



# Western News

SEPTEMBER 24, 2015  
Volume 42, Number 2

For and about WMU faculty and staff

## Board of Trustees meeting scheduled

The next meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees will be held Tuesday, Oct. 6. The starting time and location, and information about the agenda, will be released shortly before the meeting.

## Friday mixer to be held for employees

A Fridays with Friends faculty-staff mixer will take place from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 2, in the Richmond Center for Visual Arts. The event follows the annual Academic Convocation and includes light hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar.

## Free faculty, staff photo session set

Employees are encouraged to have their official University photos taken between 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 2, in Walwood Hall's Heinig Emeriti Lounge. No appointment is required. Employees may have electronic copies for personal use, but photo files are not automatically sent. Direct questions to Sue Beougher at [sue.beougher@wmich.edu](mailto:sue.beougher@wmich.edu) or (269) 387-8402.

## CHEA Award applications due Oct. 14

The Council for Higher Education Accreditation is accepting applications for the 2016 CHEA Award through Wednesday, Oct. 14. The award was created to encourage and enhance attention to student learning outcomes. Interested faculty and staff members should complete the application available at [chea.org](http://chea.org) and submit it to the Office of the Provost.

## Health center offering flu shots

The Sindecuse Health Center is offering vaccinations to WMU employees, students and retirees, in certain cases at no charge.

Vaccinations are available by appointment at Sindecuse from 8 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 4:30 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays as well as from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 4:30 p.m. Thursdays.

No appointment is necessary to attend the College of Aviation clinic Monday, Oct. 5, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 1224 Aviation Education Center, Battle Creek.

To make an appointment to get vaccinated at the Sindecuse Health Center, visit [wmich.edu/healthcenter](http://wmich.edu/healthcenter) or call (269) 387-3287. Visit [wmich.edu/news/2015/09/26562](http://wmich.edu/news/2015/09/26562) for more details about vaccination-related insurance reimbursements and other cost details.

## Annual Study Abroad Fair slated

WMU students and the public are invited to take their first step toward planning an overseas learning experience as part of their degree program by attending the annual Study Abroad Fair from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 14, in the Bernhard Center's East Ballroom. The free event will showcase the more than 90 programs WMU offers in some 40 countries.

## WMU launches new state autism resource

Michigan Lt. Gov. Brian Calley and a number of state legislators and officials were at WMU Sept. 11 to help open a major new resource for Michigan families—Western's Evaluation Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental disorders—known as WECAN.

WECAN is part of WMU's multifaceted Autism Center of Excellence. It opened for client appointments Sept. 14.

Families who visit the new facility in the Unified Clinics will be able to work with an interdisciplinary diagnostic team specializing in autism spectrum disorder to have their children's skills assessed along with family needs.

They will receive a diagnosis along with individualized treatment recommendations, if appropriate. The assessment will be based on high-quality, autism-specific assessment tools, observation, interviews and the team's clinical expertise.

"Western Michigan University is the best in this field, anywhere in the nation and probably anywhere in the world," Calley told opening event attendees while lauding the University's work in training professionals and providing services for children and families.

"It totally changes the direction of people's lives...And Kalamazoo is way ahead of the curve in putting partnerships and expertise together with the local educational system."

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Calley (Photo by Mike Lanka)

## First Western Heights residents to showcase new hall

Western Heights, a revolutionary new take on the idea of a traditional student residence hall, will be showcased by the people who know it best—its first residents—during an open house set for 3 to 5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 12.

The two Y-shaped buildings are the first



One of the Western Heights lounge areas, with TV and fireplace (Photo by Mike Lanka)

major housing initiative for incoming students that has been completed in decades. Their amenities, building design, social benefits generated and environmental strengths are expected to set the new standard for campus living across the state and nation.

Completed just days before 740 residents moved in for the fall semester, Western Heights uses design innovation to promote a sense of community and encourage socialization among students. The complex is built to LEED—Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design—specifications and offers living space organized into 23 "houses" that are home to 33 students each.

Open house attendees will be able visit select houses and individual rooms as well as public areas. A fly-through video and additional information is available at [wmich.edu/housing/westernheights](http://wmich.edu/housing/westernheights).

## Four of 10 campuswide award winners announced

**Editor's note:** The six other 2015 campuswide award winners were announced in the Sept. 10 *Western News*. They will be honored during the Academic Convocation Oct. 2 (not Oct. 12 as erroneously reported in the previous issue).

Among those receiving Universitywide honors during this year's Academic Convocation from 2 to 4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 2, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall will be Joseph G. Reish and Juan M. Tavares, Distinguished Service Award winners, and Allison Downey and Michael Nassaney, Distinguished Teaching Award winners.

### Distinguished Service Award

This award recognizes one staff member and one faculty member who have built careers that exemplify exceptional service to WMU and the larger community.

• **Joseph Reish** has been dean of University Libraries since 2002 and was interim dean and then dean of the Lee Honors College for a decade. He has been a driving force behind the development of numerous major initia-



Downey



Nassaney



Reish



Tavares

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# Around campus and beyond

## Osher Institute fall classes, trips set

Registration is ongoing for many of the 43 short-term courses and six group trips being offered this fall by the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at WMU. The institute's annual membership meeting Tuesday, Nov. 17, will include a talk by Paul Maier, emeritus in comparative religion. These activities are detailed in the fall brochure posted at [wmich.edu/olli](http://wmich.edu/olli).

## Innocence Project director to speak

Marla L. Mitchell-Cichon, director of the WMU Cooley Law School Innocence Project, will speak at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 29, in 3301 Friedmann Hall as part of U.S. Constitution Day activities. Her presentation is "Safeguarding the Constitution: What You Can Do to Improve the American Criminal Justice System." Mitchell-Cichon will discuss the Innocence Project, how it relates to the Constitution and how WMU students can get involved.

## Expo focuses on employee benefits

The 2015 Benefits and Wellness Expo will feature more than 30 on- and off-campus vendors that deliver employee benefits and wellness programs. The free Human Resources-sponsored event is set for 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 1, in the Bernhard Center Ballroom.

In addition to perusing vendor booths

and getting one-on-one benefits information at the expo, attendees may go to workshops delivered on a wellness, financial and health plan track. The latter track includes a MPSERS workshop. Participants also may register for Fitbits and other door prizes and even get their annual wellness screening or a chair massage. Visit [wmich.edu/hr/benefits-expo](http://wmich.edu/hr/benefits-expo) for details.

## Event to showcase ArtPrize projects

In conjunction with the Frostic School of Art, WMU-Grand Rapids will present a venue reception for its 2015 ArtPrize exhibition from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26, in the WMU-Grand Rapids facility at 200 Ionia Ave. SW in Grand Rapids. The event will feature 32 art projects and include juror and curator Vicki Wright, from the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts. Visit [bit.ly/1PsNwZR](http://bit.ly/1PsNwZR) to register.

## Three free career fairs are coming up

Three career fairs will be held next month. The Graduate and Professional School Fair is set for 3 to 6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 5, in the Bernhard Center's East Ballroom (visit [wmich.edu/career/wmu-gradfair15](http://wmich.edu/career/wmu-gradfair15)). The Engineering Expo is set for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 14, at the Parkview Campus. The Broadcast Media Career Fair is set for noon to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 20, in Brown Hall (visit [michiganbroadcastcareers.com](http://michiganbroadcastcareers.com)).

## Graphic novel expert to give talk for common read

An expert on graphic novels and comics will help put this year's common read book in perspective when she presents a public talk at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 14, in the Bernhard Center's South Ballroom.

Hillary Chute, associate professor of English at the University of Chicago, will speak on "Understanding the Graphic Novel: Art Spiegelman's Maus and Contemporary Comics." The work selected for the 2015-16 University Common Read is Spiegelman's

"Maus I: A Survivor's Tale," the first graphic novel to win a Pulitzer Prize.

Chute is an associate editor of a book by Spiegelman called "MetaMaus," which explores the making of his terrain-shifting graphic narrative Maus. She is interested in the ways people address history and understand their lives through cultural invention.

Her current teaching and research interests lie in contemporary American literature, specifically in how public and private histories take shape in the form of innovative narrative work. Chute is particularly interested in the relationships between the words and images, and fiction and nonfiction that is seen in contemporary comics.

For more information about Chute and the common read, visit [libguides.wmich.edu/wmucommonread2015-16](http://libguides.wmich.edu/wmucommonread2015-16).

## Exchange

**For sale**—Mustang convertible (numbers match): 1966, red, 70,000 miles, show-quality classic, \$34,000. Contact: Dave Loney at (269) 372-2699. The contact number was inadvertently left out when this ad appeared in the Sept. 10 issue of *Western News*.

## 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.

## Professor invited to White House

Kyle Brink, management, was recently invited to the White House as part of a national initiative to improve diversity in the public safety and first responder workforce.



Brink

Brink was one of a handful of industry experts invited to the initial meeting at the White House in July.

Brink, who has developed employment selection procedures for public safety units since 2003, also has served as an expert witness in several discrimination cases related to employment selection in public safety, including overseeing the development of fair and valid selection procedures for public safety departments under court supervision as a result of past discrimination.

## Program director's test published

Nickola Nelson, interdisciplinary health sciences director, has co-created a recently published, groundbreaking assessment to test listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in students ages 6-18.



Nelson

Nelson developed the test with Elena Plante, University of Arizona; Nancy Helm-Estabrooks, Western Carolina University; and Gillian Hotz, University of Miami.

Named the Test of Integrated Language and Literacy Skills, or TILLS, the test was recently published by the Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co. Inc. in Baltimore. The publication coincides with a time when there is an international effort to heighten awareness of the relationships between language and reading disorders.

This past May, Nelson was invited to give the keynote address and taught a master workshop and seminar based on the TILLS research and related clinical research at the national conference of Speech Pathology Australia in Canberra, Australia.

## Facilities head elected president

Peter J. Strazdas, associate vice president for Facilities Management, is the 2015-16 president of the APPA: Leadership in Educational Facilities organization, formerly



Strazdas

named the Association of Physical Plant Administrators. Previously Strazdas has served the national association as president-elect and secretary-treasurer. He also is a past president of Michigan's APPA chapter.

Strazdas has been at WMU for more than 35 years and is now employed in his third facilities-related career area—facilities and operations. In prior years, he worked in construction as well as taught.

In his current WMU post, Strazdas heads a department whose 500 employees take care of 151 buildings covering 8 million gross square feet and 1,200 acres of land. "I practice management by walking around," he says.

## Western News

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# EUP 'Welcome to Someday' campaign garners marketing award

For the fourth time in 10 years, the marketing team for Extended University Programs has won a national award for a WMU campaign aimed at prospective students.

The Welcome to Someday campaign earned a Silver Award in the mixed media campaign category of the 2015 University Professional & Continuing Education Association Marketing Award program.

The EUP team, comprised of Megan Anderson, Leah Smith and Joel Krauss, executed the campaign in summer 2015. As a comprehensive recruitment campaign, EUP's regional locations and online education options were promoted through video,

digital advertising, email, print, outdoor and community event sponsorships.

The campaign was planned and written by the EUP team. Media buying and graphic design services were supported by Chris Hunt and Debbi Kreps, university relations, and Kalamazoo-area designers Sandy Wachowski and Tammy Collins.

A particular highlight of the campaign is a suite of four videos, which feature WMU regional locations, including videos that showcase WMU's presence in the Battle Creek, Grand Rapids and Metro Detroit communities. The EUP videos, which can be viewed at [bit.ly/1LyC2Gb](http://bit.ly/1LyC2Gb), were filmed and



edited by Kalamazoo-based Rhino Media and created to align with the existing Go West video that is a core part of the University Relations Go West campaign.

The campaign board will be on display with other winning categories when UPCEA holds its annual Marketing, Enrollment and Student Services Seminar in Denver, Colorado, in November.

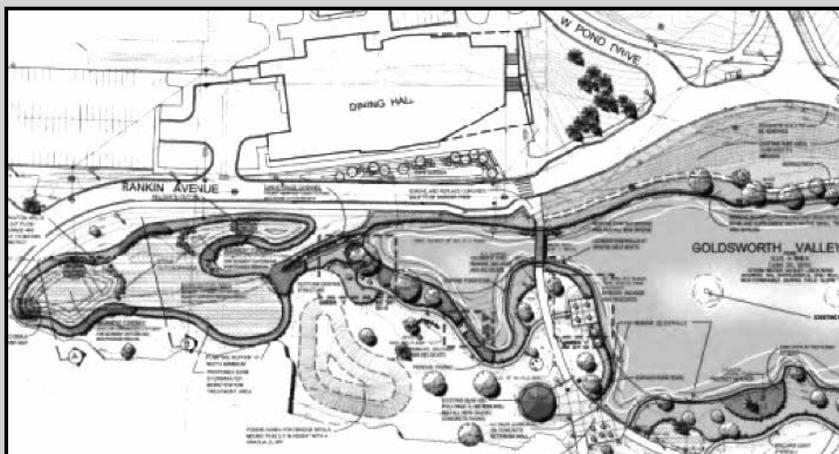
## U.S. News puts WMU among best universities for 25th year

For the 25th consecutive year, WMU appears on *U.S. News & World Report's* list of "best national universities," continuing its presence among schools the magazine calls the top tier of colleges and universities in the United States.

The 2016 ranking of nearly 1,800 four-year colleges and universities was released by *U.S. News* Sept. 9 and is available online at [usnews.com](http://usnews.com). A print edition will appear at newsstands late this month.

WMU is listed in the top tier among 280 national institutions. It is among seven schools tied in the ranking at No. 187. Also in August, WMU was named a 2016 "Best in the Midwest" school by *Princeton Review*.

## Input meeting slated on planned Goldsworth Valley improvements



The University community is invited to attend a design presentation and input session dealing with planned enhancements to Goldsworth Valley at 5 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 1, in 159 Bernhard Center. The landscape architecture firm of O'Boyle Cowell Blalock will present the proposed schematic design concept (above) for improvements to the area around Goldsworth Valley Pond. The project includes native and wetland plantings at the pond's perimeter to provide a buffer for wildlife and filtering of stormwater discharged into the pond. New gathering spaces and walking paths along the water's edge also are planned. Construction is scheduled to start in spring 2016 and expected to be completed in summer 2016 to coincide with completion of the new Valley Dining Center. (Schematic courtesy of Facilities Management)

## Overcoming gang life is subject of diversity series talk

A former gang member who is now a nationally recognized speaker and educator will visit campus Wednesday, Sept. 30.

Paul Hernandez will present a free talk for WMU students and the general public called "Breaking Chains: From Gangs to Graduation" at 5 p.m. in the Bernhard Center Ballroom. Hernandez will share his personal story and discuss hardships faced by students and how to transcend obstacles as well as pursue passions. Attendees may stay for a roundtable discussion and refreshments.

While on campus, he also will present two workshops that day for WMU employees. The morning program is for instructors wanting to learn ways to connect with students and prepare for an increasingly diverse stu-

dent population. The afternoon program is for staff members wanting to build rapport with students while creating relevant as well as life-changing student experiences.

For event details, contact WMU's Chris Robinson at [christine.robinson@wmich.edu](mailto:christine.robinson@wmich.edu) or (269) 387-5087. For the full list of this year's Real Talk Diversity Series events, visit [wmich.edu/diversity/realtalk](http://wmich.edu/diversity/realtalk).

## Sichel Series is new, improved

Six experts on China are taking a close look at the emergence of the Asian nation as an economic and political superpower when they visit WMU as part of the re-structured Werner Sichel Lecture Series. Next up will be Wing Thye Woo from the University of California at Davis, speaking from noon to 1:15 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7, in 2028 Brown Hall, on "An Assessment of Napoleon's Prediction That an Awakened China Would Shake the World."

## Service

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

**40 Years**—Donald Penskar, logistical services.

**35 Years**—Amy L. Burns, College of Education and Human Development; Nannette R. Morningstar, nursing; and Diane M. Schuldt, construction.

**30 Years**—Paula Armstrong, speech pathology and audiology; Dana Ball, landscape services; Sue A. Beougher, university relations; Laurie E. Miley, building custodial and support services; Lisa K. Soule, maintenance services; Joseph D. Truppa, maintenance service; and Alashar Waltz, Registrar's Office.

**25 Years**—Paul E. Schneider, Lawson Ice Arena.

## Obituary



Greenberg

**Milton Greenberg**, a former faculty member who was the first elected department chair at WMU and a nationally known political scientist and expert on the GI Bill, died Aug. 27. He was 88.

The professor and provost emeritus at American University was on WMU's faculty from 1955 to 1969.

**20 Years**—James Culhane, development and alumni relations; Tracey Anne Kauppila, College of Aviation; Jeffrey Carl Landers, power plant; and Brenda J. Thomas, student financial aid and scholarships.

**15 Years**—Benjamin Gaudio, physics; Tim Montague, West Hills Athletic Club; and Sheryl A. Todd, computer science.

**10 Years**—Monique M. Haley, planning; Bonnie K. Larhlida, admissions; and Lynn I. Lee, field placement.

**Five Years**—Michele Anderson, speech pathology and audiology; Nicholas Scott Cutler, Dining Services; Javier Montefort-Sanchez, mechanical and aerospace engineering; Beth van den Hombergh, Career and Student Employment Services; Gregory Allen Youtzy, maintenance services.

# On Campus with April Eby



DOGGEDLY HELPING TO HEAL  
(Photo by Deanne Puca)

Whether visiting the Sports Medicine Clinic in the Sindecuse Health Center for physical therapy, athletic training or treatment of an injury, chances are you'll be greeted by April Eby.

As the clinical coordinator for the facility, Eby handles the day-to-day functions of the medical office, serves as its office manager, and coordinates the schedules of its physicians, physical therapists and athletic trainers. It's a job that is busy year round, especially when students have returned to campus.

A certified medical assistant and registered orthopedic technologist, Eby also is trained to set casts and splints, and assist physicians with other procedures.

"The surgical technologies of today are much less invasive, and the recoveries are shorter and better," she observes.

Eby, who joined WMU's staff in 1999, grew up outside of Ferndale and moved to Canada after getting married. She was a pharmacy technician part time there while raising her children. After returning to the United States, she worked for three years as a medical office assistant with the former Cardiology Associates, now Bronson Advanced Cardiac Healthcare.

She and her husband Peter live in Portage and have three children. Two of them, son Michael and daughter Lindsay, are students at WMU. The couple's eldest daughter, Alicia, earned both a bachelor's and a master's degree from the University.

Eby was a freelance photographer in the Detroit area for many years and still considers photography a hobby, along with golfing, gardening and quilting—now that she recently finished her first quilt. Although a self-proclaimed "news hound," she's not a television watcher, relying instead on publications, the Internet and other information outlets.

The Ebys have two dogs. The one brought home most recently is a little Havanees rescued from a puppy mill in Indiana. Doing pet visitations in nursing homes with their silver Lab Wilaby is something Eby loves and wishes she could do more often.

## University introduces 'be healthy' social media contest

A social media contest is kicking off an effort to measure and improve health at WMU.

#BeHealthyWMU

The contest, #BeHealthyWMU, is an interactive initiative to promote healthy behaviors among WMU students and employees. It invites members of these groups to post photos and videos in social media platforms such as Twitter and Instagram, using the hashtag #BeHealthyWMU.

This semester, specific health topics will be selected to motivate the campus community to participate. The content published will provide insights into the knowledge that people have about healthy behaviors. Information related to the monthly topic will be shared in #BeHealthyWMU and participating units' social media accounts.

Every two weeks, the most creative and inspiring content posted will be judged by students and rewarded with a prize. A #BeHealthyWMU logo is available to be used for health and wellness-related events, programs and initiatives around campus. The contest is part of WMU's Healthy Campus 2020 collaborative. Visit [wmich.edu/healthycampus](http://wmich.edu/healthycampus) to learn more.



President John M. Dunn, right, helps launch the new initiative. (Photo courtesy of Sindecuse).

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## WMU launches new state autism resource

WECAN is one of several elements of the WMU Autism Center of Excellence, which was funded by a special \$4 million appropriation by the Michigan Legislature that is administered through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. The funding for service and training is designed to increase Michigan's capacity to train professionals and expand services so that families will not have to wait so long for diagnosis and treatment.

"This new center is an important tool that will allow our faculty and staff to put their worldwide reputation to work on behalf of families and schools in a way that will significantly move the needle as our state

and communities work to improve both the quality and timeliness of autism-related services," WMU President John M. Dunn said. "Years of research and service in applying behavior analysis to the field will mean families will see an expansion of support and training that will improve quality of life."

WMU's Autism Center of Excellence is an umbrella organization under which a number of initiatives fall. Stephanie M. Peterson, psychology department chair, co-directs the Autism Center of Excellence with Wayne Fuqua, psychology. Directing WECAN is Ann Tyler, speech pathology and audiology and associate dean of the College of Health and Human Services.

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## Four of 10 award winners

tives at the University. Within University Libraries, Reish is credited with helping the libraries be more proactive with patrons, leading many service improvements, and overseeing the move of Archives and Regional History Collections into the Zhang Center.

- **Juan Tavares** has been director of International Admissions and Services in the Haenicke Institute for Global Education since 2011 and has been at the root of WMU's global engagement and efforts to broaden its international presence and offerings. He is credited with mentoring and recruiting many international students, and establishing a major educational pact between the Dominican Republic and WMU.

## Distinguished Teaching Award

This award is the highest honor given by the University to recognize faculty members for their work as educators.

- **Allison Downey**, teaching, learning and educational studies, has been a faculty member since 2003. She is a storyteller, singer and songwriter, writer, and educator. She is credited with engaging with her students and having the ability to make people achieve a level of comfort in recounting stories in public. She also is lauded for weaving the idea of storytelling into unusual disciplines.

- **Michael Nassaney**, anthropology, is the principal investigator of the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project and has directed the WMU archaeological field school since 1994. He is known for a career devoted to teaching within and beyond the classroom and is in the forefront of American archaeologists practicing community service learning.