



Western News

JUNE 22, 2017
Volume 43, Number 18

For and about WMU faculty and staff

Commencement takes place Saturday

Two commencement ceremonies will be held Saturday, June 24, in Miller Auditorium for groups of graduating students. This will be the last time President John M. Dunn will lead WMU's graduation exercises, as he is scheduled to retire July 31.

The summer events are a 9 a.m. ceremony for graduates of the colleges of Aviation, Education and Human Development, Engineering and Applied Sciences, and Health and Human Services; and a 12:30 p.m. ceremony for graduates of the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Fine Arts, Extended University Programs, and Haworth College of Business.

Board of Trustees meeting scheduled

The next meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees will be held Thursday, June 29, in the Bernhard Center. The agenda includes consideration of promotion and tenure recommendations as well as budget and tuition recommendations.

The meeting will start at 11 a.m. Additional agenda information will be released online in WMU News at wmich.edu/news shortly before June 29.

Time to register for Bronco Bash

The 37th annual Bronco Bash is set for Friday, Sept. 8, on the Sangren Pedestrian Mall. The early registration deadline for booth space is Monday, July 31. Applications submitted after that date will be assessed a \$25 late fee and processed pending available booth space. The deadline for late application is 5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 25.

Bronco Bash is WMU's communitywide welcome-back-to-WMU festival. For more information, including an explanation of event policies as well as how to apply for a booth, volunteer at the event or become a sponsor, contact the student coordinators in the Bronco Bash office at (269) 387-0083.

Learn about employee tuition discount

An information session for employees interested in learning more about the University's tuition discount program is set for noon Wednesday, Aug. 16, in 204 Bernhard Center. The session will include presentations by the Office of Admissions, the Graduate College, Extended University Programs, Human Resources, the university studies program, and the Center for Academic Success Programs. For details, visit wmich.edu/admissions/guest/employees.

Western News now on summer hiatus

Today's issue of the *Western News*, WMU's faculty and staff newspaper, is the last issue for the summer. *Western News* will resume its regular publication schedule Thursday, Sept. 7, at the start of the 2017-18 academic year. During the hiatus, go to wmich.edu/news to keep up with campus news and announcements.

WMU president to be inaugurated Sept. 15

An annual celebration of the long-standing partnership between Kalamazoo and WMU this year will include the inauguration of WMU's ninth president.

Edward B. Montgomery, who will become president of WMU Aug. 1, will be formally inaugurated Friday, Sept. 15, during an 11 a.m. ceremony in Miller Auditorium. The formal ceremony will be part of the annual CommUniverCity weekend.

Members of the campus and wider Kalamazoo communities are invited to the event, which will mark the start of the next chapter in the community/university partnership.

In addition to the presidential inauguration, weekend CommUniverCity events will include a Saturday, Sept. 16, evening of tailgating and football under the lights vs. the University of Idaho. This will be the 26th consecutive year for the popular fall celebration designed to focus on com-



Incoming President Edward B. Montgomery and first lady Kari (Photo by Mike Lanka)

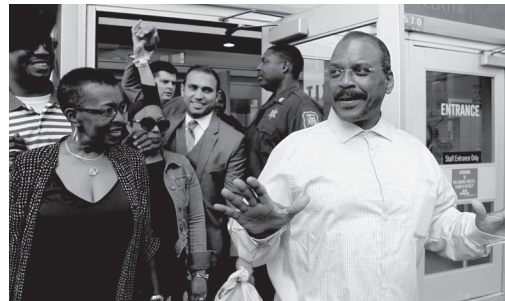
munity/university partnerships. Tailgate and game times are still to be set.

Friday's formal inauguration will take place in Miller Auditorium and is expected to attract members of the Kalamazoo and campus communities, members of the Montgomery family, and academic leaders from around

Continued on page 4

Law school frees man unjustly jailed for 42 years

A Detroit man, Ledura Watkins, was freed June 15 after serving 42 years in prison for a robbery and murder he did not commit, thanks to the efforts of the WMU Cooley Law School Innocence Project.



Ledura Watkins, front, walks out a free man with members of his family and the Innocence Project team. (Photo courtesy of WMU Cooley Law School)

States to be determined innocent. The WMU Cooley Innocence Project filed a motion for a new trial Jan. 19. The project is staffed by WMU Cooley Law School students and WMU undergraduates, who work under the supervision of project attorneys. Staff Attorney Eric Schroeder and Legal Intern Wisam Mikho served as lead counsel in this case.

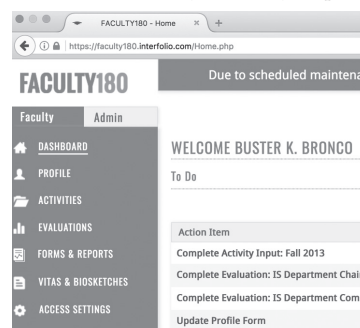
In reaching its decision, the prosecutor's office agreed that hair comparison evidence

Continued on page 4

Digital system set to streamline faculty activity reports, CV updates

A new digital reporting system for professional activities will be piloted on campus in August and is expected to be ready for full faculty participation in the fall.

The new Faculty Activity Reporting System—FARS—is designed to provide an online



How part of the FARS website will look

process for faculty members to submit Professional Activity Reports in a single location and, through that tool, automatically generate updated curricula vitae or biographical material for personal and professional use.

"With the click of a trackpad, faculty members will be able to create different forms of their bios or vitae," says Associate Dean Keith Hearit, College of Arts and Sciences, who has been co-coordinating the initiative with Fen Yu, institutional research. Access will be simplified as well, he says, by offering a single sign-on location through GoWMU.

Hearit says the University's existing PeopleSoft and

Continued on page 4

Archaeological activities at Fort St. Joseph enthrall young, old

The Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project, sponsored by WMU and the city of Niles, Michigan, is hosting a summer lecture series and open house.

The lecture series is an opportunity for the public to engage in several interactive and educational programs that focus on this year's theme, "Community Partnerships: Building Meaningful Connections Through Archaeology." The annual four-part series begins at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 12, in the Niles District Library, 620 E. Main St. in Niles. It continues on Wednesdays through Aug. 2 at the same location.

The topics to be covered are: July 12, "Conversations and Collaborations; Objectives, and Obligations: Building and

Sustaining Meaningful University-Community Partnerships in Context"; July 19, "Braiding Knowledge: Community-based Archaeology With Turkish and Native American Communities"; July 26, "Negotiating Multiple Communities Surrounding (Literally and Figuratively) the Stone Street Recovery and Repatriation Project in Downtown Flint, Michigan"; and Aug. 2, "Archaeology and Communities, Past and Present."

The Fort St. Joseph project also will host a free open house from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 5, and Sunday, Aug. 6, at the corner of Fort and Bond streets in Niles.

Attendees can meet WMU archaeologists working at the archaeological site, observe period demonstrations at the Living History Village, view recently uncovered artifacts, explore the active site and learn more about the importance of the St. Joseph River, past and present.

The event also will include activities and crafts for children, and opportunities for attendees to hear period music and participate in period dance.

For more information, visit wmich.edu/fortstjoseph.



Living history reenactments and discussions about recent finds at Fort St. Joseph are some of the many family-friendly activities that take place during the open house. (Photos by Cheryl Roland)

Readers invited to take part in fall ethics-related book clubs

Just in time for summer reading, the Center for the Study of Ethics in Society has announced the launching of three book clubs dealing with hot-button ethical questions that will begin meeting this fall.

Discussions of the three books begin Wednesday, Sept. 20, and continue through late November. The book clubs are open to the greater campus community. Books are provided free of charge to the first 10 people who sign up via email sent to ethicscenter@wmich.edu. To participate in a club, people must sign up no later than one week before the group's first meeting.

The featured books are "Black and Blue: The Origins and Consequences of Medical Racism" by John Hoberman, "The Left Hand of Darkness" by Ursula LeGuin, and "The Harm in Hate Speech" by Jeremy Waldron.

For more information, visit wmich.edu/ethics. Questions may be directed to Sandra Borden, center director, at sandra.borden@wmich.edu.

BTR Park set to host 12th annual cycling criterium

Registration is open for the annual CyclingLawyer.com Criterium, set for Saturday, July 8, on the Parkview Campus.

The day of competition—which attracts 250-300 cyclists from the Midwest and awards more than \$6,000 in cash and other prizes—begins at 8 a.m. and features a 1.1-mile circuit around the college's Floyd Hall. The circuit has three 90-degree turns and multiple sweeping turns that excite spectators as well as racers.

This is the 12th year WMU and its BTR Park will host a criterium—a series of timed races lasting 45 to 90 minutes across several categories for men, women and juniors.

For 2017, there will be a free

kid's bike race for youth 12 years of age and under at about noon, with no registration required. Smoked Down BBQ is the official food vendor, and will be on site from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. offering food and beverages.

The night of Friday, July 7, on-bike cycling clinics for men, women and children will be staged on the race circuit. Pre-registration is free, or \$10 the day of the clinic, space permitting.

For more criterium details, visit wmich.edu/btrrace. To register, visit usacycling.org/events and type BTR Park Criterium in the event search box.

Receptions

Katharine Cummings, Barbara Harris and Jerry Pillsbury, teaching and educational studies, will be recognized for their WMU service during a retirement reception from 2 to 4 p.m. Friday, June 23, in Sangren Hall's second-floor Wegenke Plaza.

Kai Chapman, development and alumni relations, will be recognized for her 47 years of WMU service during a retirement reception from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 27, in the Heritage Hall Café.

Ray Kezenius, Facilities Management, will be recognized for his 27 years of WMU service during a retirement reception from 3 to 5 p.m. Thursday, June 29, at the Oaklands. Light refreshments will be served.

Daniel Litynski will be recognized for his WMU service as vice president for research during a reception from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Friday, June 30, in the Gilmore Theatre Complex atrium.

Staff retirements

Editor's note: The following retirements are based on when the Board of Trustees approved them. Some retirements have yet to take effect. For specific retirement dates, visit wmich.edu/trustees/agendas-minutes, select a meeting month and click the Personnel Report link.

March 2017—Staff retirements: James Brown, maintenance services; Fawn Callen, information technology; John Disbro, landscape services; Darlean Grant, building custodial and support services; Timothy Kellogg, business services; Lynn Lee, field placements; Conn Macomber, construction; Laurie Miley, building custodial and support services; Joyce Parsons, Facilities Management; and Matthew Tomczak, information technology.

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.

Western News

Volume 43 Number 18

EDITOR: Jeanne Baron. CONTRIBUTORS: Cara Barnes, Paula M. Davis, Tonya Durlach, Deanne Puca, Cheryl P. Roland and Mark E. Schwerin. PRODUCTION: Office of University Relations. DISTRIBUTION AND MAILING: Teresa Ventimiglia.

WESTERN NEWS (USPS 362-210) is published by the Office of University Relations, Walwood Hall, Western Michigan University, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5433, every other week during the fall and spring semesters and Summer I session. Periodicals postage paid at Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5165.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Western News*, Office of University Relations, Western Michigan University, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5433.

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 I 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.

WMU is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer consistent with applicable state and federal laws.



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Fall Convocation slated

WMU's 2017 Fall Convocation is set for Friday, Oct. 6, on the second floor of the Bernhard Center.

An annual tradition, the convocation features each year's State of the University Address, preceded by the presentation of campuswide awards that the University bestows on its faculty and staff.

This year, the award presentation begins at 11 a.m. for recipients of three Distinguished Faculty Scholar Awards, three Distinguished Teaching Awards, two Distinguished Service Awards, one Emerging Scholar Award and four Make a Difference Awards.

Following the award presentations, new WMU President Edward B. Montgomery will give his first State of the University Address. Following the address, a reception will be held for Montgomery, who will be inaugurated Friday, Sept. 15, as WMU's ninth president.

Convocation day starts with a morning program that includes presentations by the 2016 Distinguished Teaching Award winners as well as speakers representing WMU's Teaching With Technology Symposium and Assessment in Action Subcommittee.

To register for a morning program event, visit wapps.wmich.edu/workshops. Direct questions to Susan Daniels at susan.daniels@wmich.edu or (269) 387-2383.

Hockey team thanks supporters

The hockey Broncos will thank their supporters during a Friends and Alumni Weekend Friday and Saturday, July 28-29.

Friday, participants will be treated to an alumni hockey game at Lawson Ice Arena followed by a reception at the Fetzer Center. The reception will provide an opportunity to socialize, have something to eat and drink, and participate in a silent and live auction.

Saturday events are a lunch followed by the Bronco Hockey Ring of Honor induction, an 18-hole best-ball scramble for the Friends and Alumni Cup, and a catered dinner, all at the Moors Golf Club in Portage, Michigan.

Registration for all weekend activities costs \$175, or people may register on an a-la-carte basis. To register, visit wmugolfoutings.com. For more details, call Lynn Ross at (269) 387-3049.

Linda Dunn honored by women's groups

WMU's first lady, Linda Dunn, is one of three area women who were honored June 13 with the inaugural Kalamazoo round of achievement awards made by the Michigan Women's Foundation and Kalamazoo chapter of the Links Inc.

Dunn was awarded a 2017 Courage and Achievement Award during a communitywide dinner celebration in Kalamazoo. Her fellow honorees were Grace Lubwama, CEO of the YWCA of Kalamazoo and Ronda Stryker, board member for the Stryker Corp. Previous recipients of the award at

other locations in Michigan over the past 30 years have included first lady Betty Ford, singer Aretha Franklin and General Motors CEO Mary Barra.

Dunn was honored for the leadership, dedication and sense of humor she has brought to a lifetime of volunteer activities



Linda Dunn (Photo by Mike Lanka)

in the communities where the Dunn family has lived. Those efforts range from founding a still-thriving soup kitchen in Oregon to serving in Michigan on the Foster Care

Review Board of Kalamazoo County. Locally, she also has been actively involved with the Kalamazoo Symphony, Kalamazoo Institute of Arts and the Friends of the Richmond Center.

The Michigan Women's Foundation is a statewide organization focused on developing the next generation of women leaders, accelerating women's

entrepreneurship and advancing Michigan's women's agenda. The Kalamazoo chapter of the Links Inc. serves the Kalamazoo and Battle Creek communities by providing scholarships and transformational program activities to enhance the development of young women and area youth.

Director named to lead product design institute

A practiced product designer and industrial design educator will soon take the reins of the Richmond Institute of Product Design and



Elwell

Innovation, an interdisciplinary unit currently being developed.

Michael Elwell, assistant professor of industrial design at the University of Notre Dame, will serve as director of the Richmond Institute as well as join the Gwen Frostic School of Art as an associate professor of art.

He will officially begin that leadership role in August, just prior to the fall semester, the arrival of the program's first cohort of students and the beginning of construction on Kohrman Hall, which is being renovated as the institute's future home. The institute is named for James and Lois Richmond, who contributed \$3 million toward the renovation.

Prior to joining the faculty at Notre Dame,

Elwell worked as an industrial design professional for companies including Coachmen Recreational Vehicles, Radio Flyer and Process4, a design firm near Cleveland, Ohio.

He has worked on products in industries ranging from automotive to housewares, and he holds a patent for his award-winning prescription pill container opener and label magnifier, the "Magnifying Medi-Grip," which is now licensed to Jokari Inc.

Elwell earned Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Fine Arts degrees in industrial design from the universities of Notre Dame and Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, respectively. With his extensive education and experience in the industrial design field, he is expected to provide insight and direction as the Richmond Institute of Product Design and Innovation takes shape.

"My goal is to create a contemporary program that is responsive to today's design landscape, one that encourages students to deeply consider the interactions between people and products," Elwell says.

College of Health and Human Services to celebrate new program's first cohort

The College of Health and Human Services will recognize the first cohort in its new Health Career Connections program with a Friday, June 30, celebratory luncheon.

Earlie M. Washington, dean of the college, will host the luncheon for the 12 students and their families to mark the program's final day of activities for this year.

The event will be attended by WMU President John M. Dunn and other officials from across the campus. Leaders from organizations that donated to the program from the state of Michigan and health care institutions throughout southwest Michigan also will be in attendance.

The Health Career Connections program, announced last March, is for select incoming first-year students who plan to major in a health or human services discipline and come from underprivileged and medically underserved areas of Michigan. It is hoped

that these students will return to their home areas after graduation to improve the diversity, quality and availability of health care. Washington began her college career in a similar program in Mississippi.

Those accepted into WMU's program receive full scholarships to cover the cost of tuition, housing and meal plans to live in a campus residence hall during the summer I session while earning six hours of academic credit.

They are selected from students residing in the 19-county catchment area of the Western Regional Area Health Education Center, which is housed in the College of Health and Human Services.

Nancy Cretsinger, the college's director of academic and student services, says the students in the first cohort are truly exceptional.

"The students in this group have achieved great things academically, and many of them

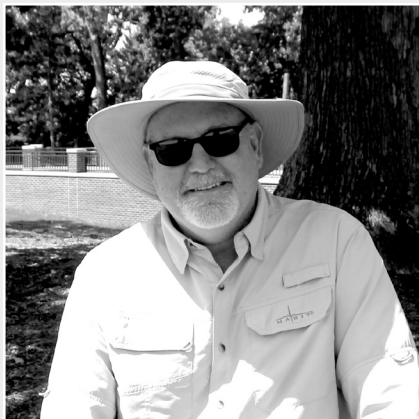


Students take a field trip to the Mary Free Bed facility in Grand Rapids, Michigan. (Photo courtesy of College of Health and Human Services)

have overcome great challenges to do so," Cretsinger says. "Talking to these students is nothing short of inspirational."

For more information about the Health Career Connection program, visit wmich.edu/ahc/programs/connection.

On Campus with Michael Taylor



COVERING A LOT OF GROUND
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

Even when temperatures are soaring, Michael Taylor knows some of the best places around campus to keep cool. Recently, the master gardener and group leader for landscape services' South Region was communicating with his staff via radio from one of the new wooden benches they built and installed under a sprawling oak tree by Heritage Hall's Grand Lawn.

The venerable oak, dubbed Waldo, is just one of the countless trees, lawns and plants that Taylor and his team tend in their region, which stretches south and north along Oakland Drive from Howard Street to Stadium Drive and includes Lovell and Davis street property, plus the WMU president's house, Gilmore House, Stadium Drive Apartments and entire Parkview Campus.

"It's a lot of work, but we work as a team," Taylor says about his crew of five full-time gardeners and groundskeepers, three-to-five student employees, and, in summer, two loaned Dining Services staffers. "My main job is to make sure they use their time wisely. I set priorities, hand out work assignments, do the training for my group, troubleshoot and try to teach. If I can be of help and they can be successful, that's a good day for me."

He says he fell into landscape work when the love of his life, Patti, moved to Texas after graduating from WMU. Taylor followed her there, found a grounds job at a church, and by the time they moved back to Michigan a year later, he was hooked. Taylor started studying and teaching himself landscaping and horticulture. He landed a job with a management company, then was hired by the Upjohn Co.'s Brook Lodge near Augusta, Michigan, later becoming grounds manager. He held that post through the facility's gifting to Michigan State University but when the Great Recession closed the lodge in 2009, Taylor jumped on an opening at WMU.

"I really enjoy being here. It's a unique culture, and I've been able to continue to learn because my position requires me to be certified in a relevant field," he says, adding that he completes 30 hours of continuing education every three years to maintain his arborist certification. "I didn't anticipate it, but what I like most is working with the student employees. They just energize me. They come in, and anything is possible. I've stayed connected to several of them. I really like that."

Taylor and Patti live in Portage, Michigan, and have two grown sons, Joel, a WMU graduate, and Brett. He is a past union steward and now an alternate steward at WMU as well as active with the Michigan Career Technical Institute in Plainwell as an advisory board member. He enjoys spending time with Patti, especially while fishing, bicycle riding and snowshoeing.

"After 31 years of marriage," he says, "she still likes to hang out with me."

Continued from page 1

WMU president to be inaugurated Sept. 15

the state and nation. It will be followed by additional celebratory events that are still in the planning stages. Details about the Miller ceremony and other inaugural activities Sept. 15 will be announced later this summer, but those interested in attending should plan to save the date.

Montgomery's appointment as WMU president was announced April 12. He comes to the University from Georgetown University, where he serves as dean and professor of economics at the McCourt School of Public

Policy. He succeeds John M. Dunn, who is retiring after a decade of service as president.

Collegiate presidential inaugurations in the United States originated with the nation's nine colonial colleges in the 17th century and established the custom of formally acknowledging a change in leadership at a school's highest level.

Today, an inaugural ceremony is regarded as a public opportunity to celebrate a university's past and traditions as it transitions into the future.

Continued from page 1

Digital system set to streamline faculty activity reports, CV updates

Banner records will prepopulate some of the data into the system that faculty previously had to enter, and an August pilot testing by interested faculty on campus will help prepare for a full launch at the beginning of the fall semester. Academic deans have just completed the process of approving their respective updated PAR formats.

A major benefit of the system is that data can be automatically imported from existing internal information covering courses taught, enrollment and credit hour data. Faculty also will have the option of importing their scholarly activity information directly from professional or personal databases such as Google Scholar, EBSCO, MEDLINE/PubMed, Zotero, Endnote, Web of Science

and others, using BibTex or RIS formats.

As a result, Hearit says people will not have to complete multiple requests for the same data and WMU and its various units will be able to collect more meaningful data to use in important campus objectives.

Training will be available for faculty when the system is rolled out this fall.

Network keeps guests connected

Visitors to campus this summer, and any other time, can easily stay connected using the WMU Guest network. Campus visitors may use this University wireless network for up to 18 hours. Details are available at wmich.edu/helpdesk/wmuguest.

Continued from page 1

Law school frees man

used against Watkins does not meet today's scientific and legal standards. In 2013, the FBI disavowed testimony by FBI-trained analysts, finding they often overstated their conclusions. The Detroit lab analysts, trained by the FBI, tied Watkins to the crime scene based on a single hair. Earlier, a witness testifying against Watkins recanted his story.

"Hair comparison is not based on science; it is simply a lab analyst's subjective opinion and has no place in our criminal justice system," says Marla Mitchell-Cichon, director of the WMU Cooley Innocence Project. "This is why a statewide review of hair comparison cases is critical."

Mitchell-Cichon commended Prosecutor Kym Worthy and the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office for working with her office to resolve the case. The prosecutor's office agreed that the new scientific standards are "newly discovered" evidence.

Mitchell-Cichon also noted that over the years, Watkins never stopped fighting for his freedom. He never gave up on the belief that the truth would come out. His loved ones also got their wish; he will attend a family reunion in August.

After screening 5,500 cases, the WMU Cooley effort has led to four exonerations. It is part of the Innocence Network, which has been credited with the release of more than 350 wrongfully accused prisoners through the use of DNA testing.

Western News

JUNE 22, 2017

Volume 43, Number 18

wmich.edu/westernnews