



# Western News

DECEMBER 1, 2016  
Volume 43, Number 7

For and about WMU faculty and staff

## Board of Trustees to meet Dec. 13

The next formal meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13, in the Bernhard Center. Information about the agenda will be released shortly before the meeting at [wmich.edu/trustees](http://wmich.edu/trustees).

## December commencement scheduled

Three fall commencement ceremonies will be staged Saturday, Dec. 17, in Miller Auditorium. The ceremonies are tailored for graduates of select academic units: 9 a.m. is for the colleges of Aviation, Education and Human Development, and Health and Human Services; 12:30 p.m. is for the College of Fine Arts, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and Haworth College of Business; and 4 p.m. is for the College of Arts and Sciences and Extended University Programs.

## Staff organization to hold meeting

The Professional Support Staff Organization will hold a general membership meeting from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6, in 105-107 Bernhard Center. PSSO promotes and fosters its members' advancement and education through professional development, community service, recognition and leadership opportunities.

## Items sought for student food pantry

A holiday food drive is planned for Tuesday through Thursday, Dec. 6-8, to restock the WMU Food Pantry. Current needs include fruit, rice, pasta, lentils, jelly, soup, tuna, cereal, spices, and snacks such as granola bars and crackers. Items can be dropped off at the south entrance of Heritage Hall from 4 to 6 p.m. Learn more at <http://bit.ly/2bJbYvN>.

## All-University holiday event slated

The annual holiday reception will be held from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13, in the Bernhard Center Ballroom. The event is sponsored by the WMU Board of Trustees and President and Mrs. John M. Dunn.

## Free photo session

Faculty and staff members as well as active emeriti are encouraged to have their official WMU photos taken between 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13, in Walwood Hall's Heinig Emeriti Lounge. Copies of these free formal headshots need to be requested. Visit [wmich.edu/universityrelations/photography](http://wmich.edu/universityrelations/photography) for more details.

## Personal data updates due Dec. 31

One month remains for employees to select electronic delivery for W-2 forms and to ensure that home address information is up to date. Visit Employee Self Service at [go.wmich.edu](http://go.wmich.edu) by Dec. 31 to submit or withdraw consent to receive electronic W-2s and to confirm home address information.

## Campus climate survey results unveiled

The overwhelming majority of WMU students feels safe and supported by faculty and administrators when it comes to addressing sexual violence, according to the results of a national survey.

The University was one of 34 public and private colleges and universities to take part last April in the Education Advisory Board—EAB—Campus Climate Survey. An anonymous online instrument, it was designed to assess students' perceptions, behaviors, attitudes and experiences regarding sexual violence during the academic year. About 2,600 individuals—12 percent of WMU's student population—participated in the overall survey that drew responses from just over 36,000 students.

The anonymous survey was designed

to allow students to provide their input on such items as the overall perception of the sexual violence climate on campus, incidence of sexual violence on campus, student knowledge of reporting procedures and resources available to those who need assistance, reasons for not reporting, and the prevalence of prevention training.

"This is tremendously valuable information for us to work with and share with our students," says Diane Anderson, vice president for student affairs. "It allows us to tailor our messages about safety and awareness in a way that will be most effective in preventing our students from being in harm's way. It also helps us provide the effective support, resources and reporting structures they need to report incidents." **Continued on page 4**

## University, community programs slated to honor MLK

WMU is continuing its tradition of honoring slain civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr. with events planned in January on campus and across the broader Kalamazoo community.

They include a convocation, a march, a day of service, educational programs and special presentations. "The Transformative Power of a Unified Dream" is the theme of this year's celebration.

The first major on-campus event, a poetry competition awards reception featuring Kalamazoo Public Schools students, will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 12, in the Trimpe Building's Multicultural Center. Next up is a Public School Students' Visitation at 9 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, in the Bernhard Center's East Ballroom. The event is open to families from area school districts.

Major communitywide events begin at 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 15, with the Northside Ministerial Alliance's 31st annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration in Kalamazoo's Mt. Zion Baptist Church. This year's keynote speaker will be Bishop John Franklin White, a presiding prelate with the African Methodist Episcopal Church and AMEC Council of Bishops president.

Federal MLK Day—Monday, Jan. 16—will begin at 8 a.m. with Kalamazoo's Communitywide Day of Service. Participants should meet at City Hall after checking out the available volunteer opportunities listed at [go.volunteerkalamazoo.org](http://go.volunteerkalamazoo.org).



**Continued on page 4**



*Warm regards this holiday season. Thank you for your dedication to Western Michigan University.*

—John and Linda Dunn

# Around campus and beyond

## Medallion hopefuls to vie this week

Some 800 academically talented high school seniors from across the nation will be on campus for the 34th annual Medallion Scholarship Program Friday and Saturday, Dec. 2-3. This year's competitors will vie for 20 full Medallion Scholarships worth \$60,000 each, or one of several other lower-level but substantial scholarships.

## Seminar focuses on adult literacy

Literacy experts will share the latest strategies for improving the state of adult literacy in southwest Michigan during an Adult Literacy Research and Training Symposium. The free public event is set for 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2, in the Fetzer Center. At *Western News* press time, there was still room to attend. Call (269) 387-6004 or email [lori.puzevic@wmich.edu](mailto:lori.puzevic@wmich.edu) for attendance details.

## Innovation Day taking place Dec. 2

Budding entrepreneurs of all ages will be pitching their products, models and prototypes Friday, Dec. 2, at WMU's Innovation Day. The free event is set for 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Floyd Hall atrium.

K-12 students from area schools, along with WMU undergraduate and graduate

engineering students, will be seeking input from the public on their work. Innovation "dollars" will be given to visitors so they can "invest" in the products they see as the most innovative. For the keynote speaker and other details, visit [wmich.edu/news/2016/11/36600](http://wmich.edu/news/2016/11/36600).

## Speaker to discuss helicopter crash

The horrific crash of an Amway helicopter and dramatic rescue of survivors from cold Lake Michigan waters will be recounted at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6, in 208 Bernhard Center. Making the presentation will be Rick Fiddler, vice president of aviation for Amway Corp. and the pilot of the Sikorsky S-76 that ill-fated day in September 1983.

## Three loss-control talks scheduled

WMU's new loss-control representative, Cindy Smail, will be on campus Tuesday, Dec. 6, to give three one-hour talks in 204 Bernhard Center. The talks are: "Undue Police Force Emerging Concerns and Campus Strategies," 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.; "Public Website ADA Legal Risks, Current Concerns and Tactics," 9:45 to 10:45 a.m.; and "International Travel Symposium Deep Dive," 11 a.m. to noon.

## Steering committee launches new assessment initiative

The University Assessment Steering Committee is launching a new initiative in response to requests from faculty and staff members across campus to provide a regular, informal setting to address issues and provide training on conducting assessment.

Help ensure student success by learning and applying assessment tools in teaching and student programming and be a part of continuously improving the quality of education WMU provides.

During monthly gatherings, UASC members will speak on an assessment topic for 15-20 minutes. Attendees can then discuss and exchange ideas about areas of assessment

of student learning. No RSVP is required.

Slated yet this semester is "Defining and Discussing Student Artifacts" with Dave Reinhold, assessment and undergraduate studies, from 9 to 10 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6, in the Center for the Humanities and noon to 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9, in 1016 College of Health and Human Services building.

For Spring 2017 dates, review the Assessment Calendar at [wmich.edu/assessment](http://wmich.edu/assessment).

## Retirement receptions

**Elizabeth Richardson**, multicultural affairs, will be honored for her 29 years of service during a retirement reception from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9, in the President's Dining Room of the Bernhard Center.

**Carolyn Noack**, sustainability, will be honored for her 26 years of service during a retirement reception at 3 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15, in the Fetzer Center atrium.

## Exchange

**For sale**—Custom-built, quality home in serene waterfront Portage neighborhood. Four bedrooms, four and a half bathrooms, office space, finished walkout and huge backyard with breathtaking view. Many upgrades. Listed: \$399,900. Contact: (269) 350-0528.

## Jobs

Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources website at [wmich.edu/hr/jobs](http://wmich.edu/hr/jobs). Please note that applications must be submitted online by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included with each posting.

## WMU represented on new commission

William Fales, WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine, was among 18 individuals named Nov. 18 by Gov. Rick



Fales

Snyder to Michigan's recently created Public Health Advisory Commission.

Fales will represent medical schools in the state and, along with all 24 fellow members, serve a term expiring at the discretion of the governor.

The commission is charged with completing an assessment of Michigan's public health service delivery system, at both the state and local level. It is to complete its work and issue a final report to the governor for his consideration no later than April 1, 2017.

At the medical school, Fales serves in such roles as associate dean for clinical applications and chief of EMS and disaster medicine.

Beyond the school, his many roles include serving as medical director for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Bureau of EMS, Trauma and Preparedness, a part-time position under a contract between WMed and the state.

## Mathematician edits new book

Christian Hirsch, emeritus in mathematics, is the editor of a new book published by



Hirsch

the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Titled "Mathematical Modeling and Modeling Mathematics," the volume is part of the council's flagship series, Annual Perspectives in Mathematics Education.

The book focuses on the challenges and affordances of elevating modeling to a more central position in mathematics education across the K-16 spectrum while clarifying the differences between mathematical modeling and modeling mathematics.

The 25 chapters in the volume provide research- and practice-based perspectives on a variety of topics. They are written by leading U.S. and international mathematics educators, mathematicians and researchers.

## Historian explores urbanism in China

Victor Cunrui Xiong, history, has penned a monograph titled "Capital Cities and Urban



Xiong

Form in Pre-modern China: Luoyang, 1038 BCE to 938 CE." The work was published by Routledge in September.

Situated in present-day Henan province, Luoyang was one of the great urban centers of pre-Qin

and early imperial China and the favored site for dynastic capitals for almost two millennia. The new book is the first in a Western language on the subject. It traces the rise and fall of the six different capital cities in the region, which served 11 different dynasties, and provides an accessible survey of a broad sweep of premodern Chinese urban history.

Xiong teaches Chinese and East Asian history. He is a Chinese medievalist by training recognized internationally for his research and publications focused on Early Imperial China, especially the Sui-Tang period.

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**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 fall are **Sept. 8 and 22, Oct. 6 and 20, Nov. 3 and 17, and Dec. 1**. Items may be submitted to Jeanne Baron via: email, [jeanne.baron@wmich.edu](mailto:jeanne.baron@wmich.edu); mail, Campus Mail Stop 5433; phone, (269) 387-8433; or fax, (269) 387-8422.

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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

## New dean announced for honors college

Gary H. Bischof, professor and chair of family and consumer sciences, has been named the new dean of the Lee Honors College, effective Jan. 1 pending approval by the WMU Board of Trustees.



Bischof

A WMU faculty member since 1999, Bischof taught in the Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology for 13 years before taking the position of interim chair in his current department in 2012. He was named chair in 2014. Both departments are part of the College of Education and Human Development.

Bischof's background includes clinical and research experience and publication in a number of counseling and family therapy journals. He has been the advisor and doctoral committee chair for several counselor education students.

He replaces Associate Dean Jane Baas, dance, who has been serving as interim dean.

## DOSA strategic plan updated

The 2020 Student Affairs Strategic Plan is now online. Planning data and previous reports also are available.

This newest report will help guide planning and assessment initiatives in the Division of Student Affairs for the next four years, while supporting the core vision, mission and goals of WMU. The document lists three major divisionwide goals: to cultivate learning and development; enhance infrastructure to provide excellent learning and service; and encourage healthy, ethical and responsible behavior.

Based on input from student affairs leadership and the assessment planning team, the finalized report represents the division's commitment to data-driven planning and continuous quality improvement.

For more information about student affairs strategic planning, visit [wmich.edu/studentaffairs/planning](http://wmich.edu/studentaffairs/planning).

### Service anniversaries

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

**35 Years**—Bruce L. Paananen, information technology.

**30 Years**—Deborah M. Coder, maintenance services; Duane R. Hampton, geosciences; Lonnie L. Page, maintenance services; and Cindy A. Walton, building custodial and support services.

**25 Years**—Deborah L. Cronkright, Bernhard Center Dining Service, and Carol Sundberg, Center For Disability Services.

**20 Years**—Sondra Y. Brooks, Online Education; William W. Liou, mechanical and aerospace engineering; Anna Marie Murphy, building custodial and support services; and Jiabei Zhang, human performance and health education.

**15 Years**—Vernon Nathaniel Chambers, building custodial and support services; Susan K. Davis, Sindecuse Health Center;

## Broncos claim MAC West championship with 12-0 record



The football Broncos defeated Toledo 55-35 Nov. 25 to become the Mid-American Conference West Division champions. They are now 12-0 overall. A crowd of 24,191 gathered to cheer the Broncos to their first perfect regular season since 1941, setting a new season attendance record of 143,025. Senior wide receiver Corey Davis (**bottom right photo above**) broke the Football Bowl Subdivision all-time career receiving record with 5,068 yards. He also became the first player in history with more than 5,000 yards, 300 receptions and 50 touchdowns. He had the highest number of touchdown catches in the FBS this season with 17. WMU's Nov. 8 win over Kent State University marked the first 10-win season in the football program's 108-year history. In addition, ESPN College GameDay made a first-time stop in Kalamazoo Nov. 19 to do a pregame broadcast from the campus of WMU—just the second MAC school ever to be featured on College GameDay. Both WMU President John M. Dunn and Buster Bronco (**left photo above**) enthusiastically celebrated the milestone. Led by Head Coach P.J. Fleck (**top right photo above**), WMU is now ranked No. 13 in the AP Top 25, No. 14 in the USA Today Coaches Poll and No. 17 in the CFP polls. It is one of just two undefeated teams left in the Division I FBS. The 2016 Marathon MAC Championship game against Ohio University is set for Friday, Dec. 2, at Ford Field in Detroit. For final game and individual stats, videos and interviews, visit [wmubroncos.com](http://wmubroncos.com). (Photos courtesy of the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics)

## Seven staffers to be feted for outstanding service

Seven staff members will be honored as outstanding employees during a reception at 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9, in 157 Bernhard Center.

The University community is invited to attend the event, which recognizes the fall 2016 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: Andrew Bachmann, public safety; Adrienne Fraaza, First-Year Experience; Todd Gerry, Fetzer Center; Amber Hutson, psychology; Walter Malone, Center for Academic Success Programs; Deanna Merz, counselor education and counseling psychology; and Thomas

Ramsdell, Logistical Services.

The Make a Difference Award Program recognizes WMU staff members for their outstanding accomplishments and daily investment of energy and creativity. Award winners are selected by a committee comprised of their peers. For more information or for a year-round nomination form, visit [wmich.edu/makeadifference](http://wmich.edu/makeadifference).

### Obituaries



Breisach

**Ernst A. Breisach**, emeritus in history who remained active in retirement as a scholar and deeply involved with various WMU initiatives, died Nov. 25. He was 93. Breisach retired in 1996 after 39 years of service.

Visitation will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9, and the funeral service at 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10. Both events will be in Kalamazoo's St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 247 W. Lovell St.

**June M. Conkin**, a former custodian, died Nov. 24. She was 73. Conkin joined the staff in 1988 and retired in 2005 after more than 17 years of service.

**Beatrice P. Hartman**, emerita in communication, died Nov. 15. She was 91. Hartman joined the faculty in 1957 and retired in 1985 after more than 27 years of service.



Neu

**Mary Eleanor (Mariel) Neu**, emerita in art, died Nov. 15. She was 76. Neu joined the staff in 1968 and retired as an associate professor in 2004 after more than 36 years of service.

## On Campus with Kahler Schuemann



WORKING HARD, PLAYING HARD  
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

Kahler Schuemann has been taking a road less traveled since setting a goal 20 years ago to become a university president. He worked for 10 years in student affairs administration, first at Lake Superior State University and then at the University of Alaska. Now he's close to having another decade of administrative work experience at WMU.

Schuemann came to WMU in 2006. He earned a doctoral degree in higher education leadership and researched how students understand and experience the university presidency. He accepted a student job in the president's office early on and a full-time job as assistant to the president in 2008. He was named special assistant to the president in 2013 and just last year, took on the added responsibility of secretary to the Board of Trustees.

"I feel like I'm the luckiest guy in the world because I have an awesome opportunity to work for great people at an amazing institution and have responsibilities where I can daily see the impact of effort and collaboration," says the Battle Creek, Michigan, native. "I've had the privilege to participate in five different presidential searches—here and at other institutions. It does provide me an interesting perspective going into the latest one."

Overall, Schuemann serves as a liaison between the president and trustees and aids in these leaders' success. His numerous specific responsibilities include assisting the Presidential Search Advisory Committee, and he encourages everyone to participate in its important work by sharing their perspective and supporting a diligent search process.

"Our dedication to that endeavor will be transparent through regular updates and founded on our shared interest in keeping the campus community informed," Schuemann says.

The Portage, Michigan, resident notes that he's on call 24/7, so when he gets a little time away, he tries to go "off grid." In addition to decorating his office with natural elements such as seedlings and stones, he has a license plate that reads, OUTDORS and he enjoys getting outside to camp, hike, hunt, fish and trap.

"The outdoors gives me some peace and adventure away from my office habitat," Schuemann says, adding that living in Alaska was a phenomenal experience. "Having outrun an avalanche that ripped off my snowshoes and looking a grizzly bear square in the eyes gives me perspective and balance in life that I wouldn't trade for anything."

He also enjoys teaching grad classes and motivating students to lead positive change in our evolving world. Plus, he finds time to serve on the Residential Opportunities Inc. board and volunteer with community initiatives that get kids outdoors and engaged with nature.

## First-Year Experience seminar to celebrate service-learning partnership

Students from WMU's African-American Males First-Year Experience seminar will be celebrating their service-learning partnership with the Kalamazoo County Juvenile Home Dec. 6.

The celebration will include final reflections and presentations of the students' service-learning projects. The class made weekly trips to the juvenile home throughout the semester and worked closely with the teens to develop an interactive simulation that facilitates positive behaviors and encourages critical thinking.

Instructor Walter Malone, Center For Academic Success Programs, emphasized that completing the simulation required not only deep engagement and relationship building

among all participants, but also careful reflection on the importance of leadership and civic responsibility.

"The students are coming into their own adulthood and adjusting to life within the University, but at the same time, they're building relationships, mentoring, and encouraging others to follow a similar path," Malone said. "There are a lot of shared experiences among the students and it's vital that everyone learns from each other and gains a better understanding of what is possible through education."

WMU has consistently garnered awards and accolades for its commitment to service-learning. The University has received recognition from the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll every year since 2006, with distinction in 2012.

In addition, many of WMU's students, faculty and staff members, and community partnerships have been recognized by Campus Compact, a national coalition of nearly 1,100 colleges and universities dedicated to community engagement in higher education.

### Continued from page 1 Programs slated to honor MLK

The day will continue with a convocation at 10:50 a.m. at Kalamazoo College, a Pre-MLK Walk Lunch Discussion at 1 p.m. in WMU's Kanley Chapel, and a Commemorative Walk starting at 3:30 p.m. at Kanley Chapel that will end at MLK Park in downtown Kalamazoo.

Immediately after the walk, Kalamazoo will hold its Community Celebration from about 5 to 6 p.m. in the Radisson Plaza Hotel.

For more information and a complete list of MLK-related events, visit [wmich.edu/mlk](http://wmich.edu/mlk).

### Continued from page 1 Campus climate survey results unveiled

Major WMU findings include:

- A full 80 percent of WMU respondents reported feeling safe on campus, while 85 percent felt faculty were genuinely concerned about their welfare and 76 percent felt the same about campus administrators.

- Nearly one in three women students arrives on campus having experienced at least one incident of unwanted sexual contact in their pre-college years.

- Of those surveyed, 63 percent knew where to go for help if they or a friend experienced sexual violence, and 61 percent knew the range of confidential services available to them when they report an incident of sexual violence.

- One in 10 students surveyed reported having been the victim of sexual misconduct at least once since the beginning of the academic year in which the survey was done. Those unwanted incidents ranged from fondling or kissing to sexual penetration.

- Three out of four survey takers reported confidence that when someone reports an incident, WMU takes it seriously and the same number felt WMU would use formal procedures to fairly address such a report.

The Sexual Misconduct Policy website, [wmich.edu/sexualmisconduct/data](http://wmich.edu/sexualmisconduct/data), has additional results from the EAB Survey. It also contains a new web page dedicated to publishing annual data on sexual misconduct.