



# Western News

For and about WMU faculty and staff

NOVEMBER 16, 2017  
Volume 44, Number 6

## Trustees approve 2018 meeting dates

The WMU Board of Trustees has set its meeting dates for 2018. The dates, all of which are Wednesdays, may be modified as necessary. They are Jan. 24 in Heritage Hall, March 14 in a location to be determined, April 18 in the Bernhard Center, June 27 in the Bernhard Center, Sept. 12 in the Bernhard Center, Nov. 7 in Heritage Hall, and Dec. 12 in the Bernhard Center. Board meetings are open to the public at 11 a.m.

## TotalTech offering discounts today

The TotalTech store is holding a faculty-staff appreciation event until 6 p.m. today. All currently in-stock Apple, Dell and Microsoft computers and iPad Pro models will be up to 8 percent off the regular educational price. All Apple computer and iPad purchases will receive a free Apple coffee mug.

## PSSO continues holiday tradition

The Professional Support Staff Organization is taking orders for specialty popcorn from Kalamazoo Kettle Corn. Sales will help support PSSO functions and events. Orders are due by 4 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 21. For details, visit [wmich.edu/pssso](http://wmich.edu/pssso).

## Dining Services is conducting survey

Be heard by taking the Dining Services customer satisfaction survey online through Wednesday, Nov. 22. Survey takers will be entered to win one of 10 prizes, including four Xbox One consoles, Bose Soundlink On-Ear Bluetooth Headphones and five \$25 Dining Dollar gift cards. More information is available at [wmich.edu/dining/survey](http://wmich.edu/dining/survey).

## Training set for select employees

All faculty and staff members who have contact with minors are encouraged to attend a precollege leadership training Thursday, Dec. 7. Learn more and register online at [wmich.edu/precollege/policies/training](http://wmich.edu/precollege/policies/training).

Topics to be covered will include emergency-management procedures, cultural humility, college-positive volunteerism, minors-on-campus policies, social media and liability, managing difficult youth, and maintaining authentic partnerships.

## Specialty map available online

WMU offers several gender-inclusive restrooms in various locations across campus. A map of unisex, single-stall and gender-neutral bathrooms can be found online. Visit [wmich.edu/lbgt](http://wmich.edu/lbgt) for more information.

## Get your portrait taken for the new year

Employees may have their official University photos taken between 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, in Walwood Hall's Heinig Emeriti Lounge. No appointment is required. Photos will be available for download within three weeks at [photos.wmich.edu](http://photos.wmich.edu). Direct questions to Sue Beougher at [sue.beougher@wmich.edu](mailto:sue.beougher@wmich.edu) or (269) 387-8402.

## Scores of transformative ideas under review

With a final tally of 61 ideas submitted for funding from the Transformational Initiative Fund that President Edward Montgomery announced Oct. 6, vice presidents and other senior executives have begun the task of identifying projects and ideas that could make a difference to WMU's future.

Kahler Schuemann, secretary to the Board of Trustees and assistant to the president, says the submissions represent a wealth of good ideas, as well as a number of important themes that emerged and could result in new campus initiatives that grow out of a series of proposals, rather than just one.

"The leadership team reviewing submissions appreciates the creative depth emanating from the proposals and is working diligently to best strategize a prioritized plan

that captures the campuswide creativity and commitment represented throughout the proposals," he says.

Ideas for funding were due Nov. 1, and funding decisions will be announced in early January. Senior staff are charged with doing an initial screening and prioritization of the ideas proposed in the competitive process.

Transformational Initiative Fund proposals needed to be focused on one or more of three goals Montgomery outlined in his original narrative. Proposals must improve retention and graduation rates, identify alternative revenue streams, or make WMU the school of choice for students, faculty, staff and community organizations.

"Ideas that come from the bottom up are the

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## Men's soccer will go to the dance, host NCAA round

The men's soccer team has received a top-16 seed as an at-large bid to this year's NCAA Tournament. Picked as the No. 10 seed overall, the Broncos receive a first-round bye and will host a second-round NCAA tournament game.

They will face the winner of the Nov. 16 first-round game between Maryland and Albany at 1 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 19, at the WMU Soccer Complex.

It will mark the first time the Broncos have hosted an NCAA tournament game. Plus, it will be the second-ever appearance for WMU in the NCAA tournament, and first since receiving an au-

tomatic bid after winning the Mid-American Conference Tournament in 2003.

"It's an unbelievable feeling and a well-deserved honor for a terrific regular season," says head coach Chad Wiseman. "I couldn't be more proud of our group of guys for being recognized as one of the very best teams in the nation. Each year we have made steps as a program and now we are here. We're ready to go out there and see what we can do."

This year, WMU won its first-ever MAC regular season championship and finished as MAC tournament runner-up. Despite falling

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The team clinched an NCAA berth Nov. 13 despite a MAC championship loss. (Photo courtesy of intercollegiate athletics)

## Emeritus continues to be key figure in sea's resurrection

Philip Micklin, emeritus in geography, has been keeping busy as a researcher and an ecologist. The expert on the Aral Sea continues a 30-plus-year role as a prominent writer and speaker on the subject at conferences and other venues.

Micklin has studied the once-large sea that is located among the deserts of Central Asia. Since the 1960s, the Aral has suffered unprecedented drying, and ecological and economic damage due to large-scale withdrawals of water for irrigation from the two rivers feeding it.

Among his most recent activities was being interviewed this fall by a science writer for NASA who was preparing an article on the current state of the Aral Sea for the organization's online newsletter *Earth Observatory*.

Much of Micklin's recent notoriety stems from his participation earlier this year in an

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Micklin



One of the Aral Sea's fisheries is coming back. (Photo courtesy of Phillip Micklin)

# Around campus and beyond

## Holiday-related events coming up

Start saving the dates for the various holiday-related events that are being planned across campus. They include the APA holiday gathering beginning at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5, in Kalamazoo's HopCat. Watch for more information about these events in your WMU Today emails, and regularly check the Universitywide calendar of events at [wmich.edu/news/events](http://wmich.edu/news/events).

## Fall Lyceum Lecture Series continues

A talk on "Resisting Reconciliation: Queer Muslim Identity in America" will be presented Wednesday, Nov. 29, by Mariam Mustafa, a graduate student in comparative religion. The talk will be from noon to 1 p.m. in the Lee Honors College Lounge. It is part of the college's Lyceum Lecture Series, a weekly lunch-time lecture series that this semester is focusing on sexual identity issues and how they can overlap with other dimensions of diversity.

## Concert to feature choral music

"A Choral Christmas" concert will be staged at 4 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, in the First Presbyterian Church, 321 W. South St. in Kalamazoo. It will feature the University Chorale, Cantus Femina and Collegiate Singers. For tickets, visit [millerauditorium.com](http://millerauditorium.com) or call (269) 387-2300.

## Tuition-related employee benefit to be outlined at Dec. 6 meeting

The final fall information session for WMU employees to learn about their free-tuition benefit will take place at noon Wednesday, Dec. 6, in 205 Bernhard Center. Refreshments will be served. The event will include presentations by admissions, the Graduate College, Extended University Programs, Human Resources, University Studies and the Center for Academic Success Programs. For benefit details, as well as the session schedule for spring, visit [wmich.edu/admissions/guest/employees](http://wmich.edu/admissions/guest/employees).

## Service-November

The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 45, 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service during November.

**45 years**—Mary E. Ramlow, Evaluation Center.

**35 years**—David Bonselaar, construction, and James R. Hiatt, public safety.

**30 years**—Patty J. DeLoach, gender and women's studies; Victoria Kennedy, maintenance services; Johnny L. Paige, Bernhard Center; Cheryl P. Roland, university relations; and Laurie A. White, information technology.

**25 years**—Melinda Lockett, health and human services.

**20 years**—Kevin Boot, landscape services; David Evans, information technology; Gary J. Miron, educational leadership, research and technology; Suzie Nagel-Bennett, student affairs; Anantha K. Sankey, maintenance services; and Arnold S. Taylor, information

technology.

**15 years**—Vance G. Harris, building custodial and support services; Patricia A. Knight, health and human services; and Rebecca A. Spanjer, fine arts.

**10 years**—Sue Daniels, academic affairs; Marijo Elwell, field placement; and Jessaca K. Spybrook, educational leadership, research and technology.

**Five years**—Barbara Ann Abernathy, building custodial and support services; Cozette R. Anderson, occupational therapy; D. Clark Bennett, research; Kimberly M. Bryer, building custodial and support services; Alyshia Daisy-Norris Garrett, business college; Dawn Jones, Davis Dining Services; Heidi Jane Kleyn, electrical and computer engineering; Carol A. Lancot, Online Education; Chuncey L. Mapps, building custodial and support services; Elizabeth J. Meredith, maintenance services; Jonathan Edward Orweller, Facilities Management; Brandy L. Webster, Center for English Language and Culture for International Students; and Hans J. Zoeller, intercollegiate athletics.

## Retirement receptions

Rebecca Solomon, Haenicke Institute, will be recognized for 30 years of service during a retirement reception from 4 to 6 p.m. Monday, Nov. 20, in the Fetzer Center lobby.

Edmund Tsang, engineering and applied sciences, will be recognized for 16 years of service during a retirement reception from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 7, in the President's Dining Room of the Bernhard Center.

## Jobs

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

## Faculty engineers garner funding

Massood Atashbar, electrical and computer engineering, and Pavel Ikononov, engineering design, manufacturing and management systems, are among five innovators around the state



Atashbar



Ikononov

to win new funding from the Michigan Economic Development Corp. to develop early-stage technology projects.

The two were announced Nov. 8 as winners of support from the MEDC's ADVANCE Proof of Concept Grant Fund in its first round of funding of nearly \$335,000 to five early-stage technology projects within universities across the state of Michigan.

Their work focuses on a football helmet capable of assessing concussive-strength impact and the 3-D printing of complex machined parts.

Atashbar won support for his Impact Sensor and Rigid-flex Readout Electronic System. Ikononov won funding for his 3-D Metal Device and Process.

## Spanish instructor earns state award

Michael Braun, Spanish, is WMU's first recipient of the Michigan World Languages Association—MIWLA—Barbara Ort-Smith Award, the most prestigious distinction an educator in the field of world languages can receive in the state.



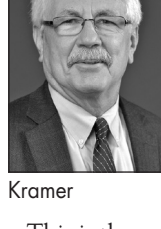
Braun

Braun was commended by the association for his leadership in the field of language education. He received his award during the MIWLA 53rd Annual Conference in Lansing Oct. 12.

As the state's highest honor for educators in the field of world languages, the Ort-Smith Award recognizes those who have shown a strong commitment to the profession. MIWLA selects and honors the professional who best demonstrates leadership and the promotion of excellence in world language education.

## Sociologist receives new honor

Ronald C. Kramer, sociology, was presented with the Charles Horton Cooley Award for Distinguished Scholarship in Sociology by the Michigan Sociological Association during its annual meeting Oct. 28 in Grand Rapids.



Kramer

One of Kramer's former doctoral students, Elizabeth Bradshaw, associate professor of sociology at Central Michigan University, presented the award.

This is the second award he has received from the Michigan Sociological Association. He was given the Larry T. Reynolds Award for Outstanding Teaching of Sociology in 2012. Additionally, Kramer received the WMU Alumni Association Teaching Excellence Award in 1981 and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Society of Criminology's Division on Critical Criminology in 2004.

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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 fall are **Sept. 7 and 21; Oct. 5 and 19; Nov. 2 and 16; Dec. 7**. Items may be submitted to Jeanne Baron via: email, [jeanne.baron@wmich.edu](mailto:jeanne.baron@wmich.edu); mail, Campus Mail Stop 5433; phone, (269) 387-8433; or fax, (269) 387-8422.

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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY



# I think the goat ate my conservation management homework

Figuring out better ways to bring distressed plots of land back to their natural state is one goal behind a new University course.

BIOS 4970, Biology, Conservation and Management of Natural Features, began this fall to test the efficacy of restoring land by methods that use humans only, goats only and a combination of humans and goats. Three distressed sites representing different presettlement vegetation types on and around the WMU campus serve as outdoor laboratories where these methods can be studied.



Students cut brush on the class site behind the Stadium Drive Apartments. (Photo by Mike Lanka)

Some of the techniques being employed on those ecosystems will be discussed during a mini-conference from 1 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 6, in D-132 Floyd Hall. The conference is free and open to the

public but registrations are required by Dec. 1. It will feature talks by guest speakers as well as short presentations by BIOS 4970 students and be followed by a reception. Guest speakers will talk on native and restored landscapes, prescribed fire in restoration plans, invasive species management on conservation lands from the nonprofit perspective and ecological management from a business perspective.

The conference is being organized by students in BIOS 4970 and their two co-instructors, Todd J. Barkman, professor of biological sciences, and Steve Keto, WMU's natural areas and preserves manager. It will serve as the final meeting day for students in the class. To register, send an email message to [todd.barkman@wmich.edu](mailto:todd.barkman@wmich.edu) or [steve.keto@wmich.edu](mailto:steve.keto@wmich.edu) or call (269) 387-5610. Free parking will be available near Floyd Hall's east wing in lot P2.

BIOS 4970 is a six-hour weekly special investigations course with revolving topics. Barkman and Keto intend to teach their section every fall as a rigorous scientific study that collects and analyzes land management data over a period of years.

"To do the study right, we needed to get students outdoors where they can methodically measure the effects of our restoration efforts," Barkman says. "The idea is to take land that has been disrupted by human activity and invasive species and test ways to bring it back to its natural state."

## Art on display for Native American Heritage Month

Displays of Native American culture in Waldo Library are being highlighted now for Native American Heritage Month.

Much of WMU's Native American art is centered in the library, and the University's libraries have many resources to research Native American history and culture.

President Emeritus Dwight B. Waldo in the 1930s supported a movement to establish a museum collection at the school. He had a career-long interest in historical and antiquarian materials and began assembling

pieces for that collection.

He and Mrs. Waldo ended up securing an unusual collection of rock specimens, American Indian items, and Alaskan pieces. Today, Native American culture may be viewed in several locations in Waldo Library.

A permanent display of Native American artifacts shows the artistry of glass beadwork on leather in clothing and is located on the first floor near Classroom A.

On the second floor, more than 18 paintings and three weavings are part of the Dwight B. Waldo Collection, while The Kiowa Five Painters are mentioned in a wall display near stairwell 3.

An exhibit case with books, prints, pottery and other artifacts of Native Americans is located on the third floor near the rotunda.

## Medal of Honor recipient recognized

Ahead of Veterans Day and during Salute to Heroes night at Waldo Stadium Nov. 8, WMU formally recognized alumnus James C. "Doc" McCloughan for his life-saving acts of bravery as a U.S. Army medic during the Vietnam War. President Donald Trump awarded him the Medal of Honor during a White House ceremony July 31.



## Human Resources news

- A pre-retirement planning workshop presented by the Social Security Administration will be held from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 29, in 157-159 Bernhard Center. Attendees may bring their lunch. For suggested actions to take prior to attending, visit [wmich.edu/hr/resources/training](http://wmich.edu/hr/resources/training).

- The HelpNet Work Life Web provides WMU employees with information, articles and resources on such topics as family and care giving and health and wellness. Learn how to access the site by visiting [wmich.edu/hr/resources/training](http://wmich.edu/hr/resources/training).

## Board of Trustees approves retirements of 14 employees

The retirements of nine faculty members and five staff members were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees at its Nov. 1 meeting. Trustees also signed off on three faculty resignations.

**Faculty retirements:** All of the faculty members who are retiring are doing so with emeritus status. Their names, positions, and

effective dates of retirement are: Debra Berkey, human performance and health education, effective June 30, 2018; Denise Bowen, physician assistant, effective June 30, 2018; Walter Burt, educational leadership, research and technology, effective Aug. 30, 2018; Thomas Carey, management, effective May 14, 2023; Alice DeYoung, nursing, effective July 31, 2018; Bryce Dickey, family and consumer sciences, effective April 30, 2023; James Gilchrist, budget and personnel as well as communication, effective July 31, 2018 (change in date only); William Kern, economics, effective Dec. 31, 2022; and Niloufer Mackey, mathematics, effective April 30, 2023.

**Staff retirements:** Stephanie Armstrong, Center for Academic Success Programs, effective Oct. 1, 2017; Connie Black-Pond, social work, effective Oct. 15, 2017; Stefan Z. Bladen Sr., public safety, effective Oct. 21, 2017; James Davis, building custodial and support services, effective Sept. 30, 2017; and Daniel Miller, maintenance services, effective Oct. 1, 2017.

**Faculty resignations:** John Lychner, music, effective Aug. 14, 2017; Benjamin Reigel, theatre, effective Aug. 14, 2017; and Jeremy Siskind, music, effective Aug. 14, 2017.

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

**Martin E. Gingerich**, emeritus in English, died Oct. 19. He was 84. Gingerich joined the faculty in 1968 and retired in 1990 after more than 21 years of service to the University.



Gingerich

**Betty A. Kocher**, former secretary to the WMU Board of Trustees, died Nov. 2. She was 84. Kocher retired in 2015 after 42 years of service. A celebration of her life and reception are planned for 3 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 20, in Heritage Hall.



Kocher

**June Mochizuki**, emerita of counseling, died Oct. 29. She was 92. Mochizuki joined



Mochizuki

the faculty in 1966 and retired in 1988 after 22 years of service. She is survived by her husband, Min Mochizuki, an emeritus in general studies and social science.

**James E. Riley**, emeritus in mathematics, died Oct. 28. He was 84. Riley retired in 1998 after 38 years of service. A memorial service followed by a reception will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18, in Kanley Chapel.



Riley

## On Campus with Yumi Takahashi-Ede



TALKING THE TALK  
(Photo by Deanne Puca)

Yumi Takahashi-Ede, a study abroad specialist, was a study abroad student herself in 1997 after coming to WMU as a graduate student. She subsequently earned multiple master's degrees, taught Japanese language, and worked for nine years as an arts and sciences undergraduate advisor before moving to the Study Abroad office in 2016.

Born and raised in Japan, Takahashi-Ede earned two master's degrees from WMU—the first in counseling psychology in 2003 and the second in comparative religion in 2005. While at the University, she also earned a graduate certificate in gerontology and met her late husband, David Ede, who was a longtime faculty member in comparative religion.

Takahashi-Ede was an assistant director of academic advising for arts and sciences when she made the switch to study abroad over a year ago, saying her own experience with study abroad as a student rekindled her interest in helping students in that area.

"It's important to make the most of all of their time here. They should study hard but also explore on- and off-campus activities and connect with local people," she says.

Her Japanese language skills helped her land a position as a language instructor while she was a student. Because of her similar experience when she came to WMU, she was able to connect with non-English-speaking students who struggled in their classes and provide study tips as well as ideas for how to talk to professors and how to maximize students' experience.

"I struggled myself with my language when I first came here, so I understood the concerns and language challenges of non-English-speaking students," says Takahashi-Ede. "It gets easier, but you have to work to improve your language. It's a lifelong commitment."

She now works with all incoming exchange and study abroad students who visit and study at WMU for a semester or academic year, as well as with WMU students who want to study abroad in Japan and Korea. It's a job that is busy most of the year, especially in the fall when the office holds its Study Abroad Fair.

Takahashi-Ede, who earned one of WMU's Distinguished Service Awards this year, is a member of the WMU Women of Color Collaborative and the Learner Support Program Review and Planning Oversight Committee. She lives in Kalamazoo with her husband, Joe; 3-year-old daughter, Akiko; and dog, Lutee. Her family keeps her busy, and she also tries to visit Japan every year to spend time with her extended family.

## Seita Program honored for promoting degree completions

WMU's celebrated Seita Scholars program was honored Nov. 11 as one of five finalists for the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities' 2017 Project Degree Completion Award.

This year's award winner was the University of Hawaii at Manoa. It and the other finalists were recognized at the APLU Annual Meeting Nov. 12-14 in Washington, D.C. Ronicka Hamilton, Seita Scholars Program director, and Alexis Lenderman, a Seita Scholar, represented WMU at the event.

The degree completion award is designed to identify, recognize and reward public universities across the country for their work in employing innovative approaches to improve retention and degree completion.



Hamilton, left, and Lenderman. (Photo by Sherine Obare)

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### Men's soccer will go to the dance, host NCAA round

in the conference championship, WMU's body of work during the season was beyond impressive, resulting in the at-large bid, also a first for WMU.

The Broncos enter the NCAA tournament with a 16-3-1 overall record and finished the regular season ranked No. 4 nationally in the United Soccer Coaches poll.

They spent nine consecutive weeks ranked, including seven in the top 10. WMU also produced a school-record eight all-conference selections, including five on the first team, and fielded the MAC Player of the Year in senior Brandon Bye as well as the MAC

Coach of the Year in Wiseman.

Two of WMU's three losses this season came against top-10 ranked teams that also fill out this year's NCAA tournament field: No. 7 seed Michigan State and No. 5 seed Akron.

Forty-eight teams comprise the NCAA Tournament bracket. Third-round games are Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 25-26, while the quarterfinals are Friday and Saturday, Dec. 1-2. The four-team 2017 College Cup finals will be played Friday through Sunday, Dec. 8-10, in Pennsylvania.

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### Scores of transformative ideas

best ideas," Montgomery said in establishing the initiative during his first State of the University address. With his announcement, he set up a \$1 million fund that would be used to support the winning proposals.

The initial screening now underway is focused on whether a proposal addresses one of the three established goals in a measurable way, whether the idea is truly transformational, and whether the proposal can be sustained, is scalable and represents a true collaborative effort.

Continued from Page 1

### Emeritus aids sea's resurrection

international forum in Kyzyl-Orda, Kazakhstan, devoted to discussing and planning the sustainable development of the near Aral Sea region. During the event, Micklin received a medal awarded for significant contributions toward solving the major problems of the Aral Sea and surrounding region. Only two other individuals from countries outside the former Soviet Union received this honor.

The invitation-only forum had participants from Kazakhstan governmental and scientific organizations as well as agencies of the United Nations, European Union and other countries around the globe.

After the event, Micklin spent time doing further Aral Sea research.

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