Grant puts rare manuscript into collection

A rare 12th-century manuscript that is a copy of a work first produced some 300 years earlier is now at home in WMU’s Special Collections and Rare Book Department, thanks to a grant from the New York City-based B.H. Breslauer Foundation. Written in northern France between 831 and 833, the original text was the work of Paschasius Radbertus, a Benedictine abbot later made a saint by Pope Gregory VII. It is an instructional text about the Eucharist for Benedictine monks.

The manuscript’s Latin title is “De Corpora et Sanguine Domini,” which means “On the Body and Blood of the Lord.” The influential writing was widely disseminated during the Middle Ages and was considered groundbreaking and controversial in its argument for the Eucharist transforming into the body and blood of Christ.

Purchased using both endowed funds for the rare book collection and a $70,000 grant from the Breslauer Foundation, the small 12th-century manuscript is expected to play a major role in graduate and undergraduate teaching and research. WMU is home to an internationally known Medieval Institute as well as two renowned research centers—the Richard Rawlinson Center for Anglo-Saxon Studies and Manuscript Research and the Center for Cistercian and Monastic Studies.

The manuscript arrived on campus Oct. 20 and is now at home in Waldo Library, says Susan Steuer, University Libraries. It will be exhibited only occasionally, she says, because of the toll exhibition can take on these artifacts.

“The manuscript will be used primarily for research and teaching,” Steuer says, noting that library staff will digitize the work to extend access to the manuscript even more widely.

“There are still things you need to see in their original physical form to fully understand.”

Continued on page 4

NASA fellow modeling off-world polar storms

Figuring out how the weather on Earth works is difficult enough. Now try deciphering atmospheric processes hundreds of millions of miles away on Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune—the solar system’s giant gas planets.

Doctoral candidate Shawn R. Brueshaber is trying to do just that, and his efforts earned him a NASA Earth and Space Science Fellowship. Brueshaber is one of only 28 applicants to receive a $30,000 award for 2016-17 from the fellowship’s planetary science research division.

He’s investigating polar vortices, large patches of air circulating near the pole. These circulations are sometimes bounded by a jet stream and tend to change shape over time, just as the Earth’s polar vortex did in January 2014 when it plunged parts of Canada and the U.S. into a deep freeze.

Receiving the fellowship is a coup for the veteran engineer, who’s taught thermodynamics, materials science and graduate-level fluid mechanics at WMU. He’s worked for 20 years at several Michigan companies in a variety of roles—none of them related to weather or astronomy. But he’s been fascinated by these subjects and has kept studying and reading about them.

So, for his doctoral dissertation, Brueshaber chose to investigate polar vortices on the solar system’s gas planets. But it took extra support from two mechanical and aerospace engineering professors on his dissertation committee to make such a project viable because WMU didn’t have an academic department or program that focused on weather, climate or planetary studies.

Chair William Liu worked with Brueshaber to mold his engineering skills with his personal interests, and Tianhui Liu introduced him to Kunio Sayagami, a noted atmospheric and planetary sciences researcher at Hampton University who’s now on his doctoral committee and works closely with him on his research.

“The motion of fluids ranging from the very small to the very large—like an atmosphere—is governed by physical laws and is fairly well understood. But the turbulent nature of fluids is the last remaining branch of classical physics that still defies a complete understanding,” Brueshaber says. “WMU’s mechanical and aerospace department understood that there was
Numerous events in November are honoring veterans

A wide range of events are being held on campus and in the local community this month to honor military veterans.

Today, WMU’s ROTC is hosting a fund-raiser to benefit the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Battle Creek, Michigan. The event is set for 6-8:30 p.m. in the Activity Therapy Building on East Campus. Enjoy food, games and a raffle of signed WMU merchandise. Admission is $5 at the door.

On Veterans Day, which is Friday, Nov. 11, the ROTC Cannon Crew and Boomers will be participating in the Kalamazoo Veterans Day remembrance ceremony. The annual event is held at Rose Park. The entire community who served in the armed forces.

Also on Veterans Day, several area restaurants will be providing free meals to veterans. Visit bit.ly/2ycQ8Sk for a list of participating eateries.

In addition, veterans will be saluted Saturday, Nov. 19, during WMU’s hockey and football games, and there will be a military discount for the football game. The K-Wings Military Appreciation Night has been set for Saturday, Nov. 12.

Veterans-related events at WMU will be posted at wmich.edu/news/events as they become available.

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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.

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Business presentations slated

Three business-related activities will bring high-ranking executives to campus, including an IT conference, an entrepreneurial presentation and a CEO forum.

They include the Data and the Internet of Things conference Friday, Nov. 4, in the Fetter Center, featuring sessions and workshops for industry, academic and student participants.

Registration is $100 and includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Presenters include Richard Hook, chief information officer at Penske Corp. and senior vice president and CIO, Penske Automotive Group; Dan Fay, senior director of strategic engagement for Microsoft Research; and WMU’s Kuanchen Chen, business information systems. For more information, visit westernmichiganforum.com.

Ben Gott, founder of Boxed Water is Better, will speak at 8 a.m. Friday, Nov. 11, in 2150 Schneider as part of the Entrepreneurship Forum speaker series. This event begins with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Reservations are required by calling 387-5964 or at wmich.edu/business/rsvp.

Ten top executives from Michigan companies will be on campus Thursday, Nov. 10, to work with students and present two panel discussions open to the public. Called the WMU Bronco CEO Forum, the group unites WMU alumni who are top executives for leading companies. The panel discussions are at 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. For more information, contact Cynthia Dawson at 387-5069.

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Coercion, morality ethics topic

Hallie Liberto from the University of Connecticut, will address the intersection of coercion and moral deliberation when she speaks at 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 4, in 157 Bernhard Center. Her presentation, titled “Coercion and Moral Power,” is part of the Center for the Study of Ethics in Society’s fall season and the 10th Annual Graduate Philosophy Conference.

Chemist to discuss climate change

Physical chemist Marsha Lester, professor of chemistry at the University of Pennsylvania, will speak on “Climate Change Science and Policy” at noon Thursday, Nov. 10, in 2500 Kraush Hall. A reception in her honor will be held later that day at 4:30 p.m. in the Chemistry Building lobby, followed by a second talk by Lester on “The Atmosphere’s Dangers” at 5:30 p.m. in 1260 Chemistry Building.

Poet in spotlight for Frostic Series

Award-winning poet Cathy Park Hong from Sarah Lawrence College and poetry editor of The New Republic, will read from her work at 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 17, in 157-159 Bernhard Center as part of the Gwen Frostic Reading Series.

Hong is the author of “Engine Empire,” “Dance Dance Revolution” and “Translating Mo’um.” She is the recipient of the Barnard Women Poets Prize and Guggenheim Fellowship, National Endowment for the Arts and Fullbright fellowships.

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Stafler earns interior design award

Julie Lenczycki, construction services, has earned a third place award and honorarium for the Heritage Hall Renovation in the Design Competition Awards of the Association of University Interior Designers.

Lenczycki received the honor for a project that captured over $500,000 category during the association’s 2016 annual national conference. She also has been a recipient of several previous AUID awards, most recently for her work with the Zang Legacy Collections Center.

Lenczycki

Sinacola

Wiseman

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Staffers earn interior design award

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A member of the Dominican Republic Congress paid an official visit to WMU this past week to discuss mutually beneficial student exchanges.

During his visit, Carlos Amarante, a 2004 graduate of WMU’s bachelor’s program in civil engineering, met with President John M. Dunn and other key officials. Juan M. Tavares, Hainetic Institute for Global Education, accompanied him during his campus meetings.

Amarante is one of the 278 Dominican students in the past eight years who have graduated from WMU as part of the D.R.’s National Scholars Program. The program provides funding for a broad swath of Dominican students to learn English and travel to approved U.S. universities. Since 2008, WMU has been one of a select group of universities enrolling students through the Program. After earning his WMU degree, Amarante returned to his home country determined to give back by working to expand educational, health and sport opportunities for young people. He ran for a four-year congressional term and in 2015 at age 25 became the youngest person ever to be elected to the D.R. Congress. “Young people want to have more opportunities. That was something my campaign was based on,” Amarante says. “We know that in these four years [of our terms], we need to do something that really impacts our generation.”

He’s working with other young congresspersons from different political parties in his home country, plus proposing that WMU collaborate on student exchanges. Tavares says discussions are focusing initially on bringing to WMU nursing or occupational therapy students, women volleyball players, and those wanting to study English. In exchange, WMU would be able to send some of its students to the D.R. to complete short-term study abroad programs or their student teaching requirements in Dominican schools.

Alum working to broaden opportunities for young Dominicans

During his visit, Tavares, Amarante and Dunn. (Photo by Mike Lankao

Meeting to discuss student exchanges were, from left, Tavares, Amarante and Dunn. (Photo by Mike Lankao

Drawings continue for campus United Way donors

Those who make a donation to this year’s campus United Way campaign in any amount by 5 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 15, are eligible for a prize drawing Monday, Nov. 21. The drawing will include WMU sweat-shirts as well as hockey, basketball and Miller Auditorium tickets.

In addition, any donor of a new, undesignated gift of at least $50 to United Way, or an undesignated gift that has increased from the previous year by $25, will automatically be entered into a drawing for a new vehicle of choice up to a value of $30,000 from one of the local United Way’s sponsoring dealerships. To be included in this special drawing, pledge forms also must be received at the president’s office by 5 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 15. Employees with questions should email wmu-united-way@wmich.edu.

Obituaries

Mary Cain, emerita in education and professional development, will be memorialized during a service at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, in Kanley Chapel. As previously reported, Cain died Oct. 1 at age 91.

Elaine Chew, a physician assistant, died Oct. 11. She was 82. Chew joined the staff in 1975 and retired in 1990 after 14 years of service. A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 3, in the Community Church of Douglas, 6780 Wiley Road in Douglas.

Bonnie Shuman, former executive assistant in information technology, died Oct. 19. She was 70. Shuman joined the staff in 1987 and retired in 2007 after 20 years of service. Visit the personal memory page at betterfuneralhome.com for service details.

Service

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

40 Years—Dana L. Sawyer, maintenance services.

30 Years—Shirley J. Campbell, University Libraries; Carol J. Patterson, Logistical Services; Stacy L. Thennes, intercollegiate athletics; and Cindy A. VanderWoude, University Recreation.

25 Years—Timothy R. Cobbs, maintenance services; David Franklin Florida II, electrical and computer engineering; and Randy A. Randt, building custodial and support services.

20 Years—James M. Burgess, College of Health and Human Services; Edward L. Marong, maintenance services; Carmen Uldriks, power plant; and Lisa Lynn York, student financial aid and scholarships.

15 Years—Brian Earl Beridon, building custodial and support services; Erika Ann Carr, enrollment management; Shobhan Frederick, communication; Ronald H. Udlin, plumbing.

10 Years—Kimberly M. Feenstra, College of Aviation; Nikko Fitzgerald, public safety; Kristin I. Keims, intercollegiate athletics; Lisa M. Marshall, St. Joseph Mercy Health Center; James P. Mayo, information technology; Eleonora Phulopoulos, construction; Vicki L. Thompson, admissions; and Ronald H. Udlin, power plant.

Five Years—Sarah J. Anderson, College of Health and Human Services; Charles Jeffrey Brown, building custodial and support services; Jessica Christie, Bernhard Center Dining Services; Michael Dean Davenport, maintenance services; Lindsey D. Miller, College of Arts and Sciences-advising; Karen Monroe, interdisciplinary health programs; Michelle C. Munetis, Mallinson Institute for Science Education; Michael G. Sisk, business and finance-information technology; Nicole Marie Slater, building custodial and support services; and William Earvin Thurman, building custodial and support services.

Getting Out the Vote—Cher, below right, made a stop at the Bernhard Center Oct. 31 to campaign for Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton. She talked about the power of voters who make a candidate successful and encouraged young people to get to the polls.

Nov. 8. Her WMU appearance attracted some 600 people, including Lou A. Morgan, University Libraries, far left, who dressed in attire designed to promote voting. Meanwhile, at Western News press time, Sen. Bernie Sanders was scheduled to be stumping for Clinton during a get-out-the-vote rally Nov. 2, in Miller Auditorium. Republican challenger, Donald Trump was in West Michigan Oct. 31, campaigning in Grand Rapids, and his son, Donald Jr., was at a rally for his father Nov. 2 at Grand Valley State University. (Photos by Mike Lankao

The Turkey Trot is a 5K run and walk, south-west Michigan’s oldest organized race, will begin at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 19.

Registration is underway for the event, which winds through the WMU campus and is open to the public as well as the WMU community.

The early registration cost to participate in the Turkey Trot is $20 for walkers and runners who sign up online by noon Monday, Nov. 14; in person by 5 p.m. Nov. 14; and by mail that is postmarked no later than Nov. 14.

Peregistration—online, in person and by mail—will continue until 11:59 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 17, but costs $25 per person. On-site registration also costs $25.

Check-in for the Turkey Trot will take place from 7 to 8 a.m. on the day of the event. During this period, racers and walkers may register on site as well as pick up their participant packets.

For more information or to register, visit wmichec.edu/rec/intramurals/turkeytrot.

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Jupiter doesn’t have a polar vortex at all. To understand the gas planets, for instance, phenomena on Earth and all other planets. A basic and applied science about atmospheric processes and weather if we could find the right tools to help in this endeavor, and to Dr. Sayamagi. Armed with his fellowship, Brueshaber is continuing to delve into what influences a polar vortex. He notes that the research fits with NASA’s interest in expanding both basic and applied science about atmospheric phenomena on Earth and all other planets.

Brueshaber says scientists are still trying to understand the gas planets. For instance, Jupiter doesn’t have a polar vortex at all. Saturn, on the other hand, has a vortex at both the north and south poles but unlike any others known to date, these vortices remain even when the seasons change. To figure out what’s causing such differences, Brueshaber is using numerical simulations that take into account key variables. By modeling their effect, he hopes to gain a better understanding of the fluid-dynamic characteristics of polar vortices and determine which variables favor and suppress vortices.

Brueshaber is doing a preliminary set of computational experiments that examines the influence of a planet’s size and rotational speed, strength of small-scale storms, and spin direction of small-scale storms. Do these variables favor emergence of a polar vortex and if so, how big and strong is the vortex? He’ll start the next phase of his work this spring, when he looks at how the temperature at different depths of an atmosphere affect any polar vortex.

“We’re on the threshold of starting to study climate on a number of the newly discovered planets in other solar systems,” Brueshaber says, “so we’re going to learn even more, and the mysteries will deepen.”

On Campus

Grant puts rare manuscript into collection

She adds that the new manuscript is of interest because it represents some typical features of manuscripts of its date, but also because it has a number of unusual characteristics, such as its small size—about 3 by 4.5 inches—and the author’s citation of sources. The small size, Steuer says, reflects the fact it was meant as a tool for individual study, rather than group use.

Elizabeth Teviotdale, Medieval Institute, plans to use the manuscript’s presence as a tool for a graduate seminar in medieval studies she teaches. The seminar includes master’s students in medieval studies and master’s and doctoral students in history, English and other disciplines. They will be able to compare the manuscript with others from the era that are available online.

Both Steuer and Teviotdale expect the newly acquired manuscript to draw attention at WMU’s annual International Congress on Medieval Studies, the world’s largest gathering of medieval scholars, which is held each May at WMU.

“This is now our earliest complete text, and it is transformational for our collection,” Teviotdale says. “It is an acquisition that will be of interest far beyond our walls.”

Continued from page 1

New employee mixers slated

A Gold Gathering faculty-staff mixer is set for 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 10, in the Fetzer Center lobby. Complimentary hors d’oeuvres and a cash bar will be available.

The Meemic-Redman Agency, event sponsor, will conduct a drawing for a Samsung tablet. Employees must be present to win.

Additional Gold Gatherings, formerly Fridays with Friends, are planned for Friday, Feb. 17, and Thursday, April 20. Thursday lunch buffets also are planned for Jan. 26 and March 30.

Visit wmich.edu/provost/goldgatherings for details.

Continued from page 1

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Continued from page 1

NASA Fellow modeling off-world polar storms

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