate, 11 a.m. Oct. 24,

Parking Lot 1. There will be fun and entertainment for the whole family, as well as speciality tailgate areas such as those for Family Weekend, the Haworth College of Business Pancake Breakfast (10 a.m. to noon) and the all-class University High School reunion (11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.)

- Football game against Miami University, 2 p.m. Oct. 24, Waldo Stadium.
- National Pan-Hellenic Council March-down, 7 p.m. Oct. 24, Bernhard Center.
- Onyx Society Ball, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Oct. 24, 105-07 Bernhard Center.



Buster Bronco, WMU's mascot

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## 'Heritage' community values to be celebrated

ribbon-cutting ceremony to be followed by self-guided tours of the facility and grounds.

Self-guided tours will continue from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24. Guests that day are encouraged to park in Lawson Arena parking lots and take a shuttle to the area. A final set of tours is slated for 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 25.

While no advance registration is required, the Friday grand opening is expected to attract thousands to Prospect Hill. Off-site parking and shuttle service has been arranged to ensure visitors can easily reach the site. A special commemorative item will be distributed to the first 3,000 attendees.

Shuttles will run on a continuous loop from nearby parking lots 10, 11, 12, 95, 102, 104 and 105. The special event shuttles will be available on Friday only from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. and will drop guests off at Heritage Hall.

"It has been our intention to transform the University's birthplace into a facility that serves both the Kalamazoo and campus communities and showcases that relationship," Thomas says.

"Great care has been taken to preserve the building's historic character while promoting the timeless values and power of hard work, education and striving to improve the human condition."

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## Dunn outlines focus areas

continue to focus on interdisciplinary research to bring WMU's combined strengths to bear on societal challenges.

Dunn laid out three areas aimed at further enhancing the learning environment for students:

- A focus on diversity that will leverage WMU's position as "Michigan's most diverse public university;"
- A Create Your Own Signature initiative that will allow students to add University-endorsed credentials to their degrees that record and recognize students' accomplishments in a variety of interest areas; and
- A renewed commitment to internationalizing the University's programs in a way that will give every student the tools they need to succeed in a global economy.

Go to <http://wmich.edu/president/conconvocation2015> to read the complete text.

## Roads closed for Campus Classic

Registration is open for the Homecoming Campus Classic Saturday, Oct. 24, and the race/walk will cause several temporary road closures during the early morning. Closed for the 9:15 a.m. event will be:

- Oliver Street from Stadium Drive to Western Avenue, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.;
- Michigan Avenue to Sangren Hall until 9:30 a.m.;
- North Dormitory Road, Gilkison Avenue, Goldsworth Drive and Rankin Avenue to Valley Drive until 9:50 a.m.;
- Rankin and Business Court to the Miller parking ramp until 10:05 a.m.; and
- Western Avenue, Roell Drive, Shaw Lane, and Van De Giessen and Arcadia roads to the finish line until 10:30 a.m.