Today is United Way drawing deadline

Employees need to return their enve-
lopes today for the campus United Way
campaign to be eligible for the grand prize
drawing. For more information about the
campaign, including prizes, visit wmich.
edu/news/2015/10/27530.

Prizes available for survey respondents

Take a Dining Services survey online
through Monday, Nov. 23, for a chance to
win prizes that include a GoPro camera,
RCA 10" tablet with Bluetooth keyboard
or a Dining Dollars gift card. To take the
survey or learn more, visit wmich.edu/
dining/survey.

Holiday gathering planned for staffers

Register by 5 p.m., Friday, Nov. 20, at
mywmu.com/apaparty to attend a holiday
gathering for Staff Compensation System
employees and their guests. The Admin-
istrative Professional Association and Pro-
fessional Support Staff Organization invite
staffers to celebrate this holiday season at
5:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3, in the Alamos
Drafthouse in downtown Kalamazoo.
The event will include time for socializing,three
classic animated Christmas movies,food and
more. Register by 5 p.m., Friday, Nov. 20,
at mywmu.com/apaparty.

Strategic planning survey opening soon

The WMU community is invited to par-
ticipate in the strategic planning stakeholder
survey that will be released during the week
of Nov. 30. The University’s leadership is
looking for input to help WMU transition
from the previous plan to a revised plan that
will guide WMU through 2020. Information
on the survey, as well as the planning process
is available at wmich.edu/strategic.

New time for tuition-related session

An informational session for employees’
children who are considering enrolling at
WMU will start 15 minutes earlier than
previously announced. The session will help
explain WMU’s tuition-related benefits for
employees’ eligible children.

It will now take place at 8:15 a.m. Friday,
Dec. 4, in the President’s Dining Room of
the Bernhard Center, just before a regularly
scheduled admissions office open house.
Parents are welcome to attend. In addition,
one more brown bag session for employees
who are considering enrolling at WMU is
set for noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 9,
also in the President’s Dining Room.

Fetzer Center plans annual Santa event

Avoid the long lines at the mall and bring
your children to breakfast or lunch with
Santa in the Fetzer Center. The breakfast
is from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec.
5. The lunch is from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 6. Visit wmich.edu/fetzer/
santa for admission costs and reservations.

WMU one of nation’s leading green colleges

The Sustainable En-
dowments Institute has
named WMU one of the
country’s six top-
performing colleges for
energy savings and cutting
greenhouse gas emissions.
In an announcement
Nov. 10, the organization
that manages the nation’s Billion Dollar
Green Challenge lauded WMU as one of
the colleges and universities that have
captured the top performance slot in the
organization’s Green Revolving Investment
Tracking System—known as GRITS.
The institute’s Best of GRITS awards rec-
ognized WMU as the large institution with
the most carbon emissions saved to date.
The other five award winners are: Den-
nison University, small
institution with the most
carbon emissions saved;
The University of New
England, mid-sized school
with the most carbon emis-
sions saved; Edgewood
College, small college with
the highest average annual
energy savings from a single project; South-
eastern Connecticut State University, mid-sized
institution with the highest average annual
energy savings from a single project, and
the University of Michigan, institution with the
most projects completed.
The GRITS program is tracking more than
1,300 completed projects that have saved
more than $138 million and 18 million
MMBTU of energy. Together, the projects
Continued on page 4

Lifelong learning entity gets $1 million endowment

The Bernard Osher Foundation has
awarded WMU’s $1 million endowment gift
to support the University’s lifelong learning
efforts.

WMU President John M. Dunn announced
the award Nov. 17 at the annual membership
meeting of OLLI—the Osher Lifelong Learn-
ing Institute at WMU. In addition, the Osher
Foundation awarded the University a $50,000
bridge grant to make funding immediately
available until the new endowment begins
generating interest.

WMU’s lifelong learning entity opened in
2011 after two years of planning by emeriti
faculty members. It has been part of the
Osher Foundation’s famed national network
of OLLIs since 2014. The San Francisco-based
Osher Foundation, founded by businessman,
community leader and philanthropist Bernard
Osher, made an operating grant of $100,000 to
the University when the WMU OLLI was
launched last year. At the time, the foundation
noted it would consider providing a $1 mil-
lion permanent support gift once the WMU
OLLI demonstrated success and the potential
for sustainability. What is now WMU OLLI annually serves more than 900 local citizens.

University garners 6th consecutive 'Best for Vets' honor

WMU has been named one of the na-
tion’s best institutions for military veterans
pursuing higher education, making the
No. 6 top list for the sixth
consecutive year.

In a Nov. 9 pre-Veter-
ans Day release of its lat-
est assessment, Military
Times placed WMU on
its 2016 “Best for Vets”
list of colleges and universities. With a
ranking of No. 76 this year, WMU is the
only Michigan school to have appeared
on all six years of the publication’s annual
list of the top colleges in the United States
considered “the best fit for service members,
military veterans and their families.”

Two other Michigan universities are
among the top 100 schools on the 2016 list:
Saginaw Valley State University and the
University of Michigan. The rankings are
published in full in the issues of Army Times,
Navy Times, Air Force Times and Marine
Corps Times on newsstands this week and
online at militarytimes.com. The rankings
can also be found on each magazine’s website.

According to the publication, more than
600 colleges and universities from across the
country completed a detailed survey that,
along with data factored in from several
national databases and federal departments,
determined their standing.

This is the second such accolade WMU
has received this month. On Nov. 5, both
WMU and the WMU Thomas M. Cooley
Continued on page 4

For and about WMU faculty and staff
Ten staffers to be honored for outstanding service

Ten staff members will be honored as outstanding employees during a reception at 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3, in 157 Bernhard Center.

The University community is invited to attend the event, which recognizes the fall 2015 recipients of the semiannual Make a Difference Award. The recipients will each receive $300, before taxes, and a commemorative certificate.

This fall’s award winners are Sheila Atheron, accounts receivable; Jayne P. Frailey, accounts receivable; Jayne P. Fraley; Paulina M. Davis, Deanne Puca, Cheryl P. Roland and Mark E. Green, Institutional Research; Karen M. Steeno, Evaluation Center; Teri Schrimpf, L. Paige, Bernhard Center; Renee M. Pearl, Kathleen MacKenzie, theatre; Delores J. Minshall, information technology; Johnny L. Paige, Bernhard Center; Renee M. Pearl, development and alumni relations; Emma Perk, Evaluation Center; Teri Schrimpf, Institutional Research; Karen M. Steeno, Career and Student Employment Services; and Joe VanDerBox, Sindecuse Health Center.

The Make a Difference Award Program is a campuswide peer-to-peer program that recognizes University staff members for their outstanding accomplishments and daily investment of energy and creativity. Award winners are selected by a committee comprised of their peers.

For more information or for a year-round nomination form, visit wmich.edu/engineer/innovationday.

Anthropologist pens book of proverbs

Erika Friedl Loeffler, emerita Meader School professor, will explore how proverbial expressions can examine one’s own ethics when he speaks at 6 p.m. today in 205 Bernhard Center as part of the Center for the Study of Ethics in Society’s Fall 2015 Lecture Series. The talk, “Sources of Ethical Commitment: Finding Your Ground for Finding Your Way,” is free.

Bands to premiere faculty work

The WMU Symphonic and Concert bands will perform a range of music in a combined concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 22, in Miller Auditorium. The free program will include the world premiere of School of Music faculty composer Christopher Biggs’ thought provoking work titled “Extinction.”

The bands also will perform the music of Jennifer Higdon, Gustav Holst, Ron Nelson, Alfred Reed, Joaquin Rodrigo and Dana Wilson. For more information, visit wmich.edu/music or call (269) 387-4667.

Annual Innovation Day slated

A Friday, Dec. 4, Innovation Day celebration at the Parkview Campus will allow the public to review new product innovations by students from grades K-12 through graduate school. The event will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the atrium of the engineering college building.

Now in its eighth year, the free event will include a keynote speech at 10:30 a.m. by Jia Jiang, who is the founder of Fearbuster and author of the book “Rejection Proof: How I Beat Fear and Became Invincible, One Rejection at a Time.” For more information, visit wmich.edu/engineer/innovationday.

Bargert, Disability Services for Students; Kathleen MacKenzie, theatre; Delores J. Minshall, information technology; Johnny L. Paige, Bernhard Center; Renee M. Pearl, development and alumni relations; Emma Perk, Evaluation Center; Teri Schrimpf, Institutional Research; Karen M. Steeno, Career and Student Employment Services; and Joe VanDerBox, Sindecuse Health Center.

The Make a Difference Award Program is a campuswide peer-to-peer program that recognizes University staff members for their outstanding accomplishments and daily investment of energy and creativity. Award winners are selected by a committee comprised of their peers.

For more information or for a year-round nomination form, visit wmich.edu/makeadifference.

Retirement reception

Karen Dean, College of Aviation, will be recognized for her 17 years of service to the University during a retirement reception from 5 to 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20, in 1207 Aviation Education Center. There will be a formal presentation at 5 p.m.

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.

Friedl Loeffler

Margaret Joyce, chemical and paper engineering, has received the WMU Paper Technology Foundation’s Honor Award for her outstanding contributions to the paper engineering program. The honor, the foundation’s highest award, was presented during the organization’s annual banquet in October.

Joyce, a pioneering researcher in the area of flexible printed electronics, was recognized for her contributions to the pulp, paper and allied industries and her interest in the foundation, which has enhanced the reputation of WMU’s Department of Chemical and Paper Engineering. She also has demonstrated exemplary performance in training young men and women to enter the pulp, paper and allied industries.

MAC honors head coaches

Head coaches Nate Norman, women’s soccer, and Chad Wiseman, men’s soccer, each were voted Mid-American Conference Coach of the Year this month by their fellow coaches in their respective sports.

Norman, who just finished his fourth season, is the first head coach in the women’s program history to be so honored. This year, he guided the Broncos to a second-place regular season showing and their second MAC Tournament championship title in the past three years. The team fell 1-0 to No. 2 seeded University of Florida in the first round of the NCAA Women’s College Cup. It ended the season at 14-4-4.

Wiseman, who became head coach of the Bronco men’s program in 2013, led this year’s team to an 11-3-4 overall, 3-1-1 MAC record. The No. 2 seeded Broncos fell to No. 3 seed University of Buffalo in overtime in the MAC Tournament semifinals. WMU cracked the TopDrawerSoccer national top 25 poll this year for the first time in school history. The Broncos were ranked No. 24 on Sept. 14 and moved up to No. 18 on Sept. 21.

Western Michigan University
Farm is living, laboratory modeling sustainability in everyday life

A seven-layer perennial “food forest” on the west side of WMU’s Gibbs House property is a complex ecosystem, though still in its infancy.

Much of the fledgling forest was last year the unpaved driveway to a soccer field, and thus largely hardpan, stony, not very fertile.

But the land and the students working it are resilient, demonstrating that careful planning and planting will over time return vitality to what was once barren.

“It’s all nut- and fruit-producing plants that mimic the interactions between species that you see in a normal forest,” says Josh Shultz, the property’s permaculture program director. “We have all seven different trophic levels.”

This area of knee- and shoulder-high trees along with other plantings is part of the nearly two-acre property anchored by the 160-year-old Gibbs farmhouse on the edge of the Parkview Campus.

East of the food forest are the annual vegetable gardens that produced 63 different crops this summer. Near the gardens are plots crowded with beds of native wildflowers adjacent to compost mounds. Two large student-built hoop houses hosted tomato plants, Swiss chard, loofa squash, leeks and other crops this summer. And the hoop houses will help extend the growing season to Thanksgiving and beyond.

Philo G. “Glen” Bishop, WMUK and instructional communications, died Nov. 7. He was 84. He retired in 1995 after 41 years of service. Gifts may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project or Hospice Care of Southwest Michigan. For more, visit langelands.com.

Frederick Z. Sitkins, emeritus in engineering design, manufacturing and management systems, died Nov. 7 after a short illness. He was 78. Sitkins retired in August after 36 years of service. Gifts may be made to the WMU Foundation in Sitkins’ memory. For more, visit mlive.com/obituaries/kalamazoo or langelands.com.

George Vuicich, emeritus in geography, died Nov. 2. He was 89. Vuicich joined the faculty in 1965 and retired in 1993 after 25 years of service. Services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 19, in Kanley Chapel, followed by a luncheon in the Fetzer Center. Gifts can be made to the George Vuicich Memorial Scholarship Fund. For more, visit avinkcremation.com.

Campus community to make its marks on new dining facility

A topping-out ceremony will be held at 3:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20, to mark a milestone in the new Valley Dining Center construction project.

WMU students and employees as well as members of the community are welcome to attend the event, which will be held at the construction site near Goldsworth Valley Pond. Attendees are invited to sign the final steel construction beam between 3:30 and 4 p.m. The ceremony will conclude with a beam-raising at 4 p.m., when the signed support beam will be lifted by crane and placed on the main floor of the Valley Dining Center.

Making brief remarks at the event will be Diane Anderson, vice president for student affairs, and a representative of the construction firm the Christman Co. A traditional topping-out ceremony is held when the last piece of steel is raised into place, often adorned with an evergreen tree for good luck as well as other symbols important to the building’s owner.

The Valley Dining Center is a nearly 67,000-square-foot building. It is scheduled to be completed in August 2016 and will primarily serve the campus’ Valley Neighborhood.

The new facility will replace the three existing dining locations in the Valley residence halls, which will be re-deployed to enhance the residential experience in each of the three Valley complexes. Student feedback will be a key driver in determining the added amenities and services.

There will be nine distinct venues in the new facility, providing a restaurant-like atmosphere where fresh food is prepared in front of guests. Café 1903, a retail cash operation and convenience store, will be open for extended late-night hours.

Participatory presentation, tour set for Valley pond-area project

The WMU community is invited to attend a walking tour and participatory presentation at 4 p.m. Monday, Nov. 23, at Goldsworth Valley Pond.

The landscape architecture firm of O’Boyle Cowell Blaklock will present the proposed schematic design concept for improvements to the area around the pond that are taking place in conjunction with construction of the new Valley Dining Center. Attendee input is welcome.

Plans call for pond-area improvements to start in spring 2016 and the project to be completed in summer 2016.

Improvements will include new gathering spaces and walking paths along the water’s edge as well as native and wetland landscape plantings and bio-swales to provide storm water and wildlife buffers.

The WMU community is invited to attend a walking tour and participatory presentation at 4 p.m. Monday, Nov. 23, at Goldsworth Valley Pond.

The landscape architecture firm of O’Boyle Cowell Blaklock will present the proposed schematic design concept for improvements to the area around the pond that are taking place in conjunction with construction of the new Valley Dining Center. Attendee input is welcome.

Plans call for pond-area improvements to start in spring 2016 and the project to be completed in summer 2016.

Improvements will include new gathering spaces and walking paths along the water’s edge as well as native and wetland landscape plantings and bio-swales to provide storm water and wildlife buffers.
Collaboration, teamwork help push up grant total

An increase in collaboration and multidisciplinary teamwork has led to a sharp rise in grants to WMU.

Externally funded awards, much of them for research, pushed the grant total for the 2014-15 fiscal year past $35 million, an increase of nearly $8 million over the previous year. The grant total in June, the last month of the University fiscal year, came in at $3.7 million.

The year-end grant total—$35,166,490—was announced at the WMU Board of Trustees October meeting in Grand Rapids. It is roughly $9 million above the $27,179,910 for the previous year. The grant total in June, the last month of the 2014-15 fiscal year past $35 million, an increase of nearly $8 million over the previous year. The grant total in June, the last month of the University fiscal year, came in at $3.7 million.

The year-end grant total—$35,166,490—was announced at the WMU Board of Trustees October meeting in Grand Rapids. It is roughly $9 million above the $27,179,910 for the previous year. The grant total in June, the last month of the 2014-15 fiscal year past $35 million, an increase of nearly $8 million over the previous year. The grant total in June, the last month of the University fiscal year, came in at $3.7 million.

The year-end grant total—$35,166,490—was announced at the WMU Board of Trustees October meeting in Grand Rapids. It is roughly $9 million above the $27,179,910 for the previous year. The grant total in June, the last month of the 2014-15 fiscal year past $35 million, an increase of nearly $8 million over the previous year. The grant total in June, the last month of the University fiscal year, came in at $3.7 million.

The year-end grant total—$35,166,490—was announced at the WMU Board of Trustees October meeting in Grand Rapids. It is roughly $9 million above the $27,179,910 for the previous year. The grant total in June, the last month of the 2014-15 fiscal year past $35 million, an increase of nearly $8 million over the previous year. The grant total in June, the last month of the University fiscal year, came in at $3.7 million.

Continued from page 1

WMU one of nation’s leading green colleges

Report a median annual return on investment of 18.6 percent.

WMU was singled out by the Sustainable Endowments Institute in 2011 as home to the nation’s oldest green revolving fund. Such funds are tools that allow institutions to invest in sustainability projects and then harvest the savings from those projects to invest in new energy projects. Considered a new campus tool by most schools in the early part of this century, WMU’s semi-revolving fund was established in 1980 and has financed more than 100 campus projects with an average annual return on investment of 47 percent. WMU also is a founding member of SEI’s Billion Dollar Green Challenge, the goal of which is to invest a cumulative total of $1 billion in self-managed green revolving funds that finance energy efficiency upgrades on campus.

“This new honor from SEI is an acknowledgement of WMU’s long-term, innovative approach to cost-saving energy conservation,” says Harold Glasser, sustainability office and environmental and sustainability studies program.

“This approach helped create a firm foundation for WMU’s more recent, broader efforts to build a culture of sustainability on campus and beyond.”

Without realizing it, a host of employees and students have Arnold Taylor protecting their backs. As associate director for support services in the Office of Information Technology, Taylor is responsible for numerous free, front-end services that help the campus community be productive.

He’s in charge of the Help Desk, Faculty Technology Center, computer labs and general classroom technology, as well as a small group of local area network managers who provide computer networking support for a variety of offices and the switchboard’s cadre of telephone operators who field 387,100 calls. In addition, Taylor serves as a liaison between OIT and several campus groups that deal with IT support issues, including groups focused on disability services and WMU’s colleges. He and his 15 staffers also are involved with residence hall move-in, the temporary One Stop Convenience Center, and orientation sessions for new employees as well as students.

“We have the opportunity to serve the campus community and to make a difference. It can be challenging making sure that we’re adequately meeting the needs of our clients and customers and if we’re not, taking the appropriate steps to eventually meet them. But that’s something we take very seriously,” Taylor says. “I’ve got an excellent group of folks who really understand what it means to be a support unit. And that makes it fun to be a part of this team. I think a lot of our service areas have a passion for serving customers and clients. Oftentimes, I think that gets overlooked.”

He encourages people to make the Help Desk their first point of contact when they have questions or their own challenges. He says desk personnel can provide assistance in many areas, or at least point callers to the right place to go for help.

Taylor earned two degrees from WMU, a bachelor’s degree in computer science in 1995 and a master’s degree in educational leadership in 2007. He started his career as a programmer analyst “writing code” for the city of Kalamazoo in 1993. He returned to WMU in 1997 as a systems specialist in the budget office and four years later, became special assistant to then-president Elson S. Floyd. Taylor moved to OIT as manager of customer success in 2003 and has remained in the continually expanding post ever since.

The Comstock resident is married, has three children, and enjoys spending time with family and participating in his church. He also likes to work out as well as to play golf and basketball.

Continued from page 1

University garners awards

Law School were lauded as 2016 Military Friendly Schools by Victory Media, the publisher of G.I. Jobs magazine.

WMU’s Office of Military and Veterans Affairs serves more than 600 veteran students, the greatest number of veterans enrolled at a public university in Michigan. The office was established in 2009 to support veterans, service members and the family members of veterans. Details are at wmich.edu/military.