Magura awarded $2.1 million federal grant

About 20 national registers are available to help clinicians find and use programs that are most effective in treating behavioral problems such as alcohol and drug misuse. But how well are they working? That's the question Stephen Magura will try to answer in a major three-year project sponsored by a $2.1 million grant from the National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Magura, who directs the Evaluation Center, says the registers help clinicians, practitioners and administrators make better decisions about which behavioral programs to implement or expand. These websites disseminate information on evidence-based programs and practices to community behavioral health care providers so they can make decisions based on scientific evidence rather than word of mouth, intuition or what other agencies are using.

But nobody has actually studied how well the websites are working for this purpose, at least not until now.

“The evidence-based program registers fill the need as a sort of mediator between the rather complex research base and the practitioners, administrators and clinicians who need the results of that research,” Magura says. “So the registers digest the research, summarize it and interpret it and then make decisions based on that summary and then present it to the public, and many are free or low-cost although administration registration or tickets may be required.”

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Become part of the homecoming 2017 royal family

“We Will Reign” is the theme for WMU’s weekend homecoming that takes place Monday, Oct. 23, to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 18; and Ning Zhang, master faculty specialist in civil and environmental engineering at the University of North Dakota, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 16; Decker Hains, master faculty specialist in civil and construction engineering at WMU, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 18; and Ping Zhang, a master faculty specialist in civil and construction engineering at WMU, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 23.

The successful candidate will replace Edmund Tsang, associate dean of undergraduate programs and assessment for the engineering college. He has announced his plans to retire at the end of December, after serving in the role since 2001.

Honorary degree nominations accepted

The Honorary Degree Committee has issued a call for nominations of individuals to be considered for honorary degrees from the University in 2018. The committee will accept nomination materials through Friday, Oct. 27, and review the materials received in October and November.

Scholar-related award recipients to be feted at convocation

Editor’s note: Five campuswide award programs will be celebrated during the Fall Convocation Friday, Oct. 6, in the Bernhard Center. This issue recognizes winners of two of those programs. The Fall Convocation will include a Teaching and Learning Bash from 9 to 10:45 a.m., Assessment as Ally and Teaching with Technology conferences from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m., the award ceremony at 11 a.m., and the State of the University address at 11:45 a.m. followed immediately by a free luncheon.

Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award

This award will be presented to Thomas Gorczyca, Victor Cunru Xiong and Ping Zhang. The honor is the highest award WMU bestows on faculty members and salutes individuals whose work constitutes a significant body of achievement that is widely recognized within the national and international academic communities.

• Gorczyca, physics, is a first-rate theoretical atomic physicist with keen physical insight and unquestioned scientific integrity for work in the area of photon- and electron-initiated collisions. He has theoretical collaborators in Europe and experimental collaborations with scientists from Columbia University as well as universities in Europe.

Family members of WMU students can purchase tickets at a discount using the Family Weekend promotion code, FAMILY, at wmich.edu/families/weekend. WMU students get into athletic events for free with their Bronco Card.

Details about most student homecoming activities are posted at wmich.edu/studentengagement/homecoming, and alumni activities are posted at mywmuc.com/homecoming. The campuswide calendar at wmich.edu/news/events lists both, as well as various other events.

Major homecoming activities include:

• Bronco Spirit Cup Competition—Teams registered by Sunday, Oct. 8, at wmich.edu/studentengagement/homecoming

Magura

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Faculty development programs set
The Office of Faculty Development has many programs scheduled for this fall, including Cool Tools for Teaching, Part-Time Instructor II and Teaching Inclusivity Professional Development workshops. For more information, including how to register, visit wmich.edu/facultydevelopment/programs.

Annual China Festival coming up
The fourth annual China Festival will be held from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 7, in the Student Recreation Center to promote Chinese studies programs on campus and to broaden the community’s understanding about Chinese culture. Admission to the festival and parking are free, and for a nominal fee, attendees may sample traditional foods prepared by local restaurants. Attendees also may participate in free classes and hands-on cultural activities, enjoy cultural performances and peruse informational display booths.

Talk to focus on climate change
Vinod Thomas, formerly with the Asian Development Bank and World Bank, will discuss his latest book and lead a panel discussion with WMU climate experts at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 11, in 2028 Brown Hall. WMU President Emeritus John M. Dunn will offer introductory remarks. The event will conclude with a reception and refreshments in 3025 Brown.

The panel discussion will focus on the subject of Thomas’ most recent book, “Climate Change and Natural Disasters: Transforming Economies and Policies for a Sustainable Future.” Participating in the panel discussion will be Paul Clements, political science; Lisa Dechano-Cook, geography; Deane Hampton, geosciences; and Carson Reeling, economics, as well as environment and sustainability.

Michigan Autism Conference slated
The fifth annual Michigan Autism Conference will be held Wednesday through Friday, Oct. 11-13, in the Radisson Plaza Hotel and Suites. The conference is dedicated to providing families, practitioners, educators and researchers with the latest information on a variety of topics related to the assessment and treatment of autism.

Richard Malott, psychology, and Carmen Jonaitis, teaching, learning and educational studies, will kick off the event with a presentation titled “The Past, Present and Future of Applied Behavior Analysis and Autism” at 6 p.m. Oct. 11. The event will include a special tribute to Malott for his contributions to the treatment of autism for more than 50 years. For registration and other information, visit michiganautismconference.org.

Panel to address immigration
Issues surrounding immigration, hospitality and being a good neighbor will be explored in a panel discussion by editors and contributors of the new anthology “Immigration and Justice for Our Neighbor.” The event will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 12, in the Bernhard Center’s Brown and Gold Room. Anthology co-editor Miriam Downey tutors WMU international students, and contributor Hedy Habra is on the English faculty.

The retirements of nine faculty members and 16 staff members were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees at its Sept. 20 meeting. Trustees also signed off on nine faculty resignations.

Get ready to #GiveGold Oct. II
Since WMU’s founding in 1903, Broncos have been helping WMU succeed by donating the time, talent and money necessary to keep WMU strong and growing.

Now, WMU is launching a new giving effort to boost Bronco success. The first Universitywide Giving Day is set for Oct. 11—Western Wednesday of homecoming week. The goal is to encourage 1,903 employees, alumni, retirees, students and friends to make a gift to WMU in the 24-hour period between midnight and 11:59 p.m.

A matching fund has been established that challenges various categories of donors to take part in a friendly competition that increases the impact of their giving. Called Golden Opportunities, these challenges award $1,200, $2,000 or $3,000 bonus dollars to the winners to donate back to their WMU units or other WMU areas of choice.

Challenges have been set up for WMU colleges, WMU non-academic units, individual fundraisers and the gift furthest from campus. A random winner also will be selected as well as a social media-related winner based on criteria to be announced at noon Oct. 11 at facebook.com/mywmu.

Faculty and staff members are encouraged to get involved to help raise funds for their academic or administrative units. Spread the word via social media using #WMU-GivingDay and #GiveGold.

The day is replacing the Broncos4Broncos campaign that the Office of Development and Alumni Relations has been running the past few years.

For more information, visit givingday.mywmu.com.

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All of the faculty members who are retiring are doing so with emeritus status. The employees leaving the University, along with their names, positions, and effective dates of leaving, are:

Faculty retirements—Bruce Bejcek; biological sciences, May 1, 2018; Christine Browning, mathematics, April 30, 2023; Janet Coryell, history, Dec. 31, 2017; Douglas Davidson, sociology, April 30, 2018; Thomas Edmunds, finance and commercial law, Aug. 14, 2017 (change in date only); Leigh Ford, communication, June 30, 2018; Jerry McLaughlin, counselor education and counseling psychology, Dec. 31, 2018; Linda Zoeller, nursing, Aug. 31, 2018; and Robin McLaughlin, counselor education and counseling psychology, Aug. 14, 2018.


The University has seen a dramatic increase in its number of out-of-state students this fall as well as a strong overall surge in the number of new undergraduates and a significant boost to the academic profile of incoming students.

Total fall 2017 enrollment stands at 22,893—down 1.5 percent from the fall 2016 total of 23,252. Graduate enrollment was up slightly to 4,958 students, while undergraduate enrollment was down slightly to 17,935 students.

The final WMU census numbers reflect a 5.1 percent increase in the number of beginning undergraduate students—to 3,179 this year, compared with 3,026 last year. This year’s freshman class comes from 65 Michigan counties and 29 other states. More than 42 percent of them have a high school GPA of 3.5 or above, compared with 37 percent the previous year.

Undergraduate nonresident domestic enrollment—students from other U.S. states—rose by 30.8 percent this fall, and out-of-state graduate numbers grew by 14 percent. Those figures reflect increased marketing efforts beyond Michigan’s borders, as well as a change to the University’s out-of-state undergraduate tuition structure. Michigan students, however, continue to account for 85 percent of WMU’s total student population.

New lab to tackle shortage of manufacturing talent

Construction has begun at WMU-Grand Rapids’ downtown regional location for a state-of-the-art manufacturing laboratory that will occupy the first two floors of the downtown building. According to a recent employer assessment by Talent 2025, an organization consisting of educational institutions and industry partners for our region, “the supply for managers and supervisors within the manufacturing industry in the region is about 90 percent of the demand.”

The facility will serve as a program to cultivate the next generation of engineers, designers and other skilled individuals to serve the manufacturing industry. The AMP Lab will combine prototyping, training and small-scale manufacturing with the opportunity for individuals to earn a degree.

Montgomery kicks off 2017 campus United Way campaign

WMU President Edward Montgomery kicked off the 2017 campus United Way Campaign during a Sept. 28 event by announcing the 2017 goals of raising $200,000 and increasing participation by 10 percent.

Faculty and staff should receive their pledge cards soon. For reasons of privacy, the card is to be returned directly to the Office of the President.

Collections bins will be in buildings throughout campus through Tuesday, Oct. 31. Those wishing to donate also may purchase a book from an Amazon wish list at amzn.to/2vWBoAF and have them sent directly to United Way.

Any new, undesignated gift of at least $50, or an undesignated gift to United Way that has increased from the previous year by $25, automatically enters a person in a drawing for up to $30,000 applied to a car of choice from one of the sponsoring dealerships. To be included in this special thank-you drawing, pledge forms must be received at the president’s office by 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 10. The winner will be announced by the regional United Way Thursday, Dec. 14.

Employee groups launch survey

The University’s two nonbargaining groups for Staff Compensation System employees launched the WMU Staff Engagement Survey this week to gather staff input about working at WMU.

The Administrative Professional Association and Professional Support Staff Organization discussed the survey during a joint open house Sept. 28. The instrument will remain open until Tuesday, Oct. 31; takes about 15-20 minutes to complete; and can be started, saved and restarted at a later time.

It is open to all benefits-eligible nonbargaining staff members governed by the Staff Compensation System. Members of the two groups should have begun receiving an email message that contains their link to the survey. Nonmembers are asked to visit wmich.edu/apasurvey and provide their name and email address so they can be sent their link.

The survey is designed to be taken online, but a paper version is available upon request. Responses are anonymous, and respondents will be entered into a drawing for $10 gift cards.

Obituaries—wmich.edu/news/obituaries

Rita “Claire” Callan, emerita in occupational therapy, died Sept. 18 in Kalamazoo. She was 87. Callan joined the full-time faculty ranks in 1974 and retired in 1992 after nearly 18 years of service and 12 years of prior teaching at WMU as a part-time instructor.

George Dales, the most successful coach in WMU athletic history, died Sept. 27. He was 96. Dales was a track and field and cross country coach. He came to WMU in 1953, retired from coaching in 1970 and remained on the faculty until his 1987 retirement.

Judith K. Timmerman, a former office supervisor in public safety, died Aug. 14. She was 77. Timmerman joined the staff in 1980 and retired in 1996 after over 15 years of service.

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that is actually panning out.”

Magura’s study will focus on registers

providing information on evidence-based

programs for behavioral health care, which

broadly encompasses alcohol and drug

misuse, mental health and child welfare

programs. The study also will delve into

state and federal mandates for the use of

evidence-based programs in behavioral

health care.

Magura plans to post preliminary reports

during the three-year study and publish a

final report and articles when it is fin-

ished in an effort ultimately to make the

registers more accessible, user-friendly and

interpretable.

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10 journal volumes, contributed 26 articles

and five textbooks on graph theory,

in classical and structural graph theory. She

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in classical and structural graph theory. She

has authored or co-authored 272 research

articles and five textbooks on graph theory,

discrete mathematics and proofs.

Emerging Scholar Award

The Emerging Scholar Award acknowl-

edges the accomplishments of faculty

members who are among the rising stars

in U.S. higher education, have achieved

national recognition and have demonstrated

outstanding promise to achieve renown.

• Mezei, chemistry, has developed a

novel class of compounds called “nanojars,”

research that could potentially assist in

purifying water. His team has shown that

nanojars can reduce levels of arsenic and

chromate from water to those acceptable to

the Environmental Protection Agency.

Continued from Page 1

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• Zhang, mathematics, has contributed
greatly to the mathematical community. Her

Continued from Page 1

On Campus with Cheri Butler

During busy times at the beginning and end of semesters, the registrar’s office can

field an average 500 calls a week, not including walk-in traffic and emails. As office

supervisor for academic records, it’s Cheri Butler’s job to supervise that contact with

students, making sure questions get answered and concerns solved.

A large portion of her work is supervising requests for transcripts, the removal of in-

completes and grade changes—all that is done manually—as well as processing

grades for study abroad and academic forgiveness forms.

“What I enjoy the most is that I get to interact with current and former students and a

lot of different departments within WMU. It’s nice to get to know the staff in the other

departments because we’re all on the same team and all have the same goal: to help

the students in any way we can,” says Butler, who’s worked in the office for 12 years

including the past nine in her current position.

A major project since 2014 has been scanning student records, some as far back as the

1980s, into WMU’s Image Now document management system and eliminating paper

files that fill rows of cabinets among the counters and cubicles in the office. The records

area staff of eight, an additional four student employees and two temporary full-time

employees help with the project that began with 73,000 files. Working alphabetically,

the team is now up to last names beginning with “S” and hopes to be done this December.

“We are a very busy office all through the year,” Butler quips. “We try to think of the

Registrar’s Office as a friendly, helpful place. We get a lot of phone calls. If it’s something

we don’t do here, we try to get you to the right place.”

Prior to joining WMU, Butler worked four years as a kindergarten paraprofessional.

She earned her bachelor’s degree from WMU in early education and music and has a

son who is a 2014 alumnus touring with a well-known band as a lighting specialist.

Another son is an Air Force pilot, while her husband owns Bruce Electric in Osthmo.

Butler, who grew up on a dairy farm, lives in Vicksburg, Michigan, and has three

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Oct. 13, in the Bernhard Center. The 2017 honorees

are Jeanne H. Carlson, a retired Blue Care Network of

Michigan president and CEO, and Birgit M. Klohs, CEO

of The Right Place Inc. in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

For tickets and other information, visit mywmu.com/da.

• WMU Homecoming Stampede Tailgate—Fun and entertainment for the whole family

takes place during this event starting at 12:30 p.m. in Parking Lot 1 off of Oakland Drive.

There will be specialty tailgate areas such as those for Family Weekend attendees and

the Haworth College of Business Pancake Breakfast from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

• Family Weekend Sunday Brunch—This full breakfast and lunch buffet with live entertain-

ment will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 15, in the Valley Dining Center.

• Heritage Hall Open House—Self-guided tours of the building are set for noon to 4 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 15. There will be free on-site parking in Lot 1 by the building.

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