



# Western News

MARCH 29, 2018  
Volume 44, Number 13

For and about WMU faculty and staff

## Sexual assault awareness events slated

Office of Health Promotion and Education's FIREplace sexual assault peer educators have organized events to empower and educate the WMU community. Events start Thursday, March 29, and conclude with a Take Back the Night march Thursday, April 12. For more information, visit [wmich.edu/healthcenter/healthpromotion/fireplace/events](http://wmich.edu/healthcenter/healthpromotion/fireplace/events).

## APA to present three annual awards

The Administrative Professional Association will celebrate the winners of its 2018 annual awards during a luncheon from noon to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 4, in the Fetzer Center. Registration is required by Friday, March 30, at [mywmu.com/apaawards](http://mywmu.com/apaawards). Admission is \$5 for active-dues-paying APA members, each of whom may bring a guest at the member rate, and \$10 for others.

Winning this year's awards are: Theresa Whitaker, Medieval Institute Publications, Outstanding Professional; Beth Northuis, University Recreation, Outstanding New Professional; and Monica Liggins-Abrams, Center for Research on Instructional Change in Postsecondary Education, Tony Griffin Service Award.

## PSSO seeks nominations, volunteers

All WMU employees are invited to attend a Professional Support Staff Organization meeting at noon Wednesday, April 4, in 157-158 Bernhard Center. Police Lieutenant Andrew Bachmann will discuss active situations and campus safety.

In addition, PSSO is seeking nominations of PSSO members for its service award. Send the nominee's name and department along with a list of reasons why the nominee should receive the award to [barbara.stevens@wmich.edu](mailto:barbara.stevens@wmich.edu).

The organization also is seeking volunteers to help with an Adopt-A-Highway cleanup project around the I-94 and Sprinkle Road interchange Saturday, April 14. Volunteers must sign up and watch two brief safety videos before participating. For details, visit [wmich.edu/news/2018/03/45892](http://wmich.edu/news/2018/03/45892).

## Sign up to help out at Color Run

WMU seeks to fill 150 volunteer spots Friday and Saturday, April 13-14, for the Color Run 5K race in Kalamazoo. Sign up at [bit.ly/kzoocolorrun18](http://bit.ly/kzoocolorrun18).

## International research is event topic

The Discover Discovery Faculty Workshop from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. Tuesday, April 3, in the Fetzer Center is titled International Research: Opportunities and Challenges. Research staff will provide an overview of opportunities that are available for international partnerships and conducting research. Lunch is provided, and registration is required at [wapps.wmich.edu/workshops](http://wapps.wmich.edu/workshops) by Friday, March 30.

## Event marks Phi Beta Kappa chapter's 20th year

An early April induction of up to 81 top juniors and seniors will mark the 20th anniversary of WMU's chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest and most prestigious honors organization.

The Tuesday, April 10, ceremony will bring the membership total for the WMU chapter to nearly 1,500 since the University was authorized in 1997 to shelter a chapter, formally installing the honorary society in 1998 during a spring ceremony.

Securing the right to have a chapter was a 28-year effort at WMU and a goal of then-President Diether H. Haenicke, from the start of his 13-year presidency to the successful realization of the effort just months before his retirement.

Phi Beta Kappa was founded in 1776 at the College of William and Mary in Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia. Today, just 286 colleges and universities are authorized to shelter chapters. Members have included 17 U.S. presidents, 40 U.S. Supreme Court justices and 136 Nobel Laureates. Phi Beta Kappa members have ranged from John Quincy Adams and Eli Whitney to Robert Frost, Condoleezza Rice and E.J. Dionne.

The mission of the organization is to foster and recognize excellence in undergraduate liberal arts and science education. Eligibility requirements include being among the top 10 percent of a graduating class's degree candidates in the liberal arts and sciences.

Continued on Page 4



## Discussion to focus on richness, wisdom of diversity

Kalamazoo County will focus on the richness and wisdom that diversity brings to the workplace when it holds its annual diversity program Tuesday, April 10, in Chenery Auditorium.

Juana Bordas will present "Salsa, Soul and Spirit in a Multicultural Age" as the featured speaker for Kalamazoo County's 20th annual Respecting Differences program. Bordas, a specialist in leadership development and diversity training, will present her talk at 9:30 a.m. and again at 1:30 p.m. Both presentations are free and open to the public, and will include an on-stage American Sign Language translator.



Bordas

The 2018 Respecting Differences program will utilize practices from many cultural traditions to not only illustrate the richness and wisdom that diversity brings to the workplace, but also to motivate people to grow their leadership skills.

The presentation will draw upon ideas in Bordas' 2007 book titled "Salsa, Soul and Spirit: Leadership for a Multicultural Nation." As the world becomes flatter and globalization creates a world village, Bordas contends, it is imperative that people have the cultural flexibility and adaptability to inspire and guide people from the whole rainbow of humanity.

Given that perspective, Bordas has developed a multicultural leadership model that offers leaders and employees new approaches to increase their interpersonal effectiveness with

Continued on Page 4

WMU employees should bring the event postcard-ticket they received in campus mail to the session they decide to attend.

## Input sessions slated for South Neighborhood

Work to redevelop part of the Main Campus into the new South Neighborhood will kick off next month with two days of input sessions designed to get campus community views on what a new student center should include and look like.

The input sessions are set for 4 to 6 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 12, in the Bernhard Center lobby. The sessions are the first steps in an initiative announced last fall to transform the area of campus adjacent to Stadium Drive into a new campus gateway that is more connected with the community and offers eye-catching appeal to prospective students and campus visitors.

"We're just getting started with planning for the student center," says Vice President for Student Affairs Diane Anderson. "We

want to get students' best thoughts and ideas on what that facility will be like and how it can meet the needs of current and future students. As a matter of fact, we'd love to see students flood those two sessions and really become deeply involved."

Work currently planned for the South Neighborhood includes:

- Development of a sub-campus master plan, to be completed in October;
- Construction of a new student center to open in 2021;
- Demolition this May of Elmwood Apartments; and
- Construction of new student housing in the Elmwood footprint, with groundbreaking set for spring 2019.

Continued on Page 4

# Around campus and beyond

## Panel talks Kalamazoo, education

The evolution of the Kalamazoo region's commitment to educational equity is the focus of a panel discussion set for 6 p.m. Monday, April 2, in 204 Bernhard Center. "Educational Equity: From the 'Kalamazoo Case' to the Kalamazoo Promise and Beyond" is part of the Center for the Study of Ethics in Society's lecture series.

Co-moderators Kathy Purnell, political science, and Ashley Atkins, philosophy, will facilitate discussion by a panel of local legal and education experts regarding Kalamazoo's educational past all the way to its present. Light refreshments will be provided. For more information, visit [wmich.edu/ethics/events/lectures](http://wmich.edu/ethics/events/lectures).

## Celebrated writer to speak

Chinese-American poet and novelist Xuefei Jin will speak on "Displacement as Opportunity" at 4 p.m. Thursday, April 5, in 1910 Sangren Hall. Jin, who uses the pen name Ha Jin, is director of the creative writing program at Boston University, the winner of the prestigious National Book Award and a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.

His visit is being organized by the Timothy Light Center for Chinese Studies, and co-sponsored by the Department of English, Haenicke Institute for Global Education and University Center for the Humanities.

## Impact of incarceration discussed

Dana Cunningham, licensed clinical psychologist and author, will discuss the impact of parental incarceration on children and the community during two free, public events Thursday, April 5.

An academic forum is planned for 11 a.m. to noon on campus in 4010 Health and Human Services Building. In addition, a panel discussion as well as a reception are set for 6 to 7 p.m. in the Kalamazoo County Juvenile Home. For more information, visit [wmich.edu/empowerment/events](http://wmich.edu/empowerment/events).

## Public career fairs slated

Two specialized career fairs that are open to the public will be held next month. Aviation Outlook Day will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, April 6, in the Aircraft Maintenance Center in Battle Creek. The Education Career Fair is set for 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 18, in the Bernhard Center's East Ballroom. More information can be found at [wmich.edu/news/2018/03/45800](http://wmich.edu/news/2018/03/45800).

## Ravitch presentation rescheduled

Diane Ravitch's talk on "Education Reform and the Promise of Education," originally scheduled for March 22, has been rescheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 18, in 2000 Schneider Hall.

## Professor helps Alaskans do their taxes

Fritz Allhoff, philosophy, headed a group of four WMU students who recently helped hundreds of rural Alaskan residents prepare their tax returns. This was the fourth year Allhoff has led a tax-assistance delegation to remote villages in Alaska.



Allhoff

It took planes and snow machines to get there, but the intrepid group visited four rural Alaskan villages as part of the Internal Revenue Service's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program.

This year, group members spent five days and completed 300 returns for villagers in Kaltag, Koyukuk, Napaskiak and Nulato. Numerous other volunteer groups worked with people in other locations around Alaska, visiting 150 native villages and doing about 7,000 returns.

## Educator, researcher named ACE Fellow

Andrea Beach, educational leadership, research and technology, has been named a fellow of the American Council on Education for the 2018-19 academic year. ACE is the major coordinating body for all the nation's higher education institutions.



Beach

Following nomination by the senior administration of their institutions and a rigorous application process, 45 fellows were selected this year. At the conclusion of the year, they will return to their home institution with new knowledge and skills that contribute to capacity-building efforts.

Beach, who joined WMU's faculty in 2003, is co-director of the Center for Research on Instructional Change in Postsecondary Education, which she co-founded in 2014. In addition, she founded the Office of Faculty Development and was its director from 2008 to 2015.

Her research centers on organizational change in higher education, support of innovation in teaching and learning, faculty learning communities, and faculty development as a change lever. She has been the principal investigator or co-P.I. on several NSF-funded grants.

## Student supervisor, employees feted

Alexia Alexander, student financial aid, is WMU's top staff supervisor of student employees for 2018. Her selection was announced at a Feb. 22 recognition reception during the 32nd annual Student Employee Appreciation Week.

Also earning awards were Jon Curtis, Gary L. Belleville Undergraduate Student Employee of the Year, and Kimberly Carroll, Graduate Student Employee of the Year.

Alexander is interim associate director of financial literacy, planning and outreach. Her unit promotes, educates and supports a holistic and inclusive financial wellness culture at WMU. She was cited for being a "great supervisor and mentor," as demonstrated in part by her willingness to take a personal interest in student employees; share her skills, knowledge and expertise; and provide career guidance as well as constructive feedback.

## Enrollment open for variety of summer camps

Numerous camps are being offered by WMU for young and old this summer.

They include summer camps in July and early August at the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project in Niles, Michigan, for youth and lifelong learners. More information about these events is available at [wmich.edu/news/2018/02/45543](http://wmich.edu/news/2018/02/45543).

In addition, parents are invited to consider taking advantage of the Campus Kids

Summer Program offered by the Children's Place Learning Center. This program will run from June 18 to Aug. 24, and each week will feature a different theme with special-interest topics. For fees and other details, visit [wmich.edu/childcare/programs/campuskids](http://wmich.edu/childcare/programs/campuskids).

Various other camps are being held in June, July and August for young people in preschool to high school and beyond. A listing of all camps, with new listings added as information becomes available, can be found at [wmich.edu/admissions/camps](http://wmich.edu/admissions/camps). Some scholarships are available.

## Western News

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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

## Retirement receptions

**Alice Wheatley**, Dining Services, will be honored for her 27 years of service during a reception from 1 to 3 p.m. Friday, March 30, in the President's Dining Room of the Bernhard Center.

**Debra Berkey**, human performance and health education, will be honored for her 33 years of service during a reception from 12:30 to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 14, in the foyer of the Fetzer Center. RSVP to Amy Seth at [amy.seth@wmich.edu](mailto:amy.seth@wmich.edu) or (269) 387-3759.

## 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.

## WMed's inaugural class celebrates big day, prepares for next step

The envelopes, please.

All at once, as the clock struck noon on Friday, March 16, the 48 students from the WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine's Class of 2018 learned where the next step in their journey as medical professionals—residency training—would take them.

The excitement was all part of Match Day, a time-honored event that was held at medical schools across the country March 16. The event was a culmination for WMed's inaugural class, as the course of their medical careers was determined with the opening of

an envelope and they learned where they will spend the next three or more years in residency training.

"As a new medical school with students participating in the Match for the very first time, we are thrilled that 100 percent of our medical students matched to a residency slot, as it is a very competitive process," said Kevin Kavanaugh, assistant dean for Career Development at the medical school.

"It has been my privilege, along with our faculty, to work closely with WMed students to assist them in identifying their



specialty choice in preparation for the Match," Kavanaugh added.

## Board of Trustees sets standards, procedures governing University policies

The University's governing board has formally approved a set of standards developed by a campus task force that are designed to formalize and govern the way policies are developed, reviewed and shared with the campus community.

The WMU Policy Development Policy, dubbed by task force members as "the policy on policies," has been in development for more than a year. It was approved by the

WMU Board of Trustees at its March 14 meeting following a presentation by Jessica Swartz, general counsel's office.

The major impetus for the policy on policies was a dictate by the Higher Learning Commission—the University's accrediting body. Swartz and Jody Brylinsky, institutional effectiveness, led the task force and will oversee follow-up implementation of the new set of standards.

The policy will govern the development, approval process, distribution and review schedule that a policy must meet to carry the force of becoming a University policy. The new measure becomes effective immediately and applies to new policies and those currently under development. Units will need to perform a rolling review of existing, approved policies so they may be adjusted to meet the new format and standards.

A campuswide policy committee will be charged with ensuring each new or revised policy meets the requirements of the new, board-approved measure. A regularly scheduled review process will put existing policies in line to be reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

Other critical elements that are part of the policy on policies include:

- Clear definition of what a University policy is as well as categories of policies that exist;
- Description of what should be in a policy, including naming conventions, a summary of its contents, identification of responsible office, policy category, approval date and expected review date;
- A format template for the full text of each policy;
- A website, now in development, for the campuswide policy committee that will include easy links to the policy template and general policy information; and
- Ultimate publication of all policies on WMU's current policy page at [wmich.edu/policies](http://wmich.edu/policies).

**FREE VR WORKSHOPS OFFERED**—Free workshops about virtual reality technology and how it can be used in teaching and learning are continuing next month without the need to register. The workshops are open to the campus and surrounding communities. They follow the public unveiling of WMU's new Virtual Reality Lab during a February open house. That event gave attendees a chance to learn about the lab from Kevin Abbott (**below, right**), information technology, and to test out the equipment, as did WMU President Edward Montgomery (**below, left**). Two workshops have yet to be held. Each one will be offered three times in the VR Lab, located on the lower level of Waldo Library. Creating 3D Objects for VR will be held from noon to 1:30 p.m. Friday, April 6; 7:30 to 9 p.m. Monday, April 9; and 12:30 to 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 11. Creating Art in VR with Quill, Medium and Blocks will be held from noon to 1:30 p.m. Friday, April 13; 7:30 to 9 p.m. Monday, April 16; and 12:30 to 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 18. (Photos by Mike Lanka)



## Sabbatical leave granted to 34 faculty members

During its March 14 meeting, the WMU Board of Trustees granted sabbatical leaves to 34 faculty members for all or part of the 2018-19 academic year.

The leaves subsequently noted by duration allow time to engage in research, creative projects and other work that promotes professional growth and development.

Effective for the fall 2018 semester: Kyle Brink, management; Martha Cuncell-Vargas, music; Cat Crockett, art; Amy Damashek, psychology; Jessica Frieder, psychology; Yuri Ledyayev, mathematics; Terrence Michmerhuizen, aviation sciences; Jun Seok Oh, civil and construction engineering; Jennifer Palthe, management; John Tanis, physics; and Mary-Louise Totton, art.

Effective for the 2018-19 academic year: David Burnie, finance and commercial law; Steven Carr, computer science; Christina Chin, art; Sue Ellen Christian, communi-

cation; Sime Curkovic, management; and Olivia Gabor-Peirce, professor of world languages and literatures; Megan Grunert Kowalske, professor of chemistry; David Lemberg, geography; Debra Lindstrom, occupational therapy; John Petrovic, mathematics; Dewei Qi, chemical and paper engineering; Cynthia Running-Johnson, world languages and literatures; Laura Van Zoest, mathematics; and Zijiang Yang, computer science.

Effective for the spring 2019 semester: Cathryn Bailey, gender and women's studies; Christopher Biggs, music; William Liou, mechanical and aerospace engineering; Larry Mallak, industrial and entrepreneurial engineering and engineering management; Leah Omillion-Hodges, communication; Kelley O'Reilly, marketing; Jagjit Saini, accountancy; Bruce Uchimura, music; and Ron Van Houten, psychology.

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



Smith

**Geoffrey A. Smith**, a dean of the Division of Continuing Education and longtime adult education specialist, died March 1. He was 84. Smith joined the staff in 1978 and retired in 1993 after 15 years of service.



Woodliff

**Charles "Chuck" M. Woodliff**, emeritus in instructional communication and a director of the Division of Academic Services, died March 17. He was 87. Woodliff joined the staff in 1967 and retired in 1989 after 22 years of service.

## On Campus with the Gobeil brothers



WMU IS THEIR CANVAS

Gerry, right, and Michael Gobeil (Photo by Deanne Pucca)

Painters and brothers Gerry and Michael Gobeil work in different shops and are on different shifts at WMU. But the pair are continuing a tradition set by four generations in their family.

Their great-grandfather started painting trains in Montreal, followed by their grandfather who opened a painting business after World War II. Their father started painting for his father and uncle when he was just 14. Nicknamed “Frenchy” because he is from Canada and has a thick French accent, the Gobeils’ father still works for his own business today.

“There is a long history of painters in our family. We both worked for our father, who worked for his father,” says older brother Gerry, who came to WMU almost six years ago to work in the remodel shop. His team is assigned to a specific space and, depending on the funding and the building, will coordinate that remodel with project managers and designers on campus. A current project is remodeling parts of West Walwood Hall.

Younger brother Michael has worked as a painter and glazer for about a year and a half with the third-shift night crew. Working from 11 p.m. to 7:30 a.m., Michael and his co-workers spruce up the common spaces on campus—hallways, lobbies, bathrooms and areas for the student population. Because they do their work in highly visible areas during a time when people are not there, there often is a “Wow, it’s been painted” reaction when people come into an office the next day and see their work, he says.

In both of their Facilities Management subunits, the brothers’ busiest times are in the summer, when students are gone and they can focus on their work without the foot traffic.

Besides being painters, the two also are U.S. Army veterans. Gerry was part of a border patrol in Germany during the tearing down of the Berlin Wall in 1989. Michael was deployed twice during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004-06 and 2008-09.

They grew up just miles from WMU in Portage and remember riding their bikes through campus, marveling at the beautiful landscaping and character of the buildings.

Michael still lives close by in Kalamazoo and plans to enroll at WMU in June to study general business or interior design while continuing to work at the University. Gerry lives in Otsego, Michigan, with his wife and his youngest child, a son who is a freshman in high school. He also has another son and a daughter, both grown, and a new grandson.

## WMU is semifinalist for 2018 innovation award

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi has selected WMU and five other semifinalists for its 2018 Excellence in Innovation Award.

The \$100,000 award, given once per biennium, recognizes an institution for achievement in finding powerful answers to important local, regional, national or global challenges.

The semifinalists were chosen from a large pool of applicants representing multifaceted projects at colleges and universities across the nation. The six semifinalists were selected based on the project’s ability to achieve meaningful, measurable outcomes to create systemic large-scale change.

Along with WMU, the semifinalist institutions are: California State University, Fresno; the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art; Elon University; Marquette University; and the University of North Alabama.

Three finalists for the award, selected by a jury of emeritus presidents and provosts, will be announced in May. The recipient institution will receive \$100,000 in tangible recognition of its best practice in response to the changes and challenges facing higher education in the 21st century. The award will be presented at the society’s biennial convention Aug. 3 in Minneapolis.

Continued from Page 1

### Discussion to focus on richness, wisdom of diversity

diverse populations. Her model incorporates values, influences and practices from African-American, Indian and Latino communities.

Among the eight practices she includes in her book are “Sankofa,” the ability to learn from the past; “I to We,” moving from individualism to collective identity; and “Mi casa es su casa,” developing a generosity of spirit.

Bordas is president of Mestiza Leadership International, a company that focuses on leadership, diversity and organizational change. She is a former Center for Creative Leadership faculty member who taught in the center’s Leadership Development Program, which is the most highly utilized executive

program in the world.

Her background also includes extensive work in Colorado, where she founded the Circle of Latina Leadership, founded the National Hispana Leadership Institute and then served as its president and CEO, and helped found the Mi Casa Women’s Center and then served as its executive director.

In addition, Bordas has been vice president of the Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership, a trustee of the International Leadership Association and an advisor to Harvard’s *Hispanic Journal on Public Policy* as well as the Kellogg National Fellows Program.

Continued from Page 1

### Phi Beta Kappa event

With just over 100 public universities approved for a chapter, WMU remains among an elite group both nationally and in Michigan. In the state, only four public universities are authorized to have Phi Beta Kappa chapters.

In addition to WMU, they are Michigan State University, the University of Michigan and Wayne State University. Four Michigan private colleges also are part of the Phi Beta Kappa network.

Continued from Page 1

### South Neighborhood input

David Dakin, director of planning, space management and capital projects, says that in addition to campus planning staff, the input sessions will be attended by a team from Cannon Design and Stantec, which are consulting firms hired to help develop the new center and housing. The firm Perkins & Will will be present to solicit input on the sub-campus master plan.

Construction on the student center as well as the new student housing is slated to begin in 2019. Future plans for the South Neighborhood include mixed-use facilities other than student housing.

Dakin says websites for the various projects are under development and will include online feedback mechanisms for the campus community.

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