



Western News

APRIL 14, 2016
Volume 42, Number 14

For and about WMU faculty and staff

Board of Trustees meeting April 21

The next meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees will be held Thursday, April 21. Information about the agenda will be released shortly before the meeting. The board's formal session will be held at 11 a.m. in the Heritage Hall ballroom.

Commencement ceremonies set

WMU will grant degrees to more than 2,600 students during four commencement ceremonies Saturday, April 30, in Miller Auditorium. WMU President John M. Dunn will preside over the spring 2016 graduation exercises. In all, the University will confer 2,615 degrees.

The ceremonies are tailored for graduates of select academic units: 9 a.m., College of Aviation, College of Education and Human Development, and Extended University Programs; 12:30 p.m., College of Fine Arts and the College of Health and Human Services; 3:30 p.m., the Haworth College of Business and the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences; and 7 p.m., graduates of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Sindicuse to close for one hour

Those planning to patronize the Sindicuse Health Center later this month should note that the center will be closed from noon to 1 p.m. Friday, April 29, for staff development. Center personnel apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Student food pantry stock getting low

Stock at the WMU Food Pantry is very low. Many items are needed, including pasta (not macaroni and cheese), rice, cereal, fruit, snacks, desserts, condiments and jelly. Donation boxes for nonperishable items are located in many buildings around campus.

Donations of fresh food, such as yogurt, cottage cheese, cheese, eggs, butter, apples and oranges, can be dropped off in the administrative office of student affairs in the Faunce Student Services Building. Direct questions to Karen Lamons at karen.lamons@wmich.edu or Shari Glaser at shari.glaser@wmich.edu.

Grant applications coming due

Applications are due Friday, April 29, for \$20,000 in Assessment Fellows Grants. Awards up to a maximum of \$4,000 are available for research on student learning outcomes assessment and program quality improvement.

Funding preference will go to projects involving departments that have not previously received the grant. Priority is given to activities that are related to the direct measure of student learning or achievement, when direct measures are feasible. For more information, visit wmich.edu/assessment/grants.

Christian named one of state's top profs

Sue Ellen Christian, communication, is one of the state's three recipients of the Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year award.



Christian

The accolade honors the outstanding contributions and dedication exhibited by the faculty from Michigan's 15 public universities to the education of undergraduate students.

The Academic Affairs Officers of the Michigan Association of State Universities will recognize the nominees and recipients of this annual award during a Friday, April 15, luncheon in Lansing. The other two winners represent Grand Valley State University and the University of Michigan.

"Professor Christian represents the very

best of teaching, innovation and dedication to student success," says Daniel J. Hurley, CEO of the Michigan Association of State Universities. "With her real-world experience and involvement with students, she symbolizes excellence in higher education for which Michigan's public universities are globally renowned."

Christian, who has a dual appointment in communication and gender and women's studies, came to WMU in 2001 after holding reporting positions at newspapers such as *The Detroit News*, *Los Angeles Times* and *Chicago Tribune*. She has been vital in updating WMU's undergraduate journalism curriculum and writes news and opinion pieces for local and national outlets.

She has received numerous University awards and grants and uses many of them to

Continued on page 4

University honored for service to transfer students

WMU has been recognized as one of the 40 top colleges and universities in the nation for helping community college students complete a successful transfer and continue their path toward a bachelor's degree.



The University was the only school in Michigan selected for the National Transfer Honor Roll by Phi Theta Kappa, the world's oldest and largest honor society for community college students. The organization based its selection on engagement, collaboration, impact and achievements related to the transfer of community college students as well as partnerships, support, admissions outreach, scholarships and other financial aid, student engagement opportunities, and institutional priorities.

WMU was honored along with such schools as DePaul, Ohio State and Marquette universities and the universities of Kansas and North Texas, when Phi Theta Kappa held its 2016 national convention April 7-9.

"Increasingly, students of all ages and achievement levels are choosing the community college, not only as their first step, but also their first choice, in the pursuit of a quality, affordable bachelor's degree," says Christin Grissom, the honor society's director of scholarship operations. "With this designation, we hope to connect community college students with institutions that value their unique transfer experience and prioritize their success."

WMU attracts more than 2,700 new

Continued on page 4

Area residents get to attend Medieval Congress for free

Kalamazoo residents and campus community members may attend the 51st International Congress on Medieval Studies for free and, for the first time, they do not need to meet an April early registration deadline to avoid a \$50 late fee.

Registration is still required, though, and strongly encouraged for those wishing to avoid waiting in on-site registration lines. Those interested may pre-register online or in person at the Miller Auditorium ticket office through Wednesday, April 27, at no charge. They also may pre-register through that date by mail or fax for a \$25 handling fee. Registration at the congress will open at noon Wednesday, May 11, in the Eldridge-Fox residence hall lobby.



The exhibits hall is a popular stop for everyone attending the Medieval Congress. (Photo by Mike Lanka)

This year's conference highlights include a hands-on demonstration of the basic parts and usage of an Islamic astrolabe and a lecture and performance of 14th-century music performed on historical instruments by Swiss artist Corina Marti in an event co-sponsored by the Gilmore Keyboard Festival.

For more information or to register online, visit wmich.edu/medievalcongress. For questions about registering by mail or fax, call (269) 387-8745.

Around campus and beyond

Electronics recycling is talk topic

Susan Sunday of Emerald eCycling will speak at 8 a.m. Friday, April 15, in 2150 Schneider Hall. Emerald eCycling's focus is on the collection, data security and reuse of electronics, with a mission to keep electronics out of landfills by making it easy for people to recycle. Sunday's presentation is free and open to the public. It begins with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Reservations are required and may be made at wmich.edu/business/rsvp or by calling (269) 387-6059.

Free photo session for employees

Employees may have their official WMU photos taken between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday, April 18, in 3116 Sindecuse Health Center. No appointment is required. Employees may have electronic copies for personal and professional use. Photos are not automatically sent. Direct questions to Sue Beougher at sue.beougher@wmich.edu or (269) 387-8402. For more details, visit wmich.edu/universityrelations/photography.

Workshop to focus on veterans

Faculty and staff members are encouraged to attend the "Cultivating an Inclusive Campus Culture for Veterans" regional workshop from noon to 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 26, at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. To find out more information and register online, visit <http://bit.ly/1NaEwXz>.

Four institutes slated for summer

Faculty development has planned four institutes for this summer, starting with the Critical Thinking Institute Wednesday and Friday, May 11 and 13, in the Lee Honors College building. The remaining programs will be held in 2033 University Computing Center.

They are Redesign Your Course Institute Monday through Friday, May 9-13; Flip Your Course Institute Tuesday through Thursday, May 24-26; and Game Your Course Institute Monday through Thursday, June 6-9. Registration is required. More details are available at wmich.edu/facultydevelopment.

Researchers visit White House

Andrea L. Beach, educational leadership, research, and technology, and Monica R. Liggins-Abrams, College of Education and Human Development, visited the White



Beach



Liggins-Abrams

House April 4 for an event that spotlighted a grant program funding work they are doing to develop new ways to increase the degree completion of first-generation, underrepresented and low-income student populations.

The two were in Washington for the annual meeting of research principals for efforts nationwide that are being funded by the U.S. Department of Education's

First in the World Program. WMU's was the only research effort in Michigan funded in that program's initial round of support announced in 2014. Through it, WMU received \$3.2 million.

Beach co-directs WMU's grant project with Liggins-Abrams and Charles Henderson, physics. WMU President John M. Dunn attended a similar White House event in 2014.

Service-April

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

35 Years—Ronald Schubot, information technology.

30 Years—William A. Sauck, geosciences.

25 Years—John Barton, landscape services; Jerry W. Fulbright Jr., landscape services; Patty Mikowski, Unified Clinics; and Stephanie R. Page, Fetzer Center.

20 Years—Lois J. Campbell, building custodial and support services; Yolanda A. Knight, building custodial and support services; and Michael A. Walden, powerplant.

15 Years—Michelle L. Phelps, Bernhard Center Dining Services.

10 Years—Lori A. Diehl, comparative religion.

Five Years—Donald J. Colwell, maintenance services; Anne Copeland, sustainability; Melanie Lynn Greer, vice president for research's office; Pamela K. Hathaway, Davis Dining Service; Thomas R. Malcolm, University Libraries; Kyle J. Oberhill, Lawson Ice Arena; Tina R. Smith-Balanda, Lee Honors College; Tessa J. Souers, Mallinson Institute for Science Education; and Linda Jean White, Unified Clinics.

Retirement event

Carol Black, student financial aid and scholarships, will be recognized for her 30 years of service to the University during a retirement reception from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Friday, April 22, in her unit's office in the Faunce Student Services Building.

Exchange

For sale—Ranch home at 23622 Humming Bird Ave., Mattawan. One-acre lot; 1,262 square-foot house. Three bedrooms, two full baths, living room with vaulted ceilings. Eat-in kitchen with abundant cabinets and counter space, pantry, snack bar and all appliances. Slider door to patio with hot tub. Master bedroom with private bathroom. Lower level includes laundry area and plenty of space for future finishing. Price: \$174,500. Contact: Jennifer Boehringer (269) 352-5856.

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.

Emeritus named to editorial board

Peter W. Krawutschke, emeritus in world languages and literatures, has been appointed to the editorial board of *Babel*, the scholarly journal for the International



Krawutschke

Federation of Translators. The publication is designed primarily for translators, interpreters and terminologists.

Krawutschke, who is a past American Translators Association president, taught German and translation at WMU for 46 years. He also worked on behalf of translators around the globe and pushed successfully at national and international levels to have translation and interpreting recognized by higher education and the federal government.

Krawutschke helped establish the American Foundation for Translation and Interpretation as well as served on the Executive Committee of the Joint National Committee for Languages and the National Council on Language and International Studies.

Instructor honored by state compact

Richard Szwaja, School of Interdisciplinary Health Programs, was honored in East Lansing April 7 when the Michigan Campus Compact held its annual awards gala. Szwaja received one of three 2016 Champion of Engagement Awards that the organization presented during the event.

The award is intended to "recognize individuals who make significant contributions to the sustainability and institutionalization of community engagement." Preference is given to those who bridge the activities of student affairs and academic affairs.

Szwaja is a WMU alumnus who has been a part-time instructor at the University since 2010. He teaches in the holistic health program as well as for First-Year Experience and the Lee Honors College.

Western News

Volume 42 Number 14

EDITOR: Jeanne Baron. CONTRIBUTORS: Cara Barnes, Paula M. Davis, Deanne Puca, Cheryl P. Roland and Mark E. Schwerin. DESIGNER: Kim Nelson. DISTRIBUTION AND MAILING: Teresa Ventimiglia.

WESTERN NEWS (USPS 362-210) is published by the Office of University Relations, Walwood Hall, Western Michigan University, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5433, every other week during the fall and spring semesters and Summer I session. Periodicals postage paid at Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5165.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Western News*, Office of University Relations, Western Michigan University, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5433.

DEADLINE: Items to be considered for publication should be submitted to the Office of University Relations by 5 p.m. Friday the week preceding publication. Publication dates for the spring semester are **Jan. 14 and 28, Feb. 11 and 25, March 17 and 31, and April 14**. Items may be submitted to Jeanne Baron via: email, jeanne.baron@wmich.edu; mail, Campus Mail Stop 5433; phone, (269) 387-8433; or fax, (269) 387-8422.

WMU is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer consistent with applicable state and federal laws.



WMU to celebrate Arbor Day, latest Tree Campus recertification

Celebrants from WMU and the city of Kalamazoo will gather Friday, April 29, to observe national Arbor Day.

This will be the first time WMU has joined with the city to observe the day. But the University's ongoing commitment to

forestry stewardship was recognized again in February, when the Arbor Day Foundation announced it had certified WMU as a Tree Campus USA for 2015.

WMU is one of only 29 U.S. colleges and universities, and just two in Michigan, to be recognized as a Tree Campus since the program began eight years ago. To retain the designation, it has to meet five standards for sustainable campus forestry and be recertified each year.

Darrell Junkins, landscape services, says the joint Arbor Day celebration with Kalamazoo is a natural outcome of the two entities' close connections.

"We're a part of the community and the community is a part of us," he notes. "Plus, the Arbor Day Foundation designates us a Tree Campus and Kalamazoo a Tree City."

Members of the public are invited to participate in the Arbor Day celebration, which will take place in two stages. Activities start at 10 a.m. at the small, city-owned triangular plot of land that runs along West Michigan across from Stadium Drive and WMU's Seelye Center and Waldo Stadium. There will be a program followed by the planting of a red oak and burr oak.

"The oaks we'll be planting have 4-inch diameter trunks. They're a little bigger than we normally plant, but big events deserve big trees," Junkins says. "And because the parcel is right next to WMU property, the University will maintain the trees as part of its routine grounds duties."

The second stage of Arbor Day will take place at noon at Hayes Park near the corner of Factory Street and Miller Road.

For more information about Arbor Day events, contact Junkins at darrell.junkins@wmich.edu or (269) 387-8557 or Todd Pryor, Kalamazoo public services forestry supervisor, at (269) 330-5321.



The public can "spruce" up the West Michigan entrance to campus by helping to plant two oak trees across from the Seelye Center. (Photo by Jeanne Baron)

WMUK to start pledge drive, hold candidate visits this month

WMUK's annual Spring Pledge Drive began April 13 and will end just three days later. Officials hope that's long enough to raise their \$160,000 goal.

For a limited time, an anonymous donor has agreed to match new memberships as a way to encourage listeners to become supporters of the service WMUK provides to the community. In addition, the station is holding a drawing for the chance to win pairs of tickets to see comedian Paula Poundstone at the State Theatre on Sunday, April 24.

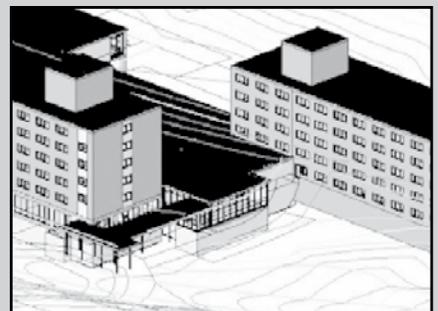
To contribute to the station and for more details, visit wmuk.org.

WMUK is celebrating 65 years of broadcasting service to southwest Michigan in 2016. It also is bringing three candidates for the general manager of WMUK position to campus for visits during the week of April 25.

The candidates' names, CVs and meeting dates will be available at wmuk.org early next week.

Weigh in on Valley design concepts—

Members of the WMU community are invited to play a role in the selection of a design firm that will renovate the existing dining and kitchen facilities in the Goldsworth Valley residence halls after the new Valley Dining Center opens this fall. Four architectural firms will present preliminary concepts and ideas for renovating Goldsworth Valley I dining facilities during a day of presentations Wednesday, April 20, in 106-107 Bernhard Center. The project scope includes creation of a new main entry lobby as well as providing new amenities and services for students. Future projects will include renovation of these areas in Valley II and III halls. Companies presenting design concepts during 90-minute sessions April 20 will be: Tower Pinkster, 8 a.m.; SmithGroupJJR, 10:30 a.m.; Stantec, 1 p.m.; and Progressive AE, 3:30 p.m. The first phase of construction is scheduled to take place during spring and summer of 2017. (Drawing of existing Valley halls courtesy of planning, space management and capital projects)



Programs highlight tuition-related employee benefits

Informational sessions have been slated to help WMU employees or their eligible dependents learn about how to take advantage of the University's tuition-related benefits.

A session for eligible dependents of employees is set for Friday and Saturday,

April 15-16, and a brown-bag session for employees who are considering enrolling at WMU is set for Wednesday, June 15, and Tuesday, Aug. 16.

For details, visit wmich.edu/news/2016/04/31495.

Obituaries—wmich.edu/news/obituaries



Balkin

Alfred Balkin, emeritus in education and professional development, died March 23. He was 84. Balkin joined the faculty in 1971 and retired in 1992 after 21 years of service that started on the music faculty.



Bernstein

Eugene M. Bernstein, emeritus in physics, died Feb. 20. He was 85. Bernstein joined the faculty in 1968 and retired in 1992 after 23 years of service.

Timothy E. Kahler, a retired landscape services staff member, died April 7. He was 69. Kahler joined the staff

in 1972 and retired as a material handler in 2004 after 32 years of service. A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Monday, April 18, preceded by visitation starting at noon, in the Langeland Family Funeral Homes Memorial Chapel, 622 S. Burdick St. in Kalamazoo.



Marks

Evaline Sue Marks, a former Dining Services staff member, died March 26. She was 68. Marks joined the staff in 1969 and retired as a head cook in the Valley III Dining Service in 2002 after 33 years of service.

Survivors include daughter Deanna Bowling, landscape services.

Dr. David F. Sadler, emeritus in English,



Sadler

died March 5. He was 93. Sadler joined the staff in 1955 and retired in 1984 after 29 years of service. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 16, in People's Church, 1758 N. 10th St. in Kalamazoo.



Stillwell

Janet E. Stillwell, a former associate dean of fine arts, died March 29. She was 79. A relatively short tribute will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, April 23, in the Dalton Center lobby. It will be followed by an informal gathering,

during which family, friends and colleagues may mingle and share memories.

On Campus with Jen Hsu



REDEFINING COMMUNITY
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

Jen Hsu has been something of a whirlwind since joining the staff in April 2012 after three years as founding executive director of the nonprofit OutCenter in Berrien County.

Hsu (pronounced soo) took over as head of WMU's Office of Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay and Transgender Student Services and has been steadily building its programming for students and, more recently, for employees. Her office was put under the diversity and inclusion vice presidential area when this area was created in 2010, and it physically joined the area's administration by moving to the Trimpe Building in 2012. In addition, Hsu's title changed last year from coordinator to director.

"What interested me in the job at WMU and what I really love is that I get to dedicate more of my time to working directly with students. It's been huge for me to be in the work with them, not just advocating for them," she says. "The first class of students I met in this position are getting ready to graduate. They've grown into outspoken, confident and sassy adults. They're thoughtful about the ways they interact with others, and are really motivated to do LGBT advocacy work and inclusion work when they leave here."

The lone professional employee in her unit, Hsu oversees all programming, supervises 6-12 student workers, takes care of the payroll and budget, and often answers the phone. She also maintains collaborative relationships with organizations on and off campus, as well as supports the University's Diversity and Multiculturalism Action Plan and helps apply a best-practices approach to facilities planning and policy reviews.

A recent example in the latter regard is her office's work to have WMU adopt the Preferred Name Policy, which was of particular importance to the transgender community.

"We're continuing to have conversations about sexual orientation and gender identity and expression-inclusion. Our office keeps bringing in more identities—we're challenging ourselves to see who's been left out," she says. "I hope everyone will want to become an ally and help create a campus environment that's so vibrant and inclusive of LGBT identities that the whole campus community will be doing that work instead of just our office."

In her spare time, Hsu is active in campus and community organizations. But she's had to reduce her participation while working to complete WMU's Master of Public Administration—something she hopes to do by the end of this semester.

She's a native Michigander who lives in Kalamazoo with her partner of four years. Their favorite hobby is taking road trips to check out America's cities, restaurants and national parks. One of their expeditions took 18 days and logged 6,600 miles.

New cycle of integrated program review and planning to be launched

WMU is nearly ready to launch the second round of its integrated program review and planning process.

The second round, Learner Support Unit Review and Planning, focuses on learner support units at the University. Round one was Academic Program Review and Planning.

Learner support units primarily offer programs that contribute to the learning, growth and development of learners outside of traditional curricular instruction. Although a majority of such programs fall under student affairs, a wide variety of the remaining units fall under academic affairs, multicultural affairs and intercollegiate athletics.

As with the previous round, the second one is a collaborative Universitywide process that takes into account the goals and strategies included in WMU's strategic plan as well as the Criteria for Reaffirmation of Accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission. It will provide a mission-driven, data-informed and participatory mechanism for

continuous quality review that incorporates three phases: self-study and self-review; next-level and division-level program review; and planning, decision-making and implementation.

"Aligning effective assessment with campuswide continuous improvement is key to building a culture of student success," says Dr. Jody A. Brylinsky, associate provost for institutional effectiveness. "Learner support units make a valuable contribution toward the achievement of the University's mission and goals."

Learner Support Unit Review and Planning allows each unit to focus on its and WMU's stated mission and goals as well as on how well goals are being accomplished, as measured by factors such as program efficiency, effectiveness and outcomes; stake-

holder satisfaction and resource allocation.

Brylinsky says the LSURP Project Management Team began extensive work in July 2015 to develop the necessary materials and procedures for the learning support round. She adds that the beta testing of those materials and procedures started in February and will conclude at the end of April.

Plans call for WMU to begin the learning support round June 1, with training and self-study activities running through November 30. A campuswide observation team in January 2017 will review the self-review documents and present its observations to next-level and division-level supervisors for their review and future planning decisions.

Officials anticipate that all three phases of the process will be completed by June 30, 2017.

Continued from page 1

University honored for service to transfer students

transfer students annually. Its outreach to those students includes reverse transfer agreements with all 28 of Michigan's community colleges and one in Illinois. The University also has forged a number of dual-enrollment and articulation agreements that offer students in specific community colleges or programs seamless transition to enrollment at WMU.

Other services for transfer students include annual on-site admissions events at community colleges, transfer orientation at WMU, two on-campus residence hall living-learning communities, a peer-to-peer mentoring program, more than \$600,000 in annual scholarships and chapters of both Tau Sigma, a national honor society for transfer students, and Phi Theta Kappa.

Continued from page 1

Christian named among top profs

provide experiential learning opportunities for her students. She also advises students through journalism internships and the Student Media Group board.

Western News

APRIL 14, 2016

Volume 42, Number 14

wmich.edu/westernnews