



# Western News

JANUARY 26, 2017  
Volume 43, Number 9

For and about WMU faculty and staff

## Mysterious postcards arriving in mail

How is WMU described in a few sentences? Get ideas from the new "Who are we?" series of weekly postcards landing in campus mailboxes. The postcard campaign is part of an ongoing effort to raise awareness about the University's brand and key attributes.

It was developed to help faculty and staff communicate about the unique experience WMU offers its students and lifelong learners. For more information about the University brand, visit [wmich.edu/universityrelations](http://wmich.edu/universityrelations).

## Who's Who nominations due soon

Faculty and staff members may nominate undergraduate or graduate students through Friday, Feb. 3, for "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges." Details are available at [wmich.edu/news/2017/01/37610](http://wmich.edu/news/2017/01/37610).

## General education input requested

The first draft of the revised General Education curriculum was shared at the January Faculty Senate meeting. Deans have been asked to develop college advisory groups to provide input. More information on the new model is available by visiting the Faculty Senate website at [wmich.edu/facultysenate](http://wmich.edu/facultysenate) and clicking Committees.

## Help stop uptick in seasonal influenza

With reports of an increase in confirmed influenza cases, members of the campus community are encouraged to take precautions to avoid getting or spreading the flu. At the top of the list are taking everyday preventive actions to stop the spread of germs and, for those who have not already done so, getting an influenza vaccination.

Vaccinations are available at the Sincuse Health Center for students and faculty and staff members, and their dependents. Appointments may be made at (269) 387-3287 or [wmich.edu/healthcenter](http://wmich.edu/healthcenter). For more information, visit [wmich.edu/news/2017/01/37579](http://wmich.edu/news/2017/01/37579).

## Learn about WMU's education benefits

WMU offers a significant educational discount program for benefits-eligible employees and a remission program for the spouses and dependent children of employees with full-time benefits eligibility. Several information sessions have been scheduled this semester to explain these benefits.

Information sessions for dependents of employees and their families have been set for 8:15 a.m. in the Bernhard Center's Faculty Dining Room on Wednesday, Feb. 1; Monday, Feb. 20; Friday, March 24; Saturday, April 8; and Friday, April 21. Information sessions for employees have been set for noon Wednesdays, Feb. 8, March 8 and April 12 in 204 Bernhard Center. For details, visit [wmich.edu/admissions/guest/employees](http://wmich.edu/admissions/guest/employees).

## Rinvelt, Bolger to lead governing board

Jeffrey Rinvelt of Ann Arbor and James Bolger of Whitehall have been elected chair and vice chair, respectively, of the WMU Board of Trustees.

The two were elected at the board's Jan. 24 meeting and will serve throughout 2017. Rinvelt succeeds Kenneth Miller, who remains on the board. Bolger replaces Rinvelt, who has served as vice chair for the past year.

Rinvelt is the principal with Renaissance Venture Capital Fund, a Michigan-based fund that supports the growth of venture capital in the state, and is the largest privately funded organization of its kind in the United States. A 1991 WMU alumnus, he also is a member of the Michigan Venture Capital Association's board of directors and a veteran of various startup ventures.

Bolger, another WMU alumnus, retired from the Michigan State Police after a 26-year career. He subsequently has spent a decade teaching at Grand Valley State University and served for a period as interim director of that university's School of Criminal Justice.

Other WMU board officers elected Jan. 24 to one-year terms on WMU's governing board were: Kahler B. Schuemann, special assistant to the president, secretary to the board; Jan J. Van Der Kley, vice president for business and finance, treasurer and assistant secretary; and Patti VanWalbeck, associate vice president for business and finance, assistant treasurer.



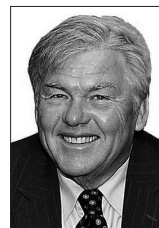
Rinvelt



Bolger

## Businessman's estate gift benefits multiple units

Six academic colleges and departments had a special reason to be grateful during the 2016 holiday season, thanks to a \$2.5 million bequest from a prominent southeast Michigan alumnus and business leader who died just over a year ago.



Murvay

The gift is from the estate of Mark A. Murvay, who died Nov. 13, 2015, and was chair of the Huron Valley State Bank Board of Directors and a longtime industrial supply executive. A 1961 WMU alumnus, he was active for many years with the University's Alumni Association and the WMU Foundation, serving on the boards of both organizations.

Murvay also was a member of the advisory board for the School of Communication, which is one of the campus units that is benefitting from his estate gift. Other areas designated to receive part of the bequest are the President's Unrestricted Fund, College of Arts and Sciences, Haworth College of Business, College of Health and Human Services, and departments of Chemistry and Psychology.

"Mark Murvay was a proud and loyal Bronco," says WMU President John M. Dunn. "His passion for WMU was clear to anyone who met him, and through his service on various boards, the University was the beneficiary of his keen insights and wise counsel. Now, his legacy will live on

*Continued on page 4*

## WMU postgrad data shows 92 percent find swift success

A full 92 percent of WMU's 2015-16 alumni were employed or in graduate school within three months of commencement, new data compiled by campus employment services officials show.

The basic data, presented to the WMU Board of Trustees at its Jan. 24 meeting, shows that for last academic year, 92 percent of graduates were "actively engaged" in the next steps of their professional development within three months of graduation. Those counted as actively engaged included alumni who were employed full time (71 percent), in graduate school or otherwise continuing their education (14 percent), employed part time (6 percent), and in military service or volunteering full time (1 percent).



In terms of employed graduates, 84 percent were working in jobs related to their academic discipline, 88 percent were satisfied with their

jobs and 76 percent were employed in Michigan. The median salary range for all respondents was in the \$40,000 to \$45,000 range.

Figures for the 2015-16 year that ended June 30 included responses from a full 75 percent of the year's 5,000-plus graduates. With the high percentage of respondents and the 90-day timeframe reflected in the data, the WMU annual report has emerged as the most comprehensive documentation of postgraduate success found at any Michigan university.

The WMU survey is the product of six years of work by Ewa Urban, Career and Student

*Continued on page 4*

# Around campus and beyond

## Authors' reading set for tonight

*Fifth Wednesday Journal* and the WMU Center for the Humanities are teaming up to present a reading at 7 p.m. tonight that features four outstanding Kalamazoo writers with WMU ties. The rescheduled event will be held in the University Center for the Humanities in Knauss Hall.

Those taking part in the reading are Nancy Eimers, English; Hedy Habra, Spanish; Matt Morgan, graduate student; and Andrew Wickenden, alumnus. William Olsen, English, will serve as moderator. *Fifth Wednesday Journal* is a nonprofit, independent literary publication based in Illinois. More event details are available at [fifthwednesdayjournal.com](http://fifthwednesdayjournal.com) by clicking News and Events.

## Lectures explore racial bias, justice

The spring Lyceum Lecture series began Jan. 18 and is continuing through April 12 with programs focusing on the theme of "Fulfilling America's Promise: Racial Equity and Justice." Sybrina Fulton, activist and mother of Trayvon Martin, will visit Kalamazoo the evening of March 29 through the series.

However, this spring's programs usually feature WMU employees and students and typically are held at noon every Wednesday in the Lee Honors College lounge. Four programs have been scheduled for February. Slated are: Feb. 1, "First Generation College Students: Fulfilling the Promise of Higher Education: A

Panel Discussion"; Feb. 8, "The Reality of Racial Bias in the Criminal Justice System"; Feb. 15, "Activist Tools You Can Use"; and Feb. 22, "How to Take on Hate: A Dialogue on Islamophobia and Racism." For more information, visit [wmich.edu/honors](http://wmich.edu/honors).

## Job fairs feature diverse employers

Several career-related events are coming up, including Career Fair, WMU's largest annual job fair. Now in its 39th year, it will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9, in the Bernhard Center Ballroom. The event, which is free and open to the public, is expected to attract more than 180 employers from a variety of organizations and 1,500 job seekers.

About 70 diverse employers are expected to participate in the Government and Nonprofit Career Fair from 1 to 4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 10, in the Bernhard Center's East Ballroom. Also coming up are: ISM Career Night, 5:30 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 31, North Ballroom, Bernhard Center; IT Career Day, 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 3, Fetzer Center; and Marketing, Food/Sales Marketing Career Night, 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 8, Fetzer Center.

Career and Student Employment Services and the Haworth College of Business have scheduled numerous preparation events for students leading up to the fairs. For more information about the fairs and preparation events, visit [wmich.edu/career](http://wmich.edu/career) and [wmich.edu/business/career](http://wmich.edu/business/career).

## Prof featured in PBS documentary

Jacqueline Eng, anthropology, is among the team of researchers and climbers featured in "Secrets of the Sky Tombs" that aired on



Eng

'NOVA' to a worldwide PBS audience Jan. 4. The documentary recounts the international team's efforts to understand human settlement in the forbidding Himalayas—one of the last places humanity settled.

The team's work has resulted in significant discoveries about the genetic adaptations that allowed certain people to survive in the Himalayas as well as about the location they came from and their burial rituals.

Eng specializes in doing the team's skeletal studies, investigating issues of settlement, migration, health and mortuary tradition. She joined the team in 2010 and has participated in four of its expeditions.

"Secrets of the Sky Tombs" will air on PBS at future dates and times and currently is available for viewing online at [pbs.org/wgbh/nova](http://pbs.org/wgbh/nova).

## Musician lauded in national magazine

Thomas Knific, music, was among 2016's Top 30 Professionals profiled by *Musical America* in its December issue. Knific, di-



Knific

rector of the jazz studies program, is featured on the magazine's cover with other award recipients.

He was saluted as being "a charismatic teacher, composer, group leader and sideman to the greats, from Dave Brubeck and Randy Brecker to Pepe Romero and André Watts." He also was singled out for founding and directing the acclaimed Western Jazz Quartet, putting together diverse groups of musicians, and his range as a composer.

The magazine also noted his involvement in the International Society of Bassists, which he serves as past president, and his master classes, which have taken him all over the world.

## Former gridiron star is new head coach

Tim Lester, a former WMU quarterback, has been named head football coach. He replaces P.J. Fleck, the new head of the



Lester

football program at the University of Minnesota.

Lester, whose appointment was announced Jan. 13, comes to WMU from Purdue University, where he was the quarterback coach this past season.

Before that, he was quarterback coach at Syracuse University from 2013 to 2015 and doubled as offensive coordinator in 2014 and 2015.

He has risen through the coaching ranks since 2003, serving in a variety of prep and college positions, including as head coach at Saint Joseph's College and Elmhurst College as well as an assistant coach at WMU.

As a WMU student, Lester completed a Hall-of-Fame playing career as a four-year starting quarterback from 1996 to 1999, leading the Broncos to a Mid-American Conference championship appearance his senior season.

## NEH grant aiding first-generation college students

The National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded a \$100,000 Humanities Access matching grant to WMU's Humanities for Everybody—H4E—program.

The grant will help H4E expand and create a bridge-year program for first-generation college students transitioning to higher education.

H4E provides a series of free, rigorous humanities courses to members of the greater

Kalamazoo community that are taught by experienced WMU faculty members. It is a collaboration between the University Center for the Humanities at WMU and the housing-related charity Open Doors Kalamazoo.

Coupled with funding from other sources, the NEH grant will enable H4E to expand its efforts to serve first-generation college students by creating a bridge year between their senior year in high school and freshman year in college.

This new program will address the need for greater community involvement in preparing first-generation college students to pursue and complete their college educations.

"Unlike most bridge-year programs, where universities send students out into communities before their freshman year, we propose to bring the university to the community itself," says Dini Metro-Roland, teaching, learning and educational studies and director of H4E.

For more information about H4E, visit [www.humanitiesforeverybody.org](http://www.humanitiesforeverybody.org).

## 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.

## Western News

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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 spring are **Jan. 12 and 26, Feb. 9 and 23, March 16 and 30, and April 13.** 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



## Simulation helps employees aid veterans

Faculty and staff members at WMU are encouraged to participate in an online, interactive training simulation that assists in understanding the needs, experiences and cultural issues affecting military students.

The Veterans on Campus for Faculty & Staff simulation may



be started at any time on any day and can be stopped and resumed whenever necessary. It is being provided by WMU's Office of Military and Veterans Affairs.

Topics available to University employees are represented through three stories, or

### Honor student workers next month

Student Employee Appreciation Week is Monday through Friday, Feb. 20-24.

The week is a time to recognize the hard work and countless contributions of student employees and is an opportunity to showcase each year's winners of and nominees for the outstanding student employee and outstanding supervisor awards.

The nomination deadline for those awards is Friday, Feb. 10. Supervisors should nominate student employees, and student employees should nominate supervisors. All of those in the running for the awards will be honored at a reception Thursday, Feb. 23.

Visit [wmich.edu/career/campus/seaw](http://wmich.edu/career/campus/seaw) for nomination information, recognition ideas and a template to create individualized student appreciation certificates.

modules, that engage simulation participants in role-play conversations with virtual student veterans.

By engaging in the stories, participants get hands-on experience learning how to connect students to campus resources, manage challenging conversation and recognize signs of psychological distress. They also receive immediate individualized feedback.

To participate in the simulation, those interested must create an account with Kognito by visiting [kognitocampus.com/login](http://kognitocampus.com/login). Use the term michiganvets as the enrollment key, then follow the prompts to launch the first of the three modules.

For details, visit [wmich.edu/military](http://wmich.edu/military) and click Faculty and Staff Training. Direct questions to John C. Scott in the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs at [john.c.scott@wmich.edu](mailto:john.c.scott@wmich.edu) or (269) 387-4455.

## Nominate outstanding staffers for Make a Difference award

Nominations for the spring 2017 round of WMU's semiannual Make a Difference awards are due Tuesday, Feb. 28.

Make a Difference is a campuswide peer-to-peer program that recognizes staff members for their accomplishments and daily investment of energy and creativity. It features semiannual and annual awards presented to non-faculty employees who provide exceptional service to the University.

Every fall and spring, semiannual awards are presented to a maximum of 15 people.

Nominations for Make a Difference awards are accepted for individuals who are eligible for membership in five employee groups.

For more information, visit [wmich.edu/makeadifference](http://wmich.edu/makeadifference). Nomination instructions and forms as well as lists of previous winners are available year-round.

### GRADUATE STUDENT JOURNAL SEEKING SOLICITING SUBMISSIONS

The deadline to submit written materials as well as images for the spring 2016 issue of *The Hilltop Review: A Journal of Western Michigan University Graduate Research* is Sunday, Feb. 12. Graduate students may submit research articles, book reviews, letters to the editor, creative writing, artwork and digital photography from all disciplines. To make a submission, visit [scholarworks.wmich.edu/hilltopreview](http://scholarworks.wmich.edu/hilltopreview). Graduate students also are encouraged to volunteer to work on the publication. For more information about the Graduate Student Association and *Hilltop Review*, visit [wmich.edu/gsa/hilltopreview](http://wmich.edu/gsa/hilltopreview). (Pictured: Fall 2016 *Hilltop Review* cover art by computer science student Raed M. Salih)



## Emeriti Council awards \$10,000 in book scholarships for spring semester

Twenty-five deserving undergraduate students have been awarded \$400 Emeriti Council Book Scholarships this spring to help them purchase textbooks and supplies.

Thanks to the generous support of WMU emeriti, a total of \$10,000 was awarded. Representatives from student financial aid and scholarships selected the recipients on

the basis of financial need and academic merit. The recipients included sophomore, junior and senior students.

The Emeriti Council established the scholarships in 2004-05 to help students defray the cost of textbooks. Since then, a total of \$102,000 in scholarships has been awarded to 284 students.

"I can't tell you how thankful I am to have been chosen for the textbook scholarship, one student wrote. "It is a bigger blessing than you know."

Gifts to either the Emeriti Council Book or Medallion scholarship funds are tax deductible and, regardless of size, important to WMU students.

To help support one or both of these scholarships, make a gift to the WMU Foundation, making sure to indicate the gift designation.

For more information about the Emeriti Council, visit [wmich.edu/emmeriti](http://wmich.edu/emmeriti).

### Service anniversaries

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

**30 Years**—Valerie Armstrong, building custodial and support services; Jerry R. Burhans, maintenance services; and Brian E. Crandall, public safety.

**25 Years**—Barbara J. Cockrell, University Libraries; Mellissa L. Porter, development and alumni relations; and Sam N. Ramrattan, engineering design, manufacturing and management systems.

**20 Years**—Amy Marie Brimmer, Human Resources; Allan Kern, physics; Hanna Wells, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences; and Leah L. Wisner, Sincere Health Center.

**15 Years**—Luacia Allyn Dixon, Student Financial Aid; and Nancy T. Landsberger, civil and construction engineering; and Devin L. LeDoux, Valley Dining Center.

**10 Years**—Haluk M. Aktan, civil and construction engineering; Gayla Dennis, blindness and low vision studies; Jason M.

Jach, Institutional Research; Richard D. Rolback, maintenance services; Sheryl Ann Romero, Burnham Dining Service; Colleen A. Sante, Spanish; Shawn Marie Seidel, landscape services; Melanie Marie Simpson, Burnham Dining Service; Jessica Elaine Torrey, Center for Disability Services; and Christopher E. Voss, University Recreation.

**Five Years**—Daniel P. Boisture, public safety; Denise D. Brown, WMU-Muskegon; Thomas David Carlisle, construction; Aaron P. Dykstra, landscape services; Paul John Gourley, landscape services; Janel Susan Grella, landscape services; William Christopher Harris-Wimsatt, Center for Fostering Success; Thomas R. Howe III, geosciences; Haylee J. Knowles, College of Health and Human Services; Victoria Lynne Lafler, Unified Clinics; Jason Monck, maintenance services; Kimberly L. Rossman, development and alumni relations; Jeff A. Spoelstra, Office for Sustainability; Cindy Wagner, Haworth College of Business; and Kim Willis, WMUK Radio.

### Obituaries—[wmich.edu/news/obituaries](http://wmich.edu/news/obituaries)



Chambers

**Bill Morris Chambers**, emeritus in health, physical education and recreation, died Jan. 10. He was 92. Also a head baseball coach, he came to WMU in 1960 and retired in 1985 after 25 years of service.



Doornbos

**Virginia S. "Ginny" Doornbos**, a retired finance clerk in accounts payable, died Dec. 31, 2016. She was 81. Doornbos joined the staff in 1970 and retired in 1991 after more than 20 years of service.

## On Campus with Jim Hilliker



**WORKING FOR A WORTHY CAUSE**  
(Photo by Deanne Puca)

Awareness about substance abuse and the technology to help those affected by it have increased over the years, making care more accessible and effective, says Jim Hilliker, clinical supervisor for behavioral health services at the Unified Clinics.

The expansion of specialty drug courts in the criminal justice system, as well as growth in peer support programs and recovery coaches for substance abuse and mental health patients have improved treatment and started “ripples of changes” in care, Hilliker says.

“The integration of clinics and treatment programs with primary medical care has helped many more have access to care on a regular basis,” he observes. “Healthy Michigan Medicare, the publicly funded portion of [the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act], has secured a primary medical care program for lower-income clients that includes mental health and substance use services.”

A certified advanced alcohol and drug counselor, Hilliker primarily serves substance abuse patients in the WMU and Kalamazoo communities in the areas of treatment, screening, intervention and assessment referral. He started as a part-time employee in 2009, funded by a grant through Kalamazoo County. That job had him working with the Eighth District Court to assist people on probation who have symptoms of substance abuse and mental health issues.

Within a few years, though, the position became full time, and Hilliker’s role expanded to also benefit University employees and community members. In addition, WMU has a long-standing contract with the Michigan Department of Corrections, serving nine prisons. Toward the end of 2016, Hilliker took over a position with the prisons in Muskegon, Ionia and Coldwater to supervise their clinicians and treatment services.

“We work with a challenging population, especially in the criminal justice system, because there’s a great deal of resistance. But we all feel we’re doing great work for a worthy cause,” he says, adding that the Affordable Care Act resulted in a dramatic increase in new patients in primary medicine. “It’s been one of the successes of Obamacare, in my opinion. It made it a bit easier for those folks to access care on a regular basis, and it made regular medical care available to a large portion of the population.”

Hilliker lives in Holland, Michigan, and enjoys backpacking, camping and hiking with friends. Prior to coming to WMU, he worked at Holland Hospital and before that, had his own practice and did contract work in nearby Allegan, Ottawa and Muskegon counties. He earned a bachelor’s degree from Hope College and a master’s degree from WMU.

### ***Nonresident undergraduate tuition sharply decreased***

After years of across-the-board tuition adjustments that left out-of-state students paying more than twice what Michigan students pay, WMU trustees voted Jan. 24 to cap nonresident tuition for future undergraduates in a way that will dramatically reduce the tuition bills for incoming non-residents and make WMU more competitive internationally.

Beginning with the upcoming summer I session, basic, main-campus tuition rates for newly admitted nonresident students will be set at 1.25 times the rate that Michigan residents pay. The move has no impact on tuition rates for graduate students or Michigan undergraduates.

Tuition for 2017-18 has not yet been set. But at 2016-17 basic tuition rates, annual tuition and required fees for a nonresident freshman or sophomore would be nearly cut in half—down to \$14,366 from its current cost of \$26,851.

For currently enrolled nonresident students, basic tuition and fees will remain at

their current ratio, and these students will continue to be eligible for the scholarships and financial aid packages that have helped them trim the cost of attendance in the past.

Also, a liberal residency policy that many students use to become Michigan residents and qualify for in-state rates will continue for any student now or previously enrolled. Beginning with the upcoming summer I session, new nonresident undergraduate students will not have the option of changing their residency status at WMU.

Despite extensive financial assistance for nonresidents, the published tuition rate for a first-time nonresident student is 2.3 times the rate charged to Michigan students. This puts the University at a competitive disadvantage in recruiting nonresidents. Taking the rate down to 1.25 times the in-state rate also puts WMU in good position to compete for international as well as out-of-state students.

### **Grant will support HEROES**

More than \$60,000 in funds for WMU through the Campus Sexual Assault Grant Program will be used for a communitywide effort to engage all students—especially men, athletes and student leaders—to fight sexual assault and develop a critical mass of people on campus and in local schools trained in bystander intervention skills.

The new WMU funds are part of \$500,000 awarded to 18 colleges and universities around the state. WMU will use part of its funds to dramatically expand the successful Western HEROES program that already has trained more than 2,500 WMU students and employees. With additional HEROES, the University will be able to continually reinforce its sexual assault, alcohol and bystander intervention messages.

The funds also will enable outreach to high schools and benefit the newly created Gentlemen United program. For details, visit [wmich.edu/news/2016/12/36832](http://wmich.edu/news/2016/12/36832).

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### **Businessman’s estate gift**

through the lives of students and faculty who will benefit from the generous gift he so carefully and thoughtfully designated to the parts of WMU that meant so much to him.”

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### **WMU postgrad data shows 92 percent find swift success**

Employment Services, who presented the data to WMU trustees. Starting with responses from just 25 percent of graduates in 2009-10, she has built a survey and outreach program that for the most recent report, netted responses from 3,766 of the 5,049 students who earned bachelor’s, master’s

and doctoral degrees in 2015-16. Working with graduate assistant Amy Galick and data analyst Christopher Shank, Urban says her team was able to make the most recently completed report the most thorough to date.

To download the entire report, visit [wmich.edu/career/planning](http://wmich.edu/career/planning).