



Western News

APRIL 13, 2017
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For and about WMU faculty and staff

Commencement ceremonies set

Four commencement ceremonies will be held Saturday, April 29, in Miller Auditorium. Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder will speak during the 9 a.m. ceremony and an honorary degree (see page 2 of this issue) will be presented during the 7:30 p.m. exercises.

The ceremonies and students they are geared toward are: 9 a.m., College of Aviation and Haworth College of Business; 12:30 p.m., College of Engineering and Applied Sciences and College of Health and Human Services; 4 p.m., College of Education and Human Development, College of Fine Arts, and Extended University Programs; and 7:30 p.m., College of Arts and Sciences.

Final Gold Gathering scheduled

The final Gold Gathering faculty-staff mixer of 2016-17 is set for 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, April 20, 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.

PSSO plans two April activities

The deadline is Friday, April 14, to nominate members of the Professional Support Staff Organization for the PSSO Service Award. This year's awards luncheon is Friday, May 5. The award nomination form and luncheon reservation are available at wmich.edu/pssso. Also, mark your calendars for PSSO's 2017 Adopt-A-Highway spring pick up scheduled for Saturday, April 22. For full details, contact Pat Wilcox at pat.wilcox@wmich.edu or (269) 387-2906.

Golf league for employees to start

Faculty and staff are invited to register for an 11-week intramural sports golf league, which will play on Tuesdays from May 9 through Aug. 1 at the Prairies Golf Club. There will be no league play May 30 or July 4. Cost is \$170 per person for walkers or \$258 per person with a cart. Registration is due by Thursday, April 27. For details, visit wmich.edu/rec/intramurals/golfleague.

Apply for Assessment Fellows Grant

Assessment Fellows Grant applications are due Friday, April 28. Awards in \$4,000 increments totaling \$20,000 are available for research on student learning outcomes assessment and program quality improvement with an emphasis on student learning. For details, visit wmich.edu/assessment/grants.

Health center makes announcements

The Sindecuse Health Center will be closed from noon to 1 p.m. Friday, April 28, to allow staff to attend a professional development event. In addition, the center has access to limited supplies of yellow fever vaccine for travel clinic patients. Travelers will be vaccinated on a first-scheduled, first-served basis.

Economist, labor expert is new WMU president

Edward B. Montgomery, dean and professor of economics at Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy, will become the ninth president of WMU Aug. 1.



Montgomery

Montgomery, a nationally known labor economist who played major roles in the presidential administrations of both presidents William Clinton and Barack Obama, was selected by unanimous vote of the WMU Board of Trustees during a special meeting April 12. His selection follows a national search to find a successor to John M. Dunn. Dunn had announced a June 30 retirement date, but now will continue through July 31.

"We were fortunate to have a number of gifted candidates emerge through the search process," says WMU Trustee William Johnston, who led the 22-member Presidential Search Advisory Committee that helped identify Montgomery as the successful finalist.

"Edward Montgomery's personal demeanor, commitment to transformational change and extensive academic background resonated with all of us involved in the search and spoke directly to the themes that emerged from our numerous listening sessions with University stakeholders."

During a more than 35-year academic career, Montgomery has held faculty posi-

tions at Carnegie Mellon and Michigan State universities as well as the University of Maryland, winning teaching awards some five times. He has been at Georgetown since 2010.

National impact

During the Clinton administration, Montgomery served as chief economist, then counselor and assistant secretary for the Department of Labor before being named deputy secretary of labor. In the latter role, the department's second highest post, he oversaw operations of a \$33 billion department.

During the Obama administration, Montgomery was a member of the president's auto task force and led the inter-agency White House Council for Auto Communities and



Montgomery was introduced to the University and Kalamazoo communities during a special meeting of the Board of Trustees April 12. (Photo by Mike Lanka)

Workers. That position put him in a role national media dubbed "the Auto Czar" and affirmed his view of the synergistic role universities can play in regional economic development. He says the potential impact

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WMU, K College grant bolsters Asia-related classes

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded a \$362,000 Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Grant to WMU and its consortium partner, Kalamazoo College.

The three-year grant will support a community-based education program called the Southwest Michigan Education Initiative on the East Indian Ocean. The program will enhance global, humanities-based education for students and faculty and address a key language need expressed by West Michigan residents of South Asian and Southeast Asian descent.

"We want this project to be responsive to the needs of our community," explains Jane E. Blyth, Haenicke Institute for Global Education, "and at the same time strengthen the global engagement of Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo College."

Over the three-year life of the grant funding, the WMU and K College partners will design workshops for faculty members at both institutions who are interested in incorporating South Asia- and Southeast Asia-related topics into their courses. These semester-long, intercollegial workshops will focus on methods and strategies to integrate that content into existing courses at both schools.

"The more faculty who incorporate this content into their pre-existing courses, the greater the impact we expect to see," says Blyth, who serves as the grant program's co-principal investigator.

WMU will offer courses in Vietnamese and Hindi/Urdu languages through the Department of World Languages

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Around campus and beyond

Event combines art, libraries

Poetry readings, music, faculty talks, dance set to poetry, new books, choral works and more are being highlighted during Living the Arts in the Libraries events at WMU this April. For the third year, University Libraries is showcasing the arts for three weeks, with activities running through Friday, April 21.

Events and exhibits will be open during regular hours at Waldo Library and the Zhang Legacy Collections Center. A collaboration with WMU arts and humanities groups across campus, many of the upcoming activities are short pop-up events that may last from five to 15 minutes.

Economist to focus on immigration

Giovanni Peri from the University of California at Davis will discuss the dollars and cents of immigration at noon Wednesday, April 19, in 2028 Brown Hall. His talk, "The Great Economic Potential of Immigration to the U.S.," is part of the Werner Sichel Lecture Series. It is free and open to the public. A light lunch reception will be available after the lecture.

Various summer seminars planned

Faculty development has scheduled a variety of programs this summer to help graduate assistants and full- and part-time faculty members keep moving forward in their careers as well as teaching. Advance registration is required. For details, visit wmich.edu/news/2017/04/39195.

Upjohn center open houses continue

The W.E. Upjohn Center for the Study of Geographical Change at WMU is

continuing to hold periodic open houses to showcase its world-class facilities and services. The next scheduled open house will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, April 20. The center is located in Welborn Hall.

Board of Trustees to meet April 27

The next meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees meeting will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, April 27, in Heritage Hall. Agenda and other related information will be published at wmich.edu/trustees closer to the meeting date.

Series to feature two familiar faces

Don Cooney, social work, will be the featured speaker for the upcoming Mercantile Bank of Michigan Breakfast Speaker Series. Cooney, who is vice mayor of Kalamazoo, will present "The Foundation for Excellence: The City of Promise Moves Forward" at 8 a.m. Friday, April 28, in 2150 of Schneider Hall.

The featured speaker for Friday, May 19, will be Kathy Beauregard, director of athletics. Both talks are free and open to the public and will begin with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Reservations are required at wmich.edu/business/mercantile-rsvp or (269) 387-6059.

Employee giving celebration slated

Development and alumni relations will host a wrap-up celebration for this year's Broncos4Broncos campus campaign from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, May 5, in the Heritage Hall Ballroom. Complimentary appetizers and an open bar will be available as well as prizes. For more information, visit mywmu.com and click Giving then Employee Giving.

Theatre professor wins NEH grant

Lofton L. Durham, theatre, has received a \$6,000 award from the National Endowment for the Humanities for "Medieval Theatre at the Center: Jaques Milet's Destruction of Troy and the Making of the French Nation."



Durham

The project explores how theatre, both live and in a documentary, shaped and reflected widely held beliefs about the emergent French nation from the 15th through the 17th centuries. It was one of 208 humanities projects and programs funded by the NEH nationwide and one of just 69 projects in the Summer Stipend category chosen for funding.

"For me, the Summer Stipend represents essential support for my research agenda by enabling me to commit two full months to the project," Durham says. "This outside support, plus the support of Western for my (spring 2018) sabbatical, will push my book over the finish line."

Group re-elects marketing specialist

Frank M. Gambino, marketing, has been re-elected chairman of the Food Industry University Coalition for an additional two-year term.



Gambino

The coalition advances a collaborative agenda of industry-focused academics and research. Its mission is to leverage the combined wealth of its 16 members' intellectual capital, strategic perspective and third party status to provide thought leadership for the food industry in dealing with challenging issues.

The coalition is part of the National Grocers Association, which is the national trade association representing the retail and wholesale grocers that comprise the independent sector of the food distribution industry. Also represented are affiliated associations, manufacturers, service suppliers and others.

Counselor earns local NAACP award

Phillip D. Johnson, counselor education, received the 2016 Humanitarian Award by the Metropolitan Kalamazoo Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.



Johnson

That award is a direct reflection of the contributions Johnson has made to improve the lives of people of color in the areas of politics, education, religion, civil rights and community service. Throughout his career, he has focused much of his efforts toward decreasing the impact of our racialized society on African Americans, specifically African-American males.

Johnson, an associate professor and coordinator of college counseling, has presented his work at numerous conferences and has his scholarly writing published in various national journals. He is a member of WMU's University-Community Empowerment Center and the Metropolitan Kalamazoo Branch of the NAACP, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and Galilee Baptist Church.

Service anniversaries

30 Years—Arlene K. Buchanan, building custodial and support services, and Jacqueline R. Mills, cashiering.

25 Years—Shannon R. Penny, occupa-

tional therapy, and Karen L. Severson, music.

20 Years—Kathy D. Gerow, nursing, and Janice K. Quakenbush, student affairs.

15 Years—Sue Brodasky, Faculty Senate; Thomas R. Marquardt, information technology; and Gustavus V. Winston III, College of Aviation.

10 Years—Vun Doubblestein, multicultural affairs; Ruth Halcomb, associate vice president for finance; and Thomas M. Rositer, public safety.

Five Years—Cari Burke, accountancy; Shane Clipfell, intercollegiate athletics; Brian M. Dubrish, associate vice president for student affairs; Douglas C. Hammerberg, public safety; Warren L. Hills, Human Resources; Derrick McIver, management; Deanna M. Merz, counselor education and counseling psychology; and Kathryn Ann Muvrin, Center for Disability Services.

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.

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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 summer II session are **May 11 and 25, and June 8 and 22**. No issues are produced during summer II. 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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W WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Arbor Day to salute Dunns

A decade of service to WMU by outgoing President John M. Dunn and First Lady Linda Dunn will be recognized during WMU's Arbor Day gathering.

The public event will take place at noon Friday, April 21, on the north side of Goldsworth Valley Pond.

This year's brief program will include the planting of two Eastern white pines in honor of the many contributions made by the Dunns. The president will be at an out-of-state meeting and unable to attend.

The featured speaker will be Annalisa Wilder, a political science major working on a project to plant more trees and shrubs around the Goldsworth Valley Pond.

Attendees also will hear about WMU's recent recertification by the Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree Campus USA for the ninth consecutive year.

The Tree Campus program helps colleges and universities establish and sustain healthy community forests as well as promotes student involvement. WMU is one of 29 U.S. colleges and universities, and only two in Michigan, to receive the Tree Campus designation since the program began.

Campus, local community members honor Dunn during farewell events

Well-wishers from across campus and the community showed their affection for President John M. Dunn during two recent events. **Top photo:** Chris Sligh, left, Student Activities and Leadership Programs, takes a selfie with Dunn during a special opportunity to mingle with the president and take photos April 11 in the Bernhard Center. **Bottom photo:** Nearly 3,000 people turned out for the formal farewell celebration April 7 in Miller Auditorium to mark Dunn's retirement. It, too, included a chance to get a picture taken with the president. Among those gathering for a photo with First Lady Linda Dunn and the president (back row, middle) were some of the couple's immediate family members (back row, from left) son Matt, daughter-in-law Lesley and grandson Murphy, and (front) granddaughter Molly. The farewell event focused on the successes of the Dunn Decade and featured 90 minutes of tributes, reflection videos and musical performances as well as remarks by Dunn. Campus and community leaders, student speakers, and some of the University's premier performing groups took the stage to honor Dunn. Event speakers were effusive in their praise—to the point that Dunn quipped that the tribute was "overly done." Highlights of the program included Kalamazoo Mayor Bobby Hopewell presenting Dunn with a key to the city and appearances by a Seita Scholar and military veteran who spoke about what the president and WMU means to them. (Photos by Mike Lanka)



Spring semester Make a Difference winners to be feted at April 17 reception

The University community is invited to honor 10 staff members as outstanding employees during a reception at 2 p.m. Monday, April 17, in 157 Bernhard Center.

The event recognizes the spring 2017 recipients of the Semiannual Make a Difference Award. The recipients will each receive \$300, before taxes, and a commemorative certificate. They are:

- Barbara S. Adams, music;
- Kelli A. Bond, vice president for research's office;
- Regina E. Buckner, University Libraries;
- Eric N. Epplett, College of Aviation;
- Tom Grossman, College of Aviation;
- Michelle E. Hruska, provost's office;
- Deborah A. O'Keefe, music;
- Carol Reid, College of Education and Human Development;
- Colleen A. Sante, Spanish; and
- Laura C. Weber, business services.

The Make a Difference Award Program is a campuswide peer-to-peer initiative that recognizes University staff members for their outstanding accomplishments and daily investment of energy and creativity.

Up to 15 staff members may receive the award in each of two semiannual award periods every academic year. These fall and spring semiannual award winners constitute the pool from which four Annual Make a

Difference Award recipients—the best of the best—are chosen. The annual award comes with a before-tax prize of \$1,200.

All award winners are selected by a committee of their peers from the employee groups that participate in the award program. The groups are the American Federation of

State, County and Municipal Employees; Michigan State Employees Association; Police Officers Association; and WMU Staff Compensation System, members of which are represented by the nonbargaining Administrative Professional Association and Professional Support Staff Organization.

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WMU, K College grant bolsters Asia-related classes

and Literatures under the guidance of its department chair, Molly Lynde-Recchia. In addition, the colleges of Arts and Sciences and Fine Arts will expand offerings in content-related courses about South and Southeast Asia. New classes on the Bollywood film industry, Vietnamese performance traditions, and new media among diasporic Southeast and South Asian populations are expected to draw student interest.

The consortium also will develop more study abroad programs, internships with local cultural organizations and other opportunities for WMU and K College students to interact with people from the two targeted regions.

The Southwest Michigan Education Initiative on the East Indian Ocean draws on the expertise and experience of faculty at both institutions. WMU's Alexander M.

Cannon, music, is the grant program's other co-principal investigator and Nathan L.M. Tabor, history, is the program's manager. K College's Carol Anderson, religion, will coordinate with Tabor on the workshops and activities related to South Asia.

A substantial number of people who reside in West Michigan trace their heritage to South Asian nations such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan and to Southeast Asian nations such as Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The 2010 U.S. Census reports that southwest Michigan is home to more than 3,500 people of South Asian ancestry. The Southeast Asian population in southwest and West Michigan includes nearly 6,000 people of Vietnamese descent alone, most of them residing around Grand Rapids.

Obituaries—wmich.edu/news/obituaries

Bernice F. Bigelow, a retired audio visual clerk in Waldo Library, died Feb. 6. She was 101. Bigelow joined the staff in 1963 and retired in 1980 after nearly 17 years of service.

Anna K. Campbell, a retired psychology faculty member, died Dec. 16, 2016. She was 81. Campbell retired in 1999 after 24 years of service.

Chuck Comer will be remembered during a celebration of his life from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 22, at Centerpoint Church

in Kalamazoo. Comer, a retired faculty member and former assistant football coach, died Dec. 13 at age 79.

Gertrude E. "Trudy" Rohr, a retired clerk II in parking services, died March 16. She was 82. Rohr joined the staff in 1985 and retired in 1996 after 11 years of service.

Kamlesh Sharma will be remembered during a celebration of her life from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 22, in the Richmond Center. Sharma, an emerita in biological sciences, died Dec. 21 at age 78.

Nancy S. Wilson, an occupational safety and health specialist in public safety, died Dec. 22. She was 73. Wilson joined the staff in 2000 and retired in 2012 after 12 years of service.

Virginia (Robinson) Sorenson, emerita in education and professional development, died Nov. 7, 2016. She was 90. Sorenson retired in 1985. During her time at WMU, she taught and served as director of summer schools for teacher training.

On Campus with Chris Hummel



JUMPING IN WITH BOTH FEET
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

As the lone professional staff member in public affairs and administration, Chris Hummel is a Jack of all trades.

Hummel takes care of the school's paperwork, including budgets and payroll; assists faculty members in myriad ways; and oversees events plus the website. She also supervises two graduate assistants and works with Extended University Programs to ensure that the school's offerings at the Battle Creek and Lansing regional locations run smoothly.

"I am the staff. I like it because it's not the same thing every day—anything can come up. I get to work with spreadsheets and data, graphics and flyers, and also interact with students and faculty," she says. "Academic regulations change all the time, and I've had to learn on the fly how to do the online newsletter and use Evite, Facebook and other apps. That can be scary, but kind of fun. You just jump in and see what happens."

The ability to push forward while staying organized and disciplined is something Hummel learned in the U.S. Army, a career that was its own kind of leap of faith. While checking out the Army after graduating from high school, she passed a physical in Detroit. Members of her group were then told to raise their hands and promptly notified they were in the Army.

Hummel retired as a sergeant in 2004, and spent 10 years on active duty before joining the Army National Guard and serving another 11 years as part of a signal unit that provided base communications. Her unit was called up in 2003, and she spent a year on active duty in Iraq. Hummel primarily worked in parts procurement for a motor pool but, with machine gun at the ready, also drove convoy trucks and helped guard the perimeter of bases where she was stationed.

"Iraq was an interesting experience, but not one I want to repeat" she says. "One base was mortared every day, so you learn to appreciate the quiet."

Hummel grew up in Parchment, Michigan, and decided to settle in the area to be close to family and "the four seasons." She came to WMU in 1998 and spent 12 years in the Evaluation Center before moving to her current job. She postponed college while working full time, fulfilling her National Guard duties and raising her son, Marquise, who is now a WMU custodian. But in 2015, Hummel earned a bachelor's degree in computer information systems from WMU.

She lives in Kalamazoo with her Chihuahua, Spike, and likes to crochet, etch glass and make soy candles. She uses these creative skills to make personal gifts for her graduate assistants, family and friends.

Honorary degree to be awarded to Antonio Flores

Antonio R. Flores, president and chief executive officer of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, will receive an honorary degree from WMU during commencement ceremonies Saturday, April 29.

Flores, who is a WMU alumnus, will receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters. He has led HACU since 1996 and previously been honored by two Michigan governors and the Michigan Legislature.

A campuswide committee made the degree recommendation to WMU President John M. Dunn and the WMU board. The committee, led by Kathryn L. Hillenbrand, speech pathology and audiology, praised Flores'

scholarly, professional and humanitarian leadership and noted that those qualities "comprise an exceptional model of the ideals and aspirations for students, faculty, staff and alumni of Western Michigan University."

HACU is the leading voice for Hispanic-serving institutions and has nearly tripled its membership during Flores' tenure. It now represents more than 400 institutions of higher education, collectively serving more than 2 million Hispanic students.



Flores

Student success directory created

Faculty and staff now have a centralized source for information, forms and resources pertaining to student success at WMU.

To access this resource, visit the A-Z home page at wmich.edu/directories and click the Student Services link to bring up the newly created Student Success Programs and Services Directory.

The link opens to a comprehensive directory. Another link allows employees to download the directory as a PDF document. Employees can use an A-Z list and a population-served table to navigate students into programs and toward services designed to help them succeed in college.

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Economist, labor expert is new WMU president

of a high-quality university is enormous and is a key reason the WMU presidency was so attractive to him.

"I was drawn to the opportunity to lead an up-and-coming student-centric comprehensive university with deep ties to the local and regional economy and community. Its strengths in the traditional arts and sciences, coupled with strong programs in such areas as aviation, engineering, business, medicine and others make it an institution with enormous potential," Montgomery says.

"Job No. 1 for me is getting to know the faculty, staff, students and alumni com-

munities. Working together, I know we can build on the strong foundation laid by President Dunn and make WMU the institution of choice for students from the state and region."

Researcher with Michigan ties

As a researcher, Montgomery has focused on state and local economic growth, wage and pension determination, savings behavior, productivity and economic dynamics, social insurance programs, and unions.

He has worked on research efforts with Kalamazoo's W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research since the 1980s,

visiting the Kalamazoo community a number of times.

Montgomery earned a bachelor's degree from Pennsylvania State University and both master's and doctoral degrees in economics from Harvard University.

He and his wife, Kari, a Michigan native, have three grown children—Lindsay, Elizabeth and Edward.

Montgomery will officially take office on Aug. 1. His five-year contract calls for him to have an annual salary of \$450,000. A deferred compensation/retirement package will provide an additional \$50,000 per year.

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