



# Western News

JANUARY 28, 2016  
Volume 42, Number 9

For and about WMU faculty and staff

## Board of Trustees meetings scheduled

The first formal meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees during the 2016 calendar year will be held Thursday, Feb. 11, in Heritage Hall. The remaining 2016 meeting dates are Wednesday, March 23; Thursday, April 21; Tuesday, June 7 (daylong board retreat with formal public session at 11 a.m.); Tuesday, July 12; Monday, Sept. 12; Tuesday, Oct. 11; and Monday, Dec. 12. Most board meetings are held on campus in the Bernhard Center with formal sessions beginning at 11 a.m.

## Nominate colleagues for staff award

Nominations for the spring semiannual Make a Difference award are due Sunday, Feb. 28. Make a Difference recognizes staff members for their accomplishments and daily investment of energy and creativity. It features semiannual and annual awards presented to nonfaculty employees who provide exceptional service to the University. For more information, including year-round nomination instructions and forms, visit [wmich.edu/makeadifference](http://wmich.edu/makeadifference).

## Career development sessions planned

Faculty development is conducting a four-session learning community for midcareer faculty titled "Getting to Full Professor or Master Faculty Specialist." Meetings are Fridays from 1 to 3 p.m. Feb. 5 and 26, March 18, and April 8 in 2033 University Computing Center. For more information or to register, call (269) 387-0732.

## Free employee photo shoots slated

University relations has scheduled numerous free photo sessions during 2016 for employees to have their official WMU portraits taken. All sessions are from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Walwood Hall's Emeriti Lounge, unless otherwise noted. The next session will be held Wednesday, Feb. 10. Visit [wmich.edu/universityrelations/photography](http://wmich.edu/universityrelations/photography) for more information.

## Chinese research grants available

Applications are being accepted for a research and creative activities grant to support the study of Greater China by faculty members. Friday, Feb. 12, is the deadline to apply for a grant, valued at up to \$3,000 each. For details, visit the Light Center website at [wmich.edu/chinesestudiescenter](http://wmich.edu/chinesestudiescenter).

## New center promotes diversity

The Western Regional Area Health Education Center, located at the WMU-Grand Rapids downtown location, is partnering with providers across Southwest Michigan to play an integral role in teaching and training the next generation of health professionals. Operated through the College of Health and Human Services, it aims to promote diversity in primary health care providers, particularly in underserved communities.

## Researcher garners \$800,000 NSF grant

A WMU education researcher has received a \$799,665 grant from the National Science Foundation to develop resources to plan studies that can better assess how well professional development initiatives for science teachers are working.



Spybrook

Jessaca Spybrook, educational leadership, research and technology, is heading a team of researchers from WMU, the Biological Sciences Curriculum Study and Abt Associates that will

mine a treasure trove of large-scale data sets, analyze them and come up with ways to inform the design of large evaluations of teacher development initiatives.

Too often, large-scale teacher development randomized trials are inconclusive. So

it is unknown how well efforts to improve teaching are actually working.

A major impediment to analyzing professional development program effectiveness is designing studies that have the capacity to determine "what works." Spybrook's research will give guidance about how many schools need to be studied and how many teachers should be tested within those schools to answer those questions with greater confidence.

"In this particular study, the outcomes of interest are actually teacher outcomes," Spybrook says. "So we're interested in science teacher practice and science teacher content knowledge, because we know that by improving these things, ultimately that will lead to improved student achievement."

In order to figure out how many schools and teachers need to be studied, researchers will examine how much teacher content

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## WMU, WMU Cooley ink new pacts; start law classes

With the first two law school classes now underway on the University's Kalamazoo campus, WMU and WMU Cooley Law School officials met in the city Jan. 19 to sign a series of new agreements that will continue the expansion of legal education in West Michigan.

The three new pacts cover facilities use, courses, programs and parking. They were signed by WMU President John M. Dunn and WMU Cooley President and Dean Don LeDuc during a brief public ceremony.

The terms of the pacts are already enabling the delivery this semester of two upper-level law classes on the WMU campus in Kalamazoo. Classes in employment and environmental law—the first law school classes offered at WMU—began Jan. 11. The pacts also will pave the way for a group of first-year law students to begin basic legal education at WMU in fall 2016.

Among new opportunities that are a result



From left, WMU Cooley President LeDuc and WMU President Dunn (Photo by Mike Lanka)

of the agreements signed Jan. 19 are such initiatives as:

- Accelerated programs that will allow WMU students to complete both an undergraduate and law degree in a timeframe shorter than the traditional seven years—saving the students time and tuition dollars;
- Cross listing of courses that will allow

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## Revised strategic plan draft released for public comment

The first draft of WMU's revised strategic plan for 2016-20 has been published online.

The document reflects months of discussions by a broad cross-section of the campus community as well as analysis of the Universitywide Strategic Plan Stakeholder Survey that was conducted in December.

This first draft presents priority objectives and strategies that address information gathered by the University Strategic Plan 2020 Transition Team. It serves as the first of many opportunities WMU stakeholders will have to see and react to the revisions being made as the three-year 2012-15 plan transitions to a five-year 2016-20 plan.

All students and employees are encour-

aged to review the draft document, discuss it with colleagues and attend one of the many focus groups to be held by units across campus during February. The draft as well as a calendar of those planned focus group meetings will be posted at [wmich.edu/strategic](http://wmich.edu/strategic).

A second draft of the revised plan will be presented to the campus community in March for final review. The new 2016-20 University Strategic Plan will be presented to the WMU Board of Trustees in late March for its consideration.

To provide strategic planning input or keep up to date on activities and events, contact Jody Brylinsky at [jody.brylinsky@wmich.edu](mailto:jody.brylinsky@wmich.edu) or visit the strategic planning website.

# Around campus and beyond

## Registration underway for fun classes

Registrations are being accepted for new rounds of courses being offered by both the Confucius Institute and Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

The Confucius Institute's spring series of Chinese culture courses begins the week of Feb. 1. These low-cost, noncredit courses are taught in English over 10 weeks. A half-price tuition discount is offered to those age 55 and up, and WMU students and part-time employees. Courses are free for full-time WMU employees. Visit [wmuconfucius.org](http://wmuconfucius.org) for details.

The Osher institute is accepting registrations for 45 courses and six trips being offered during its winter/spring semester. The short-term, noncredit courses and day trips are designed for learners age 50 and up. Most courses meet once a week for one to six weeks, with the first courses beginning in early February and the later ones concluding at the end of April. Visit [wmich.edu/olli](http://wmich.edu/olli) for details.

## It's game on for Chinese New Year

China's games, food and culture will take center stage during a festive, traditional Chinese New Year celebration from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 3, in the Wesley Foundation. The event, which is

being hosted by the Confucius Institute, is free but registration is encouraged at [wmuconfucius.org/cny2016](http://wmuconfucius.org/cny2016). The date for the Chinese New Year fluctuates based on the lunar calendar, and each year is marked by one of 12 animals. In 2016, the Chinese New Year's Day falls on Feb. 8, which marks the beginning of the Year of the Monkey.

## Flint water disaster is talk topic

A member of the Virginia Tech team that helped break the story about Flint's lead-poisoning problem will be at WMU Tuesday, Feb. 9, to talk about using science to serve the public good. Siddhartha Roy, communication director for Virginia Tech's Flint Water Study, will speak at 7 p.m. in 1910 Sangren Hall.

## Exchange industry veteran to speak

Laura Morrison, senior vice president and global head of exchange traded products at BATS Global Markets, will be the second speaker in the business college's 2015-16 Distinguished Speaker Series. Morrison will speak at 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 10, in 2000 Schneider Hall. Her presentation, titled "WMU to Wall Street," is free. RSVPs are requested at [wmich.edu/business/rsvp-dss](http://wmich.edu/business/rsvp-dss).

## Sabbatical leaves granted to 37 faculty members

Thirty-seven faculty members were granted sabbatical leaves by the WMU Board of Trustees during the governing board's Dec. 8 meeting.

- A leave for the spring 2016 semester went to James M. Murray, history (change of effective date only).
- A leave for the fall 2016 semester went to Heather Addison, communication; Upul Bandara Attanayake, civil and construction engineering; Nancy Eimers, English; Paul Farber, teaching, learning and educational studies; Sandra O. Glista, speech pathology and audiology; Vyacheslav G. Karpov,

sociology; Renata A. Knific, music; Thomas Knific, music; Elena B. Lisovskaya, sociology; Annegret Paul, mathematics; Thomas V. Scannell, management; Megan Slayter, dance; and Grace C. Tiffany, English.

- A leave for the 2016-17 academic year went to Ala I. Al-Fuqaha, computer science; Sisay Asefa, economics; Peter Blickle, world languages and literatures; James Butterfield, political science; William J. Charland, art; Sally E. Hadden, history; David Huffman, chemistry; Denise Keele, political science; Jane-Jane Lo, mathematics; Alexandra Pekarovicova, chemical and paper engineering; Jocelyn D. Steinke, communication; Patricia E. Villalobos Echeverria, art; and Victor C. Xiong, history.

- A leave for the spring 2017 semester went to Lori J. Brown, aviation sciences; Bernard T. Han, business information systems; C. James Hueng, economics; Jerry G. Kreuze, accountancy; Dennis Metro-Roland, teaching, learning and educational studies; Timothy B. Palmer, management; Robert E. Vann, Spanish; and Elizabeth Whitten, special education and literacy studies.

- A leave for summer I and II 2017 went to Michele D. Behr, University Libraries.

- A leave for fall 2016 and fall 2017 went to Doris J. Ravotas, interdisciplinary health programs.

## 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.

## Staffers to take program international

Kevin Knutson, arts and sciences advising, and Ronicka Hamilton, Fostering Success Michigan, will travel to Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Feb. 22-25 to take the Seita Schol-



Hamilton



Knutson

ars Program to the world stage at the National Academic Advising Association's International Conference.

They will be the first WMU representatives to present at an international academic advising conference and will report on the "Fostering Success Coaching Model in Academic Advising" as part of the student persistence and retention track at the conference.

The coaching strategy is finding wide application outside the foster care realm, says Knutson, who will present to the international audience. He adds that the model was developed from research by WMU faculty, staff and students and is highly adaptable.

## Prof named to top governing board

Ola Smith, accountancy, has been named to the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants Board of Examiners, one of the highest oversight posts in the field of accountancy.



Smith

The board is responsible for the CPA exam, the most significant licensure for accountants in the United States. It develops and sets policy related to the CPA exam and works to ensure that

the CPA exam stays relevant to the accounting profession and that it is accessible to candidates.

Smith also serves as the education representative on the Michigan State Board of Accountancy, a nine-member board that oversees licensure and certification requirements for certified public accountants and public accounting firms in the state of Michigan.

## Prolific author pens new IT book

Andrew Targowski, business information systems, has penned a new book titled "The History, Present State and Future of Information Technology." The book was



Targowski

published in December by Informing Science Press.

Targowski says the book is unique in the world's literature, given that it covers the most important achievements of IT in about 30 countries and reflects on 300 comput-

ers, operating systems, networks, software and applications developed by some 160 IT pioneers working in some 40 pioneer firms and organizations.

Usually books on information technology focus on achievements and issues that have taken place in the political West. Targowski's also examines developments in the political East, and for the first time, describes his ordeal of implementing advanced network-driven information systems in the 1970s in totalitarian Poland.

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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 spring semester are **Jan. 14 and 28, Feb. 11 and 25, March 17 and 31, and April 14.** 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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**W** WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

## Grants seek to improve aviation safety

WMU has received three grants totaling \$434,690 from the Federal Aviation Administration NextGen Weather Technology in the Cockpit program.

Lori Brown, aviation, is principal investigator for WMU on two of the projects while Geoff Whitehurst, aviation, is WMU's principal investigator for the third.

The grants fund three of four FAA projects that have the goal of using the latest weather technology research to improve pilot decision-making during adverse weather conditions and enhance crew awareness. All four are through a program that seeks to enhance general aviation safety, accessibility and sustainability by partnering the FAA with a national network of world-class researchers, educators and industry leaders.

For one of the WMU projects, Brown and her WMU colleagues are partnering with Purdue University to develop innovative training modules. They will construct interactive, computer-based decision trees that can be used by a broad demographic to improve decision making in unintentional transition into adverse weather conditions. Her second research project, in partnership with Texas A&M University, will look closely at weather technology in the cockpit and weather devices and functions.

Whitehurst, who also is partnering with Purdue University, is overseeing a research team that is investigating the effect of latency or delay due to data transfer rates of NEXRAD information presented to pilots during bad weather. Radar images can be up to 12 minutes old. Whitehurst and his fellow researchers have developed a computer-based training aid which replicates NEXRAD radar imagery that has the delay built into it for flight simulation.



Brown



Whitehurst

## Spring Convocation slated

The Spring Convocation: Recognition of Discovery, Diversity and Global Engagement" will take place Thursday and Friday, Feb. 4-5, in the Fetzer Center.

Major events Feb. 5 include morning presentations by two faculty members who were previously honored during WMU's annual Academic Convocation and an afternoon ceremony to honor several of this spring's campuswide award recipients.

**John Jellies**, biological sciences and the University's 2014 Distinguished Faculty Scholar, will speak at 11 a.m. on "Heralds of Discovery: Invertebrates Advancing Neurobiology." **Luigi Andrea Berto**, history and the 2015 Emerging Scholar, will speak at 11:45 a.m. on "The Image of Muslims in Medieval South Italy."

WMU's first Spring Convocation ceremony, set for 3:30 p.m., will honor four faculty members and three organizations.

Extended University Programs' Innovative Teaching Award will go to the team of **Marian Tripplett** and **Dee Ann Sherwood**, both from social work.

Diversity and Inclusion will present four awards during the convocation.

An Excellence in Diversity Award will go to the **College of Aviation** as well as to the team of **Jeff Carr**, maintenance services, and **Mariam Konaté**, Africana studies and gender and women's studies.

The Trailblazers for Diversity Award will go to the **LGBT Student Advisory Council**.

The Rising Star in Diversity Award will go to the **Sindecuse Diversity and Inclusion Committee**.

For more about Spring Convocation events, visit [wmich.edu/research](http://wmich.edu/research).



**STAYING WARM**—Instead of walking from campus to Martin Luther King Jr. Park Jan. 18, marchers switched to bus transport due to frigid weather. They gathered at Kanley Chapel, then walked to the Bernhard Center to board buses. Marchers included U.S. Rep. Fred Upton, back, standing, and WMU President John M. Dunn, second row, center. (Photo by Peter J. Strazdas)

## Time to review University's snow removal policy, winter walking safety tips

Winter hours are in effect for WMU's snow removal crews, who must plow, shovel, scrape and de-ice more than 26 miles of roads and 120 acres of parking area, 39 miles of walks, hundreds of doorways, and 200,000 square feet of steps and ramps.

Plow schedules cover snow and ice removal activities 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Providing there is not a major storm, most main campus areas will be clear of snow and ice before the majority of students and employees arrive each day.

Snow and ice removal schedules can be adjusted to accommodate special mobility needs as well as weekend and other special activities. Requests should be directed to landscape services at (269) 387-8557. Callers are asked to provide as much advance notice as possible. Questions or concerns after normal business hours should be directed to public safety at (269) 387-5555.

Visit [wmich.edu/policies/closure-policy](http://wmich.edu/policies/closure-policy) for information about the University's Closure Policy.

### Walking in winter

Environmental health and safety reminds students and employees that slips and falls are some of the most frequent types of injuries that occur on campus during the winter months.

For that reason, that office's Safety Committee has posted a PDF at [bit.ly/1IRqqTp](http://bit.ly/1IRqqTp) that provides helpful hints and guidelines for being safe while traversing campus during this time of year. The PDF covers everything from how to walk on slippery surfaces to what to wear during cold weather.

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

**Marvin "Geno" Milkovich** died Dec. 24, 2015, at age 83. Milkovich came to WMU in 1987 and retired in 1997 as a carpet cleaner in building custodial and support services after 10 years of service.

**John J. Pruis** died Jan. 15 at age 92. Pruis, a former vice president for administration, speech professor and secretary to the WMU Board of Trustees, came to WMU in 1955. He left in 1968 after 13 years to become president of Ball State University.

**Jim Tripp** died Dec. 25, 2015, at age 62. Tripp, a painter/glazier in maintenance services, came to WMU in 2001 and at the time of his death had given 14 years of near-continuous service. Survivors include Pam McMakin, longtime companion and WMU retiree. An open house to celebrate Tripp's

life will be held from 3 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13, in the Life Story Funeral Home-Betzler, 6080 Stadium Drive in Kalamazoo.

**Lambert R. VanderKooi** died Nov. 17, 2015, at age 80. VanderKooi came to WMU in 1970 and retired in 2000 as an emeritus in electrical and computer engineering after 30 years of service.

**Janice S. Weaver** died Dec. 30, 2015, at age 68. Weaver came to WMU in 1988 and retired in 2010 as a utility person/cash operations in Dining Services after 21 years



Pruis



Tripp



VanderKooi



Weaver

of service. Survivors include her husband, Don, a WMU retiree.

**Robert "Herb" Williams** died Jan. 16 at age 97. Williams retired in 1980 as director of the physical plant after 34 years of service.

**Michael "Woody" Woodhams** died Jan. 19 at age 63. He came to WMU in 1997 and retired in 2009 as an electrician in maintenance services after 12 years of service.

# On Campus with Jenaba Duymovic Waggy



DELIGHTING IN GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT  
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

"It's sort of like walking into a mini U.N. all the time," Jenaba D. Waggy says of her job in the Department of World Languages and Literatures. Waggy, an administrative assistant II who serves as the department's office coordinator, adds that the number of differences prevalent in the people and activities of her unit make for exhilarating workdays.

"We are sitting at the nexus of the globally engaged concept of Western. There are people from so many countries and cultures to tap into," she says. "In a single day, I can have seven or more countries represented in my office."

Waggy primarily deals with money matters, including balancing accounts, handling payroll and making sure departmental grants are in compliance. But she also is responsible for taking care of events, supplies, personnel paperwork, and office and academic files.

"It really is having to be prepared for everything," she notes, from: "'I'm locked out of my classroom' to 'We have federal guidelines of which we weren't aware.'"

Waggy came to WMU in 2010 to earn a master's degree in medieval studies. While a student, she taught for that program, worked in Medieval Institute Publications and helped world languages and literatures found its *Transference* journal of poetry in translation. After graduating in 2013, she accepted her current job, which has her previous post of editorial assistant for *Transference* built into the list of duties.

"I love working in this department and with these people, and it's given me the space to figure out what I do want to do as a career," says Waggy, who is active in her United Methodist church. "I'm applying to seminary schools now. I feel that professional ministry is where I'm being called to help shape the way that we interact."

The Kalamazoo resident does some freelance proofreading and editing, is a voracious reader, and enjoys knitting and writing as well as visiting college friends in the tri-state area. This semester at WMU, she's participating in the Women in Higher Education Diversity Learning Community as well as taking an introductory American Sign Language class.

"Everyone should take a foreign language, if only to understand that there are differences and similarities. I've taken an alarming number of languages and I'm not fluent in any of them except English," she says. "But there is no career that I can think of where it's not helpful to be able to recognize that there's this whole history and culture behind the way that you think and talk about things."

## Service anniversaries

The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 45, 40, 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service during January.

**45 Years**—Regina E. Buckner, University Libraries.

**40 Years**—Charles A. Boos, information technology.

**35 Years**—Judy A. Slumkoski, building custodial and support services, and Patrick L. Northrop, University Libraries.

**30 Years**—John William Disbro, landscape services; Pradipkumar N. Bhatt, Sindecuse Health Center; and Todd K. Mossman, Human Resources.

**25 Years**—Calvin Jones, building custodial and support services; David A. Wyman, landscape services; James M. Davis, building custodial and support services; Joyce A. Simonds, Bernhard Center Dining Service; Kathy L. Mitchell, University ombuds; Kim Cho, Haenicke Institute; Lynda L. Hunt, development and alumni relations; Mario A. Galbreath, information technology;

Martha B. Warfield, vice president for diversity and inclusion; and Rebecca I. Thiel, maintenance services.

**20 Years**—JoAnn Jones Marcilous, building custodial and support services; Linda L. Poquette, associate vice president for finance's office; Rose Ella P. Lyke, College of Aviation; and Shelly L. Russell, landscape services.

**15 Years**—Jim H. Whittles, College of Aviation; June Dowdy, Davis Dining Service; Kevin A. Wesel, College of Fine Arts; Lynda Diana Root, educational leadership, research and technology; Sandra Lee Gernaat, public safety; and Sheri Harper, construction.

**10 Years**—Craig A. Warner, public safety; Debora S. Karnemaat, Sindecuse Health

Center; Eric J. McConnell, University Ombuds; Fawn E. Callen, information technology; Gordon M. Bolar, WMUK Radio; Kimberly J. Cauchy, Miller Auditorium; and Lori A. Whitehead, development and alumni relations.

**Five Years**—Anders John Dahlberg, WMUK Radio; Brennan Christopher Davis, Extended University Programs; Charles Timothy Johnson, public safety; Jeannine H. Shafer, finance and commercial law; Julia Mays, vice president for research's office; Kenneth Dale VanderRoest Jr., building custodial and support services; Marcy Lynne Peake, family and consumer sciences; Marquise Lamar Hummel, building custodial and support services; and Sonja Dotson, development and alumni relations.

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## Researcher garners \$800,000 NSF grant

knowledge varies from one school to the next. Does it vary a lot? Do teachers with a high amount of content knowledge tend to be clustered in one school or is there a lot of variation within schools?

"We're going to analyze these data sets to get an idea of what that variation looks like," Spybrook says. "After we analyze those data sets, we're going to write papers and disseminate them so that if you were a researcher and wanted to test the curriculum

you set up for teachers, you would then go to our resource and pull these parameters out so you could design your study with the right number of schools and the right number of teachers."

By taking the data sets and analyzing them, researchers have the tools to design their study effectively. By performing a meta-analysis of studies, the project also will allow researchers to more accurately predict how big of an impact the teacher development

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## WMU, WMU Cooley

WMU graduate students to take law classes and law students to take graduate courses, with each earning credits toward their respective degree programs; and

- Dual courses that will be team taught by faculty at both schools.

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