



Western News

FEBRUARY 9, 2017
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For and about WMU faculty and staff

WMU trustees set 2017 meeting dates

The WMU Board of Trustees has announced its meeting dates for the 2017 calendar year. The dates and locations are: Wednesday, March 15, Bernhard Center; Thursday, April 27, Heritage Hall; Thursday, June 29, Bernhard Center (agenda includes promotion and tenure, budget, and tuition); Thursday, Sept. 21, Heritage Hall; Wednesday, Nov. 1, an off-the-main campus location; and Tuesday, Dec. 12, Bernhard Center (holiday party to follow). Public meeting sessions start at 11 a.m.

Assessment-related deadlines reported

The University Assessment Steering Committee is accepting applications by Friday, Feb. 10, for its annual Assessment Excellence Individual and Unit awards. Details are available at wmich.edu/news/2017/02/37926.

In addition, the annual Assessment Conference will take place from 8 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Friday, March 17, in the Fetzer Center. The conference is open to all of WMU's graduate teaching assistants and part-time instructors as well as faculty and staff members. Those attending may come and go as their schedules dictate.

The registration deadline is Friday, March 10. For more information or to register, visit wmich.edu/assessment/resources.

More faculty-staff mixers coming up

A Gold Gathering faculty-staff mixer is set for 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17, in the Fetzer Center lobby. Complimentary light hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar will be available.

The Meemic-Redman Agency is sponsoring the event. A lunch buffet is planned for Thursday, March 30. The semester's final evening mixer is set for Thursday, April 20. For more information about Gold Gatherings, visit wmich.edu/provost/goldgatherings.

Obtain advice to improve surveys

Visit the Evaluation Center's Survey Improvement Clinic for practical advice on improving short surveys. A table will be set up in conjunction with Spring Convocation from 8:30 a.m. to noon Friday, Feb. 17, in the Fetzer Center. Walk-ins are welcome, and 20-minute time slots can be reserved at lori.wingate@wmich.edu or (269) 387-5922.

WMU hosting Special Olympics finals

WMU is hosting the Special Olympics Michigan Unified Basketball State Finals Saturday, Feb. 25, in the Student Recreation Center. The event is being planned, staged and managed to support the 500 athletes and more than 100 volunteers and fans that are expected to participate or attend.

The finals are a collaborative effort among Special Olympics-Michigan, WMU's University Recreation staff members and the Epsilon Alpha Chapter of Phi Epsilon Kappa.

Local exec named to serve out trustee term

Lynn Chen-Zhang, a partner and chief operating officer with Zhang Financial in Portage, Michigan, has been named to the WMU Board of Trustees. Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder announced the appointment Feb. 2, subject to the advice and consent of the state Senate.



Chen-Zhang

"I thank Lynn for her commitment to serve on this board, and I believe her experiences will help the University continue to succeed," Snyder said.

Chen-Zhang would serve through 2018, completing the eight-year term begun by Trustee Dana Debel, who resigned from the board last month.

She is a certified financial planning practitioner and a certified public accountant who has been ranked as one of the nation's top women financial advisors by *Barron's* and the *Financial Times*.

A WMU alumna, Chen-Zhang serves as vice president of the WMU Foundation and sits on the foundation's Board of Directors, Investment Committee and Committee on Directors. She is a longtime supporter of University Libraries, the Haworth College of Business, the Academically Talented Youth Program in the Lee Honors College, and many other campus programs and units.

Join Dunn on leg of five-day, 14-city farewell tour

WMU President John M. Dunn will spend five days covering 1,500 miles by bus Monday through Friday, Feb. 27-March 3, to say farewell to University supporters and shine a light on WMU's current and emerging strengths.

Traveling across Michigan in a specially wrapped bus, John and Linda Dunn will stop in 13 Michigan cities for farewell events and conclude the tour in Chicago.

The president is scheduled to retire June 30. A series of alumni events and other activities around the nation start Sunday, Feb. 12, to celebrate his decade as president.

Among those that campus community members can participate in is the bus tour.

• Monday, Feb. 27, will include a morning reception at the WMU College of Aviation

in Battle Creek, a luncheon reception at WMU Cooley Law School in Lansing and an evening celebration at the Amway Grand Plaza in Grand Rapids.



• Tuesday, Feb. 28, features a luncheon reception at Weber's Inn in Ann Arbor and an evening reception at the Detroit Athletic Club.

• Wednesday, March 1, will feature a morning reception at the WMU Cooley

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WMU's supply chain program ranks No. 2 in world

The integrated supply management program recently ranked second on a list of the top 100 universities for supply chain talent produced by SCM World, a cross-industry learning community powered by the world's most influential supply chain practitioners.

The No. 2 ranking places WMU ahead of MIT, Harvard, Penn State, the University of Michigan and many other schools. Michigan State University came in first this year.

The ranking indicates that industry professionals see a degree from WMU as a marker of top supply chain talent.

Those responding to the SCM World survey are industry professionals who valued WMU's connection with industry, curricular innovation and ability to prepare students to add immediate value to organizations in the ranking process.

The results of the survey show that hands-on experience may often be the dif-

ferentiator in program success. SCM World cites a recent survey about the ideal skill mix that supply chain professionals identified as needed for 2020 and beyond, which stated that communication, strategic thinking and change management were among desired skills. According to SCM World, skills such as those develop fastest in the world of work.

"The ability to offer our students multiple experiences through projects, consulting and required internships allows them to gain experience in the areas that supply chain professionals most value," says Robert Reck, marketing, and director of WMU's Center for Integrated Supply Management.

"We work hard to stay close to industry, listen to the needs of employers and adapt our curriculum to reflect the realities in the field. This ranking shows that our efforts are recognized and appreciated by hiring managers."

Around campus and beyond

Diversity conversation set at Fetzer

A communitywide conversation Saturday, Feb. 18, is expected to attract appointed and elected officials to explore the importance of diversity in a variety of areas of civic involvement. Portage Mayor Peter J. Strazdas, Facilities Management, will serve as moderator, and WMU President John M. Dunn will deliver welcoming remarks. The “Kalamazoo Region Conversation on Respecting Diversity” is the title of the event, which will run from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Fetzer Center and feature panel discussions on law enforcement, education, state regulations, and local and state politics.

Panel examines spread of fake news

“How to Catch Fake News Before it Catches You” is the topic of an interactive panel discussion examining the widespread proliferation of fake news stories. It will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 20, in the Lee Honors College Lounge. Panel members will be Sue Ellen Christian, communication; Mickey Ciokajlo, a regional news manager for MLive Media Group; and Peter W. Wielhouwer, political science. For more information, visit bit.ly/2kmjH3X.

WSA fighting Alzheimer’s disease

The Western Student Association will hold a pasta lunch fundraiser from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 22, in the Bernhard Center. This is the first in a series of events planned as part of the Hilarity for Charity’s HFCU nationwide contest.

Hilarity for Charity is a movement led by Seth Rogen and Lauren Miller Rogen to inspire change and raise awareness within the millennial generation about Alzheimer’s disease. The school that raises the most money by the end of the contest Sunday, April 9, wins a visit from Seth Rogen. For details, visit hilarityforcharity.org/program.

AARP exec to address diversity, aging

Edna Kane-Williams, AARP senior vice president, will give the Burian lecture on “Building Bridges for Older Adults in Multicultural Communities” at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23, in 4010 Health and Human Services Building. Related events include the Diversity and Inclusion Conference Friday, Feb. 24, and area discussions on topics impacting older adults. For more information, visit wmich.edu/hhs/lectures and wmich.edu/hhs/about/diversity.

WMU celebrates research, diversity and global engagement

“Spring Convocation: Recognition of Discovery, Diversity and Global Engagement” will take place Friday, Feb. 17, in the Fetzer Center and feature scholar talks, professional development workshops, a recognition luncheon, and convocation and awards.

The awards presentation will begin at 3:30 p.m. and be followed by a Gold Gathering reception with appetizers and a cash bar that runs until 6 p.m. For more details, visit wmich.edu/research.

This year’s awards are being presented by four units to:

- Extended University Programs—Paul Solomon, art; Whitney DeCamp, sociology; and Holly Grieves, occupational therapy.
- Office of Diversity and Inclusion—

Megan McCoy, catering; Intercultural Business Student Association; James Brand, Disability Services for Students; and Jon Curtis, student in the Office for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Students.

- Haenicke Institute for Global Education—Zahir Quraeshi, marketing, and Ann Ganz, world languages and literatures.

- Office of the Vice President for Research—James Henry, social work; Robert Bensley, interdisciplinary health programs; Stephanie M. Peterson, psychology; and Jianping Shen, educational leadership, research and technology.

Farewell reception

The University community is invited to a farewell reception for Wolfgang Schlör, Haenicke Institute, from 3 to 5 p.m. Thursday, March 2, in the Bernhard Center’s Bronco Global Lounge.

Exchange

For sale—Custom-built home in scenic waterfront Portage neighborhood. Four bedrooms; 4.5 bathrooms; dedicated office space; open-concept, teakwood main floor with fireplace; gourmet kitchen with high-end appliances; and second master bedroom in walkout basement. Listed: \$339,900. Contact: Shah at (269) 861-0986.

Jobs

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

Emeritus pens three-book fiction series

H. Byron Earhart, emeritus in comparative religion, is about to complete The Twin Destiny Trilogy released by iCrew Digital Publishing. The series begins with 2016’s “No Pizza in Heaven.”



Earhart

For three decades, it follows the diverging trajectories of identical twin sons who are separated from each other and their teenage mother at birth. The mother turns into an indifferent agnostic, one twin becomes a hot revivalist preacher and the other twin is a cool New Ager who develops a create-your-own-religion computer program.

How they become reunited and reconcile their differences is at the heart of that detective family drama. Book Two of the trilogy, “Faith Finds Forgiveness,” came out earlier this year and Book Three, “Meeting the Devil,” is due to be released later this year.

Now retired and living in California, Earhart has returned to his early interest in creative writing. His academic publications are in the area of Asian religions, especially religion in Japan.

Researcher elected new AAAS Fellow

Michelle A. Kominz, geosciences, was recently elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and will be recognized at an AAAS event Feb. 18.



Kominz

Kominz is one of 391 association members from the group’s 24 sections to receive the honor “because of their scientifically or socially distinguished efforts to advance science or its applications.” Several studies she has been involved with have implications for helping to determine how high sea levels could rise as a result of human-induced sea-level change.

Kominz conducts research in the field of geodynamics, with her current activities centering on global sea-level change and tectonics—the vertical motions that generate the large-scale structural features of the Earth.

Poet releases children’s collection

Judith A. Rypma, English, mines the metaphoric possibilities of rocks and minerals in a new book, “Rocks In My Head: Poems for Young People About Rocks, Minerals and Crystals,” published by Rockhound Press.



Rypma

Rypma is continuing a long tradition of poets forging links with precious stones and metals that began with Ovid, a Roman, and includes a strand of gems by the likes of Poe, Donne, Yeats and Tennyson.

“As a poet and amateur rock hound, I’ve been making connections between gemstones and poetry for decades,” Rypma says. “And as someone who works with future educators, I’ve simultaneously been a long-time advocate of forging a relationship between science and the language arts. This book is the culmination of all those interests and beliefs.”

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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; mail, Campus Mail Stop 5433; phone, (269) 387-8433; or fax, (269) 387-8422.

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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Safety communication changes enacted

A number of new safety tools recommended by a Safety Communications Committee created by President John M. Dunn were unveiled last month.

The campuswide committee was appointed after shootings in Kalamazoo on a single evening a year ago. The group worked to examine existing communication tools and potential additions that would allow the University to improve the way it advises students of imminent danger that is off campus but near campus borders.

Starting late in the fall semester, when Dunn received the committee's report and recommendations, WMU has begun to enhance its communication system by:

- Setting up a dedicated, public safety Twitter account. The account, [@wmupublicsafety](https://twitter.com/wmupublicsafety), will be used to send out advisory messages about incidents that may occur in the vicinity of the campus community as WMU public safety officers become aware of such events. It is accessible even to people without a Twitter account.

- Purchasing new commercial software to continually scan social media and alert WMU officers to issues emerging outside their jurisdiction that are potentially important to ensure the safety of campus community members within a defined geographic boundary.

- Unveiling a safety information website at wmudps.wmich.edu/safety-info.php that is a one-stop compilation of safety-related links and information, including links to campus safety services as well as area media's breaking news alerts.

People without a Twitter account can register to have campus safety advisory tweets sent to their mobile phones via text message. Twitter users can adjust their settings to receive push notifications on their phones whenever [@wmupublicsafety](https://twitter.com/wmupublicsafety) posts a tweet.

For more information about safety communications enhancements, read the article at wmich.edu/news/2017/01/37740. The article provides a link to register to receive safety tweets.



WMU responds to Trump travel restriction—

WMU President John M. Dunn's response to President Donald J. Trump's executive order banning all immigration from seven predominantly Muslim nations is posted at wmich.edu/president/messages. In his message, Dunn noted that the student body includes nearly 1,800 international students, with about 100 coming from those nations. He asked readers to let all of them know that the University community not only supports them, but also welcomes them.

Sindecuse staffers invited to White House—

The Obama administration invited staff members from the Sindecuse Health Center to the White House to recognize them for their work in helping uninsured members of the campus community. They and other honorees attended a recognition event Jan. 13 that was part of the administration's Healthy Campus Challenge. First Lady Michelle Obama delivered remarks on behalf of the administration and joined attendees for a group photo. Kristie Canegallo (pictured, center), assistant to President Obama, presented awards. Accepting a certificate on behalf of those who took part in WMU's effort were two Sindecuse officials, Joe VanDerBos (left), senior marketing specialist, and Lisa Marshall (right), director. For more information about Sindecuse and healthy campus initiatives, visit wmich.edu/healthcenter. (Photo courtesy of the Sindecuse Health Center)



Campaign kickoff scheduled

Development and alumni relations will kick off this year's Broncos4Broncos campus campaign with an event from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 10, in the Heritage Hall Ballroom.

The event will feature complimentary appetizers, an open bar and prize drawings. Departments and offices with the highest participation rate at the end of the Feb. 13 through April 7 active phase will be awarded money for the designation of their choice. To register, go to mywmu.com/campuskickoff.

Learner support program self-study reports available for review by faculty, staff

A campuswide observation team has launched Phase II of the Learner Support Program Review and Planning cycle.

Starting Jan. 19, the LSPRP Observation Team began a peer review of the self-study reports submitted from the 117 programs identified as focusing on learner support. Faculty and staff members may review the reports through a secure site by selecting Program Review SharePoint Gateway at wmich.edu/effectiveness/program/support.

The LSPRP cycle is the second round of the University's ongoing integrated program review and planning process. It focuses on learner support units, which primarily offer programs that contribute to the learning,

growth and development of learners outside of traditional curricular instruction. The self-study reports now under review were the culmination of Phase I of this cycle, which began July 15, 2016, and ended in December.

In Phase II, observation team subgroups will complete their review of the reports by 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28, and give next-level reviewers a list of the programs' overall strengths and key areas for development.

Those next-level supervisors, such as directors and managers of the units offering the programs, will review the reports as well as the observation team's feedback and provide recommendations to their units' senior leaders sometime in April.

Lastly, senior leaders will review all feedback and provide recommendations to their units by Friday, June 30—the end of the academic year—so appropriate planning can begin.

The Learner Support Program Review and Planning cycle includes a third phase that focuses on planning, decision-making and implementation.

Phase III is expected to begin Saturday, July 1, and be ongoing. It will allow senior leaders to review the information that has been reported and apply it to decision-making in their respective areas.

For more information about Learner Support Program Review and Planning or the integrated program review and planning process, visit institutional effectiveness at wmich.edu/effectiveness/program. Questions should be directed to Jody Brylinsky at jody.brylinsky@wmich.edu or (269) 387-2314.

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar to visit campus for book read event

Retired professional basketball star Kareem Abdul-Jabbar will speak at WMU one day after a discussion of Chapter 1 of his book, "Writings on the Wall: Searching for a New Equality Beyond Black and White."



Abdul-Jabbar will give a free talk from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, March 14, in Miller Auditorium as part of the Kalamazoo Public Library's 2016-17 Reading Together program.

KPL and several WMU entities are sponsoring the chapter discussion from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Monday, March 13, in the Heritage Hall Ballroom.

The chapter is a collection of essays on the country's seemingly irreconcilable partisan divide, both racial and political; parenthood; and the author's own experiences as an athlete, an African-American and a Muslim.

Multiple copies of Abdul-Jabbar's book are on seven-day reserve at the Waldo Library circulation desk. To RSVP for the March 14 talk or learn about all related local events, visit kpl.gov/reading-together/2017/.

Obituary—wmich.edu/news/obituaries

Chrysa Richards, a secretary for Student Activities and Leadership Programs and the Center for Teaching and Learning, died Jan. 8. She was 58. Richards joined the staff in 1987 and left in 1998 after almost 11 years of service. Memorial services will be scheduled at a later date.

On Campus with Michelle Loedeman



FINANCIAL PROBLEM-SOLVER
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

If you see something on your WMU account that you don't understand, who you gonna call? Typically, you'll call Michelle Loedeman, director of collections in accounts receivable, because the accounts receivable office sends out billings and the collections unit makes sure they're paid.

The four-person unit works with students across campus as well as faculty and staff members and retirees. It's responsible for hearing tuition appeals, collecting Perkins loan payments, and ensuring that billings on all University accounts are accurate, understood and up to date.

"When I was growing up, collections definitely isn't anything I thought would be in my job title," Loedeman quips. "But really, I don't have the type of job where you're demanding money from anyone. It's more like being a financial literacy advisor. I help people research what it is that they owe and try to resolve whatever issues they have."

Student issues usually relate to trying to get "holds" removed. Depending on the situation, Loedeman may arrange a special payment plan, provide options for seeking scholarships or financial aid, or in cases of hardship, connect students with the ombudsman.

"It's all about registration and enrollment and then, hopefully, graduation," she says. "But sometimes I have to have that hard conversation about not getting yourself into a position that you can never get out of—that whole financial literacy thing."

When working with employees and retirees, Loedeman usually deals with payment plan issues, such as when retirees pay their health insurance premiums on a quarterly schedule or employees use the payroll deduction plan or receive the tuition discount on classes they take.

"There isn't any call that we would take and say: 'It's not my job.' Just pick up the phone and call us," she says. "We have a great team here in accounts receivable. We can't make every customer happy, but we do our best to make sure that we've done everything we can."

In 1999, Loedeman came to WMU as a temporary employee in cashiering. She was hired full time in accounts receivable in 2000 and subsequently promoted to her current post. She chairs the Administrative Professional Association's Special Events Committee and is president-elect of the Michigan Association of Student Financial Services Administrators.

Loedeman and her husband, Frank, reside at Eagle Lake in Kalamazoo. She earned a bachelor's degree from WMU in 2014, has a son and stepson who are WMU alumni, and has a daughter pursuing a degree here. Three of the blended family's five children have married during the past the year. "I almost feel like I've become a wedding planner," she says, adding that in her free time, she loves to relax by gardening and reading.

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Join Dunn on farewell tour

Auburn Hills campus, a luncheon at Flint Golf Course, and a dinner reception for the Saginaw, Midland and Bay City area slated for the Frankenmuth Brewery.

- Thursday, March 2, begins with a luncheon reception at Traverse City's Park Place Hotel and concludes with an evening reception at the Shoreline Inn & Conference Center in Muskegon.

- Friday, March 3, starts with a morning reception at the WMU Stryker School of Medicine in Kalamazoo, continues on to a luncheon reception at the WMU Southwest campus in Benton Harbor and concludes with an evening reception at the University Club in Chicago.

The bus tour is being coordinated by development and alumni relations. Anyone interested in attending an event on the tour can go to the Dunn Farewell Tour site at mywmu.com/dunnfarewell for details and to reserve a spot. The per-person cost to attend a reception is: morning, \$15; luncheon, \$25; and evening, \$30 to \$55.

The tour site includes details on how to make a gift to a special fundraising effort to benefit four causes of particular interest to John and Linda Dunn—the Student Emergency Fund, Seita Scholars program, Bronco Marching Band and University Art Collection. The WMU Foundation board recently created a \$250,000 fund to match gifts made



to the four funds. Gifts to the four in honor of the Dunns will be matched 1-to-1 until the foundation fund is exhausted.

Future events to mark the Dunn presidency include a Friday, April 7, campuswide celebration at Miller Auditorium and a May gala at the WMU Stryker School of Medicine as well as a number of celebratory events planned for smaller campus and

community groups.

Dunn is closing out a transformational decade during which he has touched every part of the University. At the request of the WMU Board of Trustees, he has agreed to serve for a year as president emeritus following his retirement. In that capacity, he will undertake assignments requested by the trustees and the new president.

Gold Company, GCII present special annual show

Gold Company and GCII are back and bigger than ever in their new show, "Royally Dunn."

They will present some of music royalty's greatest hits with a special nod of thanks to retiring WMU President John M. Dunn.

"Royally Dunn" will feature the music, comedy, choreography and showmanship of Gold Company and GCII during performances at 2 and 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11, in Miller Auditorium.

Experience the songs of Michael Jackson, Aretha Franklin, Elvis Presley and more.

The two highly regarded ensembles will be will be joined by Grammy-nominated Gold Company alumnus Jeremy Fox and the University Symphony Orchestra. Tickets may be purchased at millerauditorium.com.

WMU faculty and staff members will get a 15 percent discount, and due to a fund established by the president's office, WMU students get a 50 percent discount on most show tickets.



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