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
Review Session, Friday, Nov. 20, at
mywmuc.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 Alamo
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,
mywmuc.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 3:15 p.m. Friday,
Dec. 4, in the President’s Dining Room of
the Bernhard Center, just before a regularly
scheduled admissions 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-
ern Connecticut State University, mid-sized
institute 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 Bernhard 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 help making 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 some 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
top-100 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
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 Atherington, Paula M. Davis, Deanne Puca, Cheryl P. Roland and Mark E. Schwerin, the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included with each posting.

An ethics talk for professionals is today

Nelson Miller, a WMU-Cooley Law School professor, will explore how professionals can examine their own ethics when they speak 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.

Retailor to give breakfast series talk

The real estate market in southwest Michigan will be the focus at the upcoming Mercantile Bank of Michigan Breakfast Speaker Series. DanJaqua, president of Jaqua Realtors, will discuss “Trends in the Housing Market and Real Estate Activity” at 8 a.m. Friday, Nov. 20, in 2150 Schneider Hall. Reservations are required at (269) 387-6059 or wmich.edu/business/mercantile-rsvp.

Turkey Trot 5K race is this weekend

The annual Turkey Trot 5K race is set for Saturday, Nov. 21. The festive event begins at the Student Recreation Center. Check-in starts at 7 a.m. while the race starts at 8:30 a.m. Registration fees vary. Visit wmich.edu/rec to obtain more information or to register.

Birdett, 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 L. Paige, Bernhard Center; Karen M. Steeno, Institutional Research; Terri Schirmer, 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 theirs.

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

Retirement reception

Karen Dean, College of Aviation, will be recognized for her 17 years of service to the University during a retirement reception from 4 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.

Anthropologist pens book of proverbs

Erika Friedl Loefller, emerita Meader Professor of Anthropology, has written a new book titled “Warm Hearts and Sharp Tongues: Life in 555 Proverbs from the Zagros Mountains of Iran.” The book was published by New Academic Press this past spring.

The collection and annotation of this large body of proverbs provides an insightful ethnography of the philosophy of life of a Zur tribe in the Zagros Mountains, a fascinating Persian people. Friedl Loefller collected the sayings over the past 40 years during many visits and observed the local way of life as it changed from “the old times” to modernity.

Researcher receives group’s top award

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 soccer 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 Broncos men’s program this past season, was named MAC Coach of the Year this past spring. He 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.
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 Blakock 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.

Farm is learning 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 coordinator.

“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.

Obituaries

**Phil 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.**

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Collaboration, teamwork help push up grant total

An increase in collaboration and multi-disciplinary 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 fiscal year 2013-14. Trustees also learned that over $5 million in externally funded awards were received during July and August, the first two months of this fiscal year.

“Our office has been encouraging and facilitating large collaborative, multidisciplinary, multi-institutional and multi-national partnerships to successfully receive large grants and to create and support research centers,” says Daniel Litynski, vice president for research. “WMU’s outstanding faculty can and do compete and collaborate with the best institutions and experts in the nation in our areas of expertise.”

Continued from page 1

WMU one of nation’s leading green colleges

quietly and customers 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.