



Western News

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For and about WMU faculty and staff

WMU named to top-universities list

WMU is one of just four Michigan public universities included in the *U.S. News & World Report's* annual list of top-tier national universities. The publication's 2012 ranking of more than 1,500 four-year colleges and universities was unveiled Sept. 12 and is available in a print guidebook on newsstands.

WMU is among the 281 institutions—173 public, 101 private and seven for-profit—the magazine singles out as having national standing and being among the nation's best. WMU's numerical rank this year is 189 among the total group. This is the 22nd year WMU has appeared in the magazine's top grouping of "best national universities."

MetroDetroit to offer new program

Information sessions have been set to explain the new master's degree in leadership for organizational learning and performance being offered through WMU-MetroDetroit beginning in January 2013.

Information sessions will be held Wednesdays, Sept. 26 and Nov. 7, in the Metro-Detroit regional facility, 32820 Woodward Ave., Suite 220, in Royal Oak, Mich. Advance registration at wmich.edu/metro-detroit/orglearningevent is encouraged for each session. Visit wmich.edu/leadership/olp for more information. Direct questions to Larry Buzas at larry.buzas@wmich.edu or (269) 387-3881.

Staff award nominations due Oct. 31

Nominations for the fall round of WMU's semiannual Make a Difference awards are due by Oct. 31. The awards recognize Staff Compensation System, AFSCME, MSEA and POA employees who provide exceptional service to the University.

Those selected for the accolade receive a before-tax prize of \$300 and a certificate, are recognized at a special reception, and may be nominated for one of four annual Make a Difference awards that include a before-tax prize of \$1,200.

Make a Difference is a campus peer-to-peer awards program recognizing staffers for their daily investment of energy and creativity. It features semiannual and annual awards. Semiannual award recipients may win multiple times, but are limited to one semiannual award per academic year. Visit wmich.edu/hr/make-a-difference year round for nomination instructions and forms.

2012 study abroad fair scheduled

The Study and Intern Abroad Fair is set for noon to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 2, in the Bernhard Center's East Ballroom on WMU's main campus. This annual event is open to the public and showcases the more than 70 programs WMU offers in 30-plus countries.

Each year, the fair enables more than 800 students and community members to explore the study abroad opportunities available to them worldwide.

Fall semester starts off with big celebrations

There's a celebratory mood on campus this fall, and major events have been planned early in the semester to recognize a number of significant accomplishments.

First up is the Academic Convocation at 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 21, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. This annual event formally kicks off the beginning of another academic year. It features President John M. Dunn's State of the University address and the presentation of WMU's most prestigious campuswide awards for faculty and staff members.

The campus and local community is invited to attend the convocation, as well as the reception that will immediately follow in the Richmond Center lobby. Visit wmich.edu/news/2012/09/1649 for more information and links to detailed stories about this year's award winners.

The following Friday, Sept. 28, will be an equally big day as the University stages a Excellence Renewed celebration commemorating the replacement of Sangren Hall, renovation of the Lee Honors College Building and creation of the new West Campus pedestrian mall.

The WMU and local communities are invited to the event, which begins at 6 p.m. in front of the new Sangren. President Dunn and other dignitaries will speak during a short program that will be followed by a reception in Sangren.

During the reception, the Bronco Marching Band, flag corps and music students will be performing. In addition, both Sangren and the honors college building will be open, so people can take self-guided tours. Trained students will be available at tour stops in Sangren to explain some of the new building's attributes.

Although not directly tied to the Excellence Renewed celebration, those attending the event are invited to stay on campus to hear a free public reading by U.S. Poet Laureate Philip Levine at 8 p.m. in Schneider Hall.

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What's behind the "W"? In this case, the new Sangren Hall. (Photo by Mike Lanka)

Excitement grows as homecoming festivities near

Exciting activities are being scheduled for homecoming week, Monday through Sunday, Oct. 1-7.

The week begins with several traditional student events and gets into high gear at the end of the week with a variety of events involving alumni and the local community.

• Activities on Friday, Oct. 5, include the 31st Distinguished Alumni Dinner and Award Ceremony from 6:15 to 9 p.m. in the Bernhard Center's East Ballroom. This year's recipients are Jan A. Huston, head of the Connie Dwyer Breast Center at St. Michael's Medical Center, and C. Wesley Smith, an executive vice president for International Paper. To attend, register through mywmu.com or call (269) 387-8700.

• Friday evening, friends and community members will join the campus community



The first modern-day downtown Kalamazoo pep rally took place last year. (Photo by Mike Lanka)

in downtown Kalamazoo for a pep rally at 8:30 on the North Kalamazoo mall. It starts at 8:15 p.m. with the Bronco Marching Band and WMU cheer, dance and football teams marching the length of the mall.

• Homecoming Saturday, Oct. 6, will begin with the 14th annual Homecoming Campus Classic 1K and 5K run/walk. For this year's classic, the Student Recreation Center's indoor tennis courts will be the site for race-day registration from 7 to 9 a.m. and the 10:15 a.m. awards ceremony that will include refreshments. The 1K events will start at 8:45 a.m. and 5K events at 9:15 a.m. by the recreation center. Visit wmich.edu/campusclassic for more information or to register or volunteer.

• Celebrants will be able to rev up for the 2 p.m. game against the University of

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Around campus and beyond

Time to register for culture classes

The Confucius Institute at WMU is accepting registrations for fall 2012 Chinese culture courses that begin the week of Sept. 24.

The low-cost courses are open to the public, and WMU employees and students receive a tuition discount. For details or to register, visit wmich.edu/confucius or contact Yu Zhang at wmu-confucius-cc@wmich.edu or (269) 387-3784.

Fall Sichel Lecture Series begins

The economics of good governance will be examined during the 49th Werner Sichel Lecture Series that starts Wednesday, Sept. 26, with Carolyn J. Heinrich from the University of Texas speaking on "The Role of Performance Management in Good Governance."

This year's series features six nationally known economists whose presentations are free and open to the public. All six presentations will take place from 3 to 4:30 p.m. on Wednesdays in 2028 Brown Hall.

Expo focuses on engineering jobs

A range of job opportunities for engineers will be showcased at the Engineering Expo from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday,

Sept. 27, in the main lobby of the Engineering and Applied Sciences Building. The expo is free and open to the public, but geared for WMU's students and recent alumni in engineering-related fields. No pre-registration is required.

Representatives of more than 100 companies will be on hand, making this year's expo the largest ever at WMU for jobseekers in engineering and applied sciences. The companies will be promoting their organizations and recruiting for internships and full-time, part-time and co-op positions.

Speaker to address startup culture

The top executive of a leading manufacturer of surgical implants for minimally disruptive spinal surgery will lead off the 2012-13 Distinguished Speaker Series.

Keith C. Valentine, president and chief operating officer of NuVasive Inc., will discuss "The Culture of a \$1 Billion Startup" at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 3, in Schneider Hall. Attendees should register by Friday, Sept. 28. The free talk will be followed by a question-and-answer period.

To register or obtain more information, contact Cyntia Reeves at cyntia.reeves@wmich.edu or (269) 387-5050.

Trustee earns achievement award

WMU Trustee Dennis W. Archer was honored by the Minority Corporate Counsel Association during a sold-out Sept. 11 gala in New York's Lincoln Center that honored the foremost corporate law departments and their diversity programs as well as individuals who have had a major impact in promoting diversity.



Archer

Archer, a WMU alumnus, received the MCCA's 2012 Lifetime Achievement Award, which is presented to an individual "who has made important and lasting contributions to advancing a society that fully appreciates, celebrates and recognizes the value of diversity."

His wide-ranging achievements include serving two terms as mayor of Detroit, earning widespread respect in the process; being the American Bar Association's first African-American president, and in his fifth and final year as a Michigan Supreme Court justice, being named the most respected judge in the state.

Storytelling prof hits Moth stage

Performance footage of Allison Downey, teaching, learning and educational studies, was shown in a Sept. 9 CBS "Sunday



Downey

Morning" segment on storytelling, and she will be appearing in person today at an event in Detroit put on by the storytelling organization The Moth.

Downey will perform in a statewide competition put on by The Moth, Michigan Radio and radio station WDET-FM at the Gem Theatre. She will be one of 10 StorySLAM winners from last year competing in The Moth's 4th annual Michigan GrandSLAM Championship pegged to the theme "Fall from Grace."

She also will be leading an all-day women's storytelling workshop for The Bonfire Institute Saturday, Sept. 29, in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Researchers garner media attention

Several high-profile publications have been taking an interest in a study on physics teaching methods co-authored by WMU's Magdalena Niewiadomska-Bugaj, statistics chair, and Charles Henderson, associate



Henderson



Bugaj

professor of physics, with Melissa Dancy, a physics-education researcher from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

The study, "Use of Research-Based Instructional Strategies in Introductory Physics," looks at physics faculty awareness and use of research-based instructional techniques and offers greater insight into what is missing from current education reform efforts.

It was published in the current issue of *Physical Review Special Topics—Physics Education Research*. In addition, the *Chronicle of Higher Education* recently featured the study, and it also has drawn interest from technical media.

Faculty invited to apply for short-term exchange program

Faculty members from any discipline may apply through Friday, Sept. 21, for a short-term exchange program at the University of Passau.

The successful WMU applicant will spend May 1 through June 30, 2013, as a visiting professor at UP. Previous visiting professors typically have been invited to give one or two lectures on an area of their expertise.

Although no stipend is provided with this exchange, there will be ample opportunity for research and interaction with UP faculty.

Applicants should submit a brief letter of interest that includes items such as a proposed list of topics they might like to

speak on, a brief plan for their visit and a short curriculum vitae. Direct applications and questions to Michelle Metro-Roland at michelle.metro-roland@wmich.edu or (269) 387-3908.

Reception

The campus community is invited to a reception thanking Donald G. McCloud for his five years of service as dean of the Haenicke Institute for Global Education. The event is set for 4:30 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 25, in The Oaklands. McCloud will continue to oversee the activities of the Confucius Institute, as well as to direct the global and international studies program.

Exchange

For sale—Golf equipment. Tommy Armour 845 Oversized Plus Cavity Balanced Irons. Pitching wedge through 9 iron. Sand wedge included in set. Asking \$125. Contact: rkschaper1@gmail.com or (269) 779-6762.

For sale—Fertilizer. Fall is a great time to improve garden beds, and alpaca manure is a wonderful way to improve soil condition. No composting is needed. A full 50-pound bag is only \$3. Contact: candoacresmi@gmail.com.

Jobs

Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources website at wmich.edu/hr/careers-at-wmu.html. Please note that applications must be submitted online by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included with each posting.



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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Face of Western Michigan University keeps changing inside and out

This summer's construction projects at the heart of West Campus are visible reminders of how WMU keeps changing and evolving.

But they aren't the only reminders. Several other projects were begun or completed over the summer. The biggest, Phase II of the



(Photo by Mike Lanka)

Western View Apartments, got under way in the large parking lot on Knollwood Avenue across the street from the popular student residential living complex's Phase I apartments.

Phase II includes two new residential buildings and a community building for residents that are being built under a fast-track construction plan so they will be ready to open in fall 2013.

To make up for the permanent loss of the Knollwood lot's parking spaces, additional parking has been created near the Sindcuse Health Center as well as Schneider and Rood halls, and spaces have been added in Lot 61 by Rood Hall now that the bus depot has moved. In addition, there will be an improved and larger parking area to the north of new Sangren Hall once the old Sangren is razed later this year.

Other significant summer projects include:

- Asylum Lake Preserve trail—The trail on the east end of Asylum Lake in the Asylum Lake Preserve will be reopened by the end of September. The trail begins at the Winchell Avenue pedestrian entrance and ends just past the stream that flows from Asylum to Little Asylum Lake. It was modified this summer to increase safety, improve accessibility and mitigate erosion. The work included making the trail section compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

- Campus Loading Zone bus depot—The University moved the depot closer to Sangren Hall so bus pick up and drop off is closer to the center of West Campus. The new loading zone is on Wilbur Street between the north side of Rood Hall and the Fetzer Center. All WMU Bronco Transit routes arrive and depart from this location. Visit wmich.edu/broncotransit for details about routes and the community and Metro Transit buses that also stop at the Campus Loading Zone.

- Dalton Center Recital Hall seating—The original recital hall seating has been replaced. This improvement to the Dalton Center, home of the College of Fine Arts, is just in time for next academic year's celebration of the School of Music's 100th anniversary.

- Kanley Track—The track is getting a new base and surface, and additional drainage is being installed along the infield edge. The project is on schedule to reopen by homecoming week.

Campus United Way campaign gets ringing endorsement

President John M. Dunn, Buster Bronco and trumpeters from the WMU School of Music helped launch the start of the University's United Way campaign Sept. 13.

Faculty and staff members, students, and community members gathered to recognize the official start of the campus campaign with the ringing of the Bronco Victory Bell (see related story on this page). Joseph Reish, dean of libraries, is campaign chair for the campaign, which will run through Wednesday, Nov. 14.

WMU has established a goal of \$300,000. The funds will be contributed to the overall target of the United Way of the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region, which is set at \$15.35 million. Distribution of pledge cards to employees and retirees began this month.

Those who increase their giving by \$50 over last year's contribution and return their pledge cards by 5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 14, to the president's office will be eligible for a drawing by the regional United Way for up to \$30,000 toward a new vehicle from one of the sponsoring dealerships.

Donations can be made on a one-time basis, by cash, check or credit card. Pledges also are accepted, payable by payroll deduction, credit card or direct billing from United Way.

The United Way helps identify the shared needs in education, income and health and brings together the right partners to address them. Investing in the community through United Way supports the well-being of its residents.

Visit <http://uwbckr.org> for more information about the United Way. Contact hr_united_way@wmich.edu for questions about making a pledge or donation, or to schedule a United Way meeting in your department.



Michele McLaughlin, Lee Honors College, and Buster Bronco lead the crowd in the "Bronco Fight Song" during the campaign kickoff. (Photo by Deanne Puca)

Pilfered Bronco Victory Bell restored to University campus

A victory bell that was once a staple at WMU football games has been found and restored and was reintroduced to the campus during the annual ComUniverCity celebration.

The bell was stolen many years ago, says David Corstange, intercollegiate athletics, and was seemingly lost to WMU forever. But the person who took the bell contacted WMU a few years ago to say he still had the bell and wanted to return it.

Corstange recovered the item, and it has been restored by maintenance services employees Napoleon Hall, Dennis Moore, Donald Vanderroest and Kevin Villadsen. All four are members of WMU's chapter of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. The AFSCME quartet cleaned up the rusted bell, painted it black and mounted it on a wagon. The restored bell was also used during this year's United Way campaign kickoff, and plans call for it to be put to use at all home football and volleyball games.

The victory bell tradition began when a schoolhouse bell was donated to the University and rung for the first time on campus to announce the defeat of Miami University of Ohio at Waldo Stadium on Oct. 7, 1939. The original bell, reported to weigh 150 pounds, was donated to a World War II scrap metal drive. A new bell was secured 14 years later, and that is the one that was stolen.



The Victory Bell restorers are, from left, Donald Vanderroest, Kevin Villadsen, Napoleon Hall and Dennis Moore. (Photo by Mike Lanka)

Two appointed to new roles

Recent appointments have elevated one faculty member and one staff member.

Edwin A. Martini was named associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, effective Aug. 1.

In his new role, he will focus on undergraduate and graduate student enrollment management, curriculum assessment and development, and academic program review, among other areas.

A WMU faculty member since 2005, Martini had been associate chair of the Department of History since 2009.

Kim C. Nelson was named director of University creative services in university relations, effective Aug. 8. The post was created after the retirement of David H. Smith, director of graphics and design.

Nelson, a WMU graphic designer since 1998, will lead the new unit, which is charged with overseeing the art direction, design and production of all University marketing and publication materials.

She will oversee implementation and adherence to WMU's visual identity guidelines and ensure the overall visual and print quality of materials that represent the University, consulting and working with units across campus.



Martini



Nelson

International flag bearers needed

Celebrate the many cultures on campus by carrying a nation's flag in a parade of flags just before kickoff of WMU's homecoming football game Saturday, Oct. 6.

Flag bearers and others will gather for a pre-game tailgate party at 10:45 a.m. and enjoy complimentary refreshments while assembling flags for the parade.

Register in 3521 or 3516 Ellsworth Hall or at intl-rso@wmich.edu or (269) 387-3966.

On Campus with Laverne Jones



OVERNIGHT SUCCESS
(Photo by Deanne Puca)

There's a fresh smell that hits you when you walk into a WMU office or meeting area the morning after the carpets have been cleaned. That's thanks to Laverne Jones and WMU's team of carpet cleaners who were working while you were sleeping.

Jones has been on the job the past five years, working the third shift to ensure University offices are clean and ready to go when students and faculty and staff members arrive on campus each morning.

She joined WMU in 1985 as a custodian, worked from 1997 to 2003 on special projects for the custodial department, and then moved to carpet cleaning in 2007.

"We take a lot of pride in doing our job," Jones says. "It's nice to see the campus all clean. Sometimes, it's a challenge, which I like."

Jones and the other carpet cleaners work in pairs and clean all the carpets on campus except for inside the residence halls. Typically, there's a lot of wear and tear in areas with higher traffic. In the winter, the issue is the salt that's tracked in from outside.

"I find a lot of paper clips inside offices," Jones adds.

Her shift runs from 9 p.m. to 5:30 a.m., Sunday through Thursday. She says the most difficult part of the job is not the cleaning, but adjusting to a complete reverse of her normal sleep pattern—even after five years on the job.

A native of Benton Harbor, Mich., Jones moved to Kalamazoo in 1980 and still lives there. She and her husband, William, have three grown children and seven grandchildren.

Jones enjoys spending her free time with her family and being active in her church, the Galilee Baptist Church in Kalamazoo.

Employees, students asked to take campus climate survey

Employees and students over the age of 18 have until Monday, Oct. 19, to take the WMU Campus Climate Survey, which will be made available in the coming weeks.

This confidential survey will assess the University's internal climate regarding respect for diversity and inclusion of people from all backgrounds. It takes about 20 minutes to complete and will provide important information about people's experiences and perceptions regarding the diversity climate.

After finishing the survey, respondents may sign up to win prizes, such as a free parking pass, tickets to cultural or sporting events,

a gift card to the WMU bookstore, a flash drive, an e-reader, Bronco Bucks or WMU memorabilia.

Most campus community members will receive a link to the survey from Qualtrics through their Webmail Plus account. They will be asked to follow the link to a secure website where they can complete and submit the survey. Campus community members who do not regularly have access to a WMU computer will receive a paper copy of the survey in their campus mailbox, along with a pre-addressed stamped envelope.

To assure confidentiality, the University has hired a higher education consultant to manage data collection and analyses. The only person with access to the data throughout the collection and analysis periods will be the consultant, Roger L. Worthington from the University of Missouri.

The survey provides a unique opportunity for all members of the campus community to "let their voices be heard." Those voices are of tremendous value as WMU continues to make strides toward creating a diverse and inclusive environment, where all members of our community can be successful in scholarship and research, teaching, learning, and service.

For more information, contact Tiffany White at tiffany.white@wmich.edu or (269) 387-6327.

Fall starts off with big celebrations

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Levine, lauded as an "ironic Whitman of the industrial heartland," is a Pulitzer Prize-winning writer and the 18th U.S. Poet Laureate. A Detroit native, he worked in the auto industry. His poetry is best known for its urban perspective and its depiction of blue-collar life.



Levine (Photo courtesy of Jim Wilson and *The New York Times*)

Excitement grows as homecoming nears

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Massachusetts by attending one of several sponsored tailgates by the Health and Human Services Building. Among the sponsors will be the Office of Development and Alumni Relations, which is hosting a tailgate for all WMU alumni, family and friends. Food, drinks and other goodies will be provided. Register through mywmu.com or call (269) 387-8700. Game tickets are available through the Bronco Ticket Office.

• Among the activities Sunday, Oct. 7, that will wrap up homecoming week will be the WMU Music Showcase Spectacular at 3 p.m. in Miller Auditorium. The public is invited to come out to see and hear outstanding and award-winning student and faculty ensembles perform in this music scholarship benefit concert. Visit wmich.edu/music/events for tickets.

Service

35 years—Patricia K. Campbell, maintenance services; Richard M. Oxhandler, physician assistant; and Patricia F. Vander Meer, University Libraries.

25 years—Sean M. Bashaw, chemistry; John E. Campos, music; Sandra L. Custer, Sindecuse Health Center; Elaine Gaudio, president's office; Julie M. Lenczycki, construction; Donna Marks, government affairs; Elaine L. Phillips, physician assistant; and Nancy P. Pyne, Bernhard Center Dining Services.

20 years—George Fierro, diversity and inclusion.

15 years—John H. Coons, Sindecuse Health Center; Kathleen Mary Keckler, art; Colleen Lewis, development and alumni relations; Janet G. Liebendorfer, electrical and computer engineering; Sally A. Sutkowi, nursing; Gwendolyn J. Thomas, admissions; and Debbie L. Uldriks, Haenicke Institute.

10 years—Sara M. Anderson, Human Resources; Brian P. Bauer, intercollegiate athletics; Cheryl Lynn Bauman-Bruey, theatre; Christina M. Dersch, information technology; Timothy S. Herrmann, intercollegiate athletics; Kathryn Lewis-Ginebaugh, interdisciplinary health programs; Brandon G. Meissner, University Libraries; Shannon M. Rauner, College of Education and Human Development; Vladimir N. Risukhin, College of Aviation; Elizabeth C. Teviotdale, Medieval Institute; Connie Volenski, economics; and Michael Whang, University Libraries.

Five years—Stefan Bladen Sr., public safety; Timothy Lee Buskirk, public safety; Pamela F. Danielson, student financial aid and scholarships; Cindy K. Hetrick, accounts receivable; Julia Primavera Kuntz, admissions; Stephen Root, landscape services; Scott C. Smith, University Libraries; and Don Jeffrey Upchurch, Burnham Dining Service.