



Western News

JUNE 23, 2016
Volume 42, Number 18

For and about WMU faculty and staff

Trustees to meet in Heritage Hall

The WMU Board of Trustees will meet at 11 a.m. Wednesday, June 29, in the Heritage Hall Ballroom to consider tuition for 2016-17, approve a general fund budget, and act on faculty tenure and promotion recommendations brought to the board by the administration.

Labor agreements with the Michigan State Employees Association and the Part-time Instructors Organization also are part of the action agenda that day. In addition, those attending will see a presentation on campus wayfinding improvements being planned and hear an update on the status of the WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine.

Aviators competing in national race

Two WMU women aviators have joined 53 other teams for the Air Race Classic, an 87-year-old, cross-country race featuring top women fliers from around the nation that runs through Friday, June 24.

Serving as WMU's pilot is Elizabeth Bates, an April graduate from Plymouth, Massachusetts. The co-pilot is Shelby Satkowiak, a senior from Mio, Michigan. Follow the WMU duo, Team No. 50, at airraceclassic.org/follow-the-race.htm and see exactly where it is on the course. Get regular updates via Facebook at [facebook.com/wmuairraceclassicteam](https://www.facebook.com/wmuairraceclassicteam). A video also is available at [youtube.com/watch?v=Xs1qm4yOEQk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xs1qm4yOEQk).

Still time to make campaign gift

As of June 16, the Broncos4Broncos Campus Campaign had a 27 percent employee participation level, which ties last year's level. However, seven out of the 14 reporting areas have surpassed their 2015 fiscal year levels.

So far, more than \$6,800 has been designated to the Invisible Need Project. To be counted in this fiscal year's tally, make a gift—no matter how small—at mywmu.com/broncos4broncos by June 30. All employees who do will be entered into a drawing for various prizes.

Plan now to be part of Welcome Week

Employees are asked to get involved during this year's Welcome Week by attending the fall Matriculation Ceremony and Buster's Buffet, signing up for a shift in a hospitality tent, or volunteering at one of several student events. For more information, visit wmich.edu/firstyear. Direct questions to adrienne.fraza@wmich.edu or (269) 387-2332.

This is last Western News until fall

Western News will be on hiatus for the summer II session. Publication will resume Thursday, Sept. 8, with the deadline for this issue being Friday, Sept. 2. Keep informed about University activities by regularly visiting WMU News at wmich.edu/news.

State funds to help aviation programs soar

WMU has received authorization from the state to begin work on a 67,000-square-foot addition and renovation that will allow its celebrated College of Aviation to prepare more students for the future demands of the aviation industry.

The state budget, completed by the Michigan Legislature June 8 and now on



(Photo courtesy of the College of Aviation)

Gov. Rick Snyder's desk for final approval, includes authorization for the WMU project that is expected to cost \$20 million, with \$15 million from the state and the balance raised by the University. The project is focused on a complete renovation and addition to the college's Aviation Education Center, which is located on WMU's W.K. Kellogg Airport campus in Battle Creek, Michigan.

With a target completion date of summer

2019, the enlarged and renovated space will allow the aviation college to grow enrollment in a way that will meet predicted job demand for aircraft pilots and avionics equipment professionals. When complete, the facility will include additional classroom space, upgrades to existing composite and paint labs, a state-of-the-art simulation facility and a cutting-edge research center, as well as student briefing rooms and faculty office space.

"Our aviation college has long enjoyed a reputation as one of the nation's top collegiate aviation programs," says WMU President John M. Dunn. "This thoughtful decision by the Legislature means we will be able to continue to expand our facilities to meet the growing needs in the industry for well-prepared professionals. The entire southwest Michigan delegation collaborated on this effort to ensure WMU remains Michigan's best resource to prepare students who will lead the industry for years to come."

The College of Aviation is focused on helping to meet an explosive demand for new aviation industry personnel. With current industry professionals retiring and the FAA predicting that flight travel will double by 2032, the industry is faced with the need for more than a million highly skilled new professionals by 2034. **Continued on page 4**

Notable facilities projects taking place this summer

"In terms of summer construction, there will be lots of digging and scaffolding," says Peter J. Strazdas, associate vice president for facilities management. "But there will be little inconvenience for students or faculty and staff."

Along with three major ongoing projects, Strazdas says numerous small ones are planned around campus for July and August. He notes that all of the ongoing and soon-to-start projects will be finished by the time students return this fall. No WMU projects will disrupt pedestrian or vehicle traffic for very long, he says, but a city-state repaving project will affect traffic patterns by the West Michigan Avenue entrance for about two weeks.

One big ongoing project is at the Parkview Campus while the remaining two are geographically connected in Goldsworth Valley. A detailed map showing this summer's projects is posted on the Department of Facilities Management website at wmich.edu/maps/wmucmap.pdf.

Harnessing the sun's energy

Strazdas describes the Parkview Campus project as one that will cause "transformational change" for the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences and its students.

Consumers Energy is installing its second large-scale solar garden in Michigan on about 8.5 acres of land immediately west of Floyd Hall. The photovoltaic array of 3,900 solar panels manufactured in Saginaw will harvest clean solar energy to generate 1 megawatt of electricity—enough to power 200 typical homes.

As part of the initiative, Consumers is providing \$55,000 for WMU to construct up to three additional solar systems for research and educational use by students and faculty members. The company also is providing \$120,000 for a Solar Learning Module that will educate WMU students, provide exposure to K-12 students and train emergency first responders in how to deal with solar arrays.



Only a few solar panels still need to be installed. (Photo by Jeanne Baron)

Building restaurant-style dining

When completed, the Valley Dining Center in Goldsworth Valley will feature nine micro-restaurants and a new retail campus eatery called Café 1903. The facility will be open to students as well as faculty and staff members. A ribbon-cutting event and open house has been set for 3 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 1. **Continued on page 3**

Legislators earmark funding for geologic mapping

The new Michigan budget awaiting Gov. Rick Snyder's signature includes \$500,000 to allow the Michigan Geological Survey at WMU to do vital statewide geologic mapping to assess, protect and carefully develop vital natural resources.

The money will be used to immediately prioritize state needs, begin comprehensive assessment and mapping, and develop collaborations with industry to assess subsurface storage capacity and water, aggregate, gas and oil resources. Such assets are critical to helping Michigan rebuild its infrastructure and maintain a healthy environment.

"Our natural resources are all geologically based," notes John Yellich, director of the Michigan Geological Survey, which was formally moved to WMU by legislative action five years ago. "These resources are so important to us we can't afford not to use science to protect them and make decisions about how they can be developed and used."

University officials had praise for both

the original decision to locate the survey at WMU and the new decision to begin the process of funding the survey in a way that allows it to take full advantage of its potential as both an environmental protection and economic development tool. Matching federal funds, for instance, are being left on the table because the survey does not have the ability to apply for them.

With only 10 percent of the state's needed areas mapped to date, Michigan is at an economic disadvantage and has fallen behind neighboring states, Yellich says. Federal matching funds for mapping have been available for the past 24 years, but Michigan has used that opportunity at a much lower rate than other Midwest states.

"We don't need to map the whole state," Yellich says, "but we need to prioritize areas of importance and make smart decisions about important areas such as water quality and the need to discover aggregate deposits that will help us rebuild infrastructure."

Annual bike race to be held on Parkview Campus

Registration is open for WMU's 11th annual BTR Park Bike Race Saturday, July 9, on the Parkview Campus, home to the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

The day of competition begins at 8 a.m. and features a 1.1 mile circuit around Floyd Hall that also showcases the University's nearby Business Technology and Research Park.



Previous Kid's Race participants. (Photo courtesy of the BTR Park Bike Race)

The circuit has three 90-degree turns and multiple sweeping turns that excite spectators as well as racers.

This year's 11 events will again include state championship races for women, masters and juniors and a free Kid's Race. In addition, two clinics utilizing the race circuit will be staged in the evening Friday, July 8.

For complete information about the 2016 BTR Park Bike Race, including event costs, and sponsorship and volunteering opportunities, visit the race website at btrcrit.com. To register, visit usacycling.org/events and type BTR Park Critrium in the event search box. Online registration closes at 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, July 5.

Retirement receptions

Gordon Bolar, WMUK, will be recognized for 10 years of service during a retirement reception from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 28, in the Oaklands.

Paula Kohler, associate vice president for research, will be recognized for 17 years of service during a retirement reception from 3 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, June 29, in Sangren Hall's second-floor lobby.

Penny Bundy, Graduate College, will be recognized for 10 years of service during a retirement reception from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, July 28, in the Walwood Hall Commons.

Exchange

For lease—Three bedroom house in Kalamazoo's Winchell neighborhood. Washer, dryer, two bathrooms, finished basement, 2.5-car garage and fenced-in backyard. Perfect for young family or couple. No pets, although may be negotiable, and no smoking. Lease: \$1,550 per month plus all utilities. Contact: pravinsevak@gmail.com.

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.

Administrator honored by alma mater

Ming Li, dean of the College of Education and Human Development, has received the inaugural Distinguished Alumni Award from



Li

his alma mater, Guangzhou Sport University in China. Li received the award this spring during a trip to that country to visit his mother.

As a way of celebrating its 60th anniversary, the university identified

a dozen alumni to receive the prestigious award. This was the first time in the institution's history that it gave out the honor. Recipients included Olympic gold medalists, government officials, and successful entrepreneurs and educators.

Li earned a bachelor's degree from GSU, a master's degree from Hangzhou University and a doctoral degree from the University of Kansas. He became dean of WMU's education college in 2013.

Emeritus pens fifth book since retiring

Jochanan Stenesh, emeritus in chemistry, has penned a book published in May titled "A World At Risk." It is Stenesh's fifth



Stenesh

published book since retiring from WMU in 1990. He also has written two biochemistry texts, a Book of Days featuring his color photographs, and a book addressing the dark faces of religion.

Published by Merriam Press, "A World At Risk" is a work of political fiction that takes the reader into an imagined future viewed via newspaper dispatches covering flash points and controversial issues around the globe. It is available through the publisher as well as Amazon, in hardcover, paperback and as an eBook.

Stenesh was a faculty member for 27 years. He developed numerous biochemistry courses and was instrumental in developing the biochemistry section of the Department of Chemistry's doctoral program.

Upjohn Center schedules open houses for July, August

The W.E. Upjohn Center for the Study of Geographical Change will host two open houses this summer to showcase its exceptional yet affordable products and services.

They are set for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursdays, July 21 and Aug. 18, in the Mary Upjohn Meader Exhibits Gallery in Welborn Hall.

Attendees will have the chance to consult on GIScience or spatial analysis applications for their data; request a scan or collection-management quote; view samples of the center's award-winning map products; and schedule demos, GIS-tech-talks and other events.

They also will be able to tour the Meader Imaging Laboratory. Those who bring their iPad or Android device will be able to get a free set up of pdf-maps.com and a sample of the center's Authoritative Topo or Geo-Change products.

For a complete schedule of additional open houses slated for the new academic year, visit wmich.edu/arts-sciences/events and click on any individual open house.

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Volume 42 Number 18

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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 summer are **May 12 and 26** and **June 9 and 23**. *Western News* will resume publication **Sept. 8**. 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.

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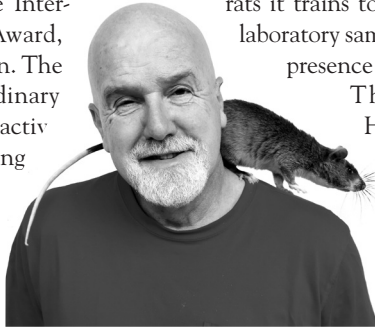
Researcher earning impressive accolades

Alan D. Poling, psychology, is being lauded in numerous circles this year for his research expertise and contributions to society.

Most notably, the American Psychological Association in August will present him with its highest honor, the International Humanitarian Award, during its annual convention. The award recognizes extraordinary humanitarian services and activism by psychologists, including professional and volunteer work conducted primarily in the field with underserved populations.

Earlier this year, Poling earned the Award for Scientific Translation from the Society for the Advancement of Behavior Analysis, which recognizes society members and nonmembers for their impact on the application of science or for technology transfers that address socially significant problems. He also is receiving a 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award from the California Association for Behavior Analysis.

Poling and his student teams have conducted research and done conceptual work in such areas as behavioral pharmacology, clinical psychopharmacology, applied behavior analysis, gender issues, animal welfare, quantitative analysis, learning processes and research methods.



Poling (Photo courtesy of APOPO)

Amy Damashek, psychology, nominated Poling for the APA award in light of his longtime work with APOPO, a Belgian humanitarian organization based in Morogoro, Tanzania, and the African giant pouched rats it trains to identify tuberculosis in laboratory samples and to pinpoint the presence of buried land mines.

The rodents—dubbed HeroRATs—offer a cost-effective way to detect those two scourges in low-income and low-resourced countries. They have highly sensitive noses, are so light they hardly ever trigger a mine, and have several behavioral characteristics that make them healthy, dedicated workers.

APOPO's founder, Bart Weetjens, credits Poling for scientifically substantiating the rats' reliability as mine and TB detectors.

"Looking back over the last seven years and the impact of Dr. Poling's adaptations to APOPO's experimental design, the refinement of the training procedures, the steep increase in overall reliability and effectiveness of detection-rat technology, let alone all the publications that resulted from this humanitarian quest," Weetjens says, "it is not exaggerated to claim that Dr. Al Poling and his team of researchers have significantly impacted humanitarian action in the world."



Bergman

Berwin H. Bergman, a former carpet and tile layer in building custodial and support services, died May 28. He was 75. Bergman joined the staff in 1986 and retired in 2002 after 16 years of service.



Dunn

Judy K. Dunn, an athletic equipment handler in University Recreation, died April 27. She was 74. Dunn joined the staff in 1974 and retired in 2002 after more than 27 years of service.



Kaldon

Philip "Dr. Phil" E. Kaldon, who had held several teaching appointments in physics since 1992, died April 20. He was 57. Kaldon, who also taught at three other West Michigan colleges and universities, enjoyed a second career as a science fiction author.



Sellin

Donald F. Sellin, an emeritus in special education, died May 16. He was 82. Sellin joined the faculty in 1969 and retired in 1990 after 21 years of service.

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Notable facilities projects taking place this summer

Attendees will be able to tour the restaurants and café; learn about the fresh and healthy menu choices planned by Chef Tom Giles, Dining Services; view the new building's two private dining rooms, which will be available for group reservations; and sign up to participate in a guided tour of the first-floor production kitchen.

The center will open to WMU students, and faculty and staff members Friday, Sept. 2. For hours and other details, visit wmich.edu/dining/locations/halls.

Perking up the pond area

The Goldsworth Valley Enhancement Project includes extensive landscaping around Goldsworth Valley Pond, which is a retention pond designed to collect storm water from Valley buildings, roads and parking lots.

The project has involved dredging the pond and filtering out decades of silt and other fine materials deposited through storm water discharge. Until recently, pond water was being pumped into large filter bags on the site to collect the fine material. Over the next few weeks, the material will be allowed to dry out so the bags can be covered over with dirt and the collection area landscaped.

Native and wetland flora will be planted around the much-cleaner pond to provide a buffer for wildlife. In addition, walking paths and gathering spaces will be created along the water's edge, a new footbridge outfitted

with snow-melt technology will be erected, and a new concrete gazebo complete with picnic tables will be installed.

Improving roads, ramps

Repaving by Kalamazoo and the Michigan Department of Transportation will affect the West Michigan Avenue entrance to campus.

Specific details will be released later. But plans call for the westbound lanes of Stadium Drive to be closed for up to two weeks from the Dairy Queen to the old West Michigan Avenue, so motorists should enter campus by the Student Recreation Center.

Details also will be released later for WMU's closure of a portion of the Ring Road for about four days in early July due to

Giessen Drive between the Gilmore Theatre Complex and Dunbar Hall, and around Lawson Ice Arena and Gable Natatorium.

Plus, parking Lot 61 will be repaved and lots 55 and 52 expanded. In addition, maintenance work will be done on both parking structures, with the facilities remaining open, although with fewer parking spots available for use.

Many additional projects

- About \$2 million in improvements are being made to the Stadium Drive Apartments. They include a laundry room upgrade; repainting of all the units; and, as needed in various units, new carpeting and appliances and renovated kitchens and bathrooms.

- A West Overlook is being constructed next to Heritage Hall above Oakland Drive that incorporates steps for easier access to the roadway's sidewalk. On Heritage's north side, a garden is being created to feature brown-eyed Susans and artifacts reclaimed from some of Prospect Hill's former buildings.

- With Lawson Ice Arena now at the end of its normal life, the facility is getting a

new ice surface and boards (spectator protective panels), and a small addition is being built to house the arena's new state-of-the-art, energy-efficient mechanical equipment.

- The site of the now-demolished Wesley Foundation building and parking lot will be landscaped and become the largest pedestrian intersection on the main campus.



Left photo: Large filter bags have removed decades of fine materials from the Goldsworth Valley Pond. **Right photo:** An electrician wires fixtures that will light up Heritage Hall's new West Overlook. (Photos by Jeanne Baron)



construction of the Valley Dining Center. This will affect the same Goldsworth Drive and Rankin Avenue portion of the road that was temporarily shut off last year.

A few WMU repaving projects are planned, but officials will keep roads open to one-lane traffic whenever possible. Repaving will be done on all of Valley Drive, Van De

On Campus with Stacy Thinnes



LOVING WMU AND KALAMAZOO
(Photo by Deanne Puca)

Stacy Thinnes started working at WMU right out of high school and has always considered herself, “a Bronco at heart.”

“I went to WMU games as a high school student before I ever worked here. I love this campus and this great community,” Thinnes says.

As a staff member at the University for the past 30 years, she began her career with the WMU Foundation in data entry. She was promoted to coordinator of alumni and donor records there, then after 12 years with the foundation, Thinnes moved to intercollegiate athletics.

Her current position in that division is assistant athletic director for special events. In this role, she helps to coordinate appearances at athletic events and community events for the cheer and dance teams, appearances by Buster Bronco, and other events for athletics such as CommUniverCity, sports-sponsored golf outings, team reunions and end-of-the year team banquets. She also works with Hall of Fame inductees and their banquet and recognition ceremonies.

Thinnes says the busiest time of the year is from April until the first football game, as the office is preparing for the next season. “We’re never working on just one thing,” she notes.

When asked to pick a favorite part of her day, she admits she enjoys all of the varied tasks of her job.

“I like it when I’ve done something that other people enjoy. At the end of the day, if everyone’s happy, I’m happy,” she says. “I like providing a carefree, easy environment for people to enjoy.”

Thinnes earned a bachelor’s degree from Spring Arbor University and a master’s degree from WMU. A native of Kalamazoo who still lives in the city, she is married to Tom Thinnes, manager of recruitment and outreach for the College of Aviation.

The couple have four children, including a daughter who graduated from WMU in April with a degree in special education and early childhood education. Her oldest son is married and lives in Kalamazoo with his wife and Thinnes’s two grandsons. Her other daughter and son are both in middle school in the Kalamazoo Public Schools.

Besides taking time to be with her family, she enjoys reading, traveling, leisurely walks and watching movies.

New enrollment management chief named

Terrence M. Curran, associate provost for enrollment management at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, has been appointed associate provost for enrollment management following a nationwide search.



Curran

Curran will assume his new role Monday, Aug. 1, pending approval by the WMU Board of Trustees.

He replaces Christopher Tremblay, who now serves as vice chancellor of enrollment management at the University of Wisconsin-Superior.

Curran has been in his current UNCW post since 2005. During this time, that university has seen double digit percentage gains in four-year graduation rates and significant improvements to retention rates, transfer graduation rates and six-year graduation rates.

Prior to heading the enrollment management operation at UNCW, Curran served as associate vice chancellor for student affairs and dean of students there for 10 years.

His background also includes student affairs positions at the University of Rhode Island and Lehigh and Wake Forest universities.

Scholarships established in memory of Hall, Warfield

To honor the memories of two people instrumental in the founding of the University’s celebrated Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, members of the organization have established two new endowed scholarships.

Both of these student scholarships give preference to Alpha fraternity members.

The Ronald E. Hall Endowed Scholarship honors the WMU trustee and 1965 alumnus who died June 1. Hall was head of Detroit-area automotive firms Bridgewater Interiors and New Center Stamping. The scholarship will provide support for students in the Haworth College of Business.

The Charles C. Warfield Endowed Scholarship may go to any student and honors the retired WMU faculty member and president of the Kalamazoo chapter of the NAACP who died June 5.

The scholarships were announced at recent services by William F. Pickard, chairman of Global Automotive Alliance and a 1964 WMU alumnus who helped build Alpha Phi Alpha at WMU with Hall, Warfield and other alumni. They were launched this month with major gifts by the brothers of WMU’s Epsilon Xi chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha. Donations may be made online at bit.ly/25HKg5x or by mail to: Gift Processing at Western Michigan University, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, Mich., 49008-9947.

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State funds to help aviation programs soar

“We offer an educational experience few other schools can replicate, and our growth has only been impeded by the physical demands for space this kind of training requires,” says Capt. Dave Powell, dean of the college and a former United Airlines executive. “We know that we have the pieces in place to produce the industry’s next generation of leaders.”

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor statistics, Michigan ranked fourth in the nation for aerospace job growth in the years 2007 to 2012. Aviation jobs represent some of the highest paying jobs in the state, with

pilots’ median annual income at \$111,680.

The approved expansion will allow the college, now at capacity with more than 870 students, to continue to turn out much-needed young professionals. The renovation and 67,000-square-foot addition to the Aviation Education Center also will address current energy use deficiencies, improve safety initiatives, address accessibility issues and meet new technology needs.

Construction design and planning will begin immediately. The completed project is expected to meet the LEED Silver certification standards.