



Western News

NOVEMBER 19, 2015
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For and about WMU faculty and staff

Today is United Way drawing deadline

Employees need to return their envelopes today for the campus United Way campaign to be eligible for the grand prize drawing. For more information about the campaign, including prizes, visit wmich.edu/news/2015/10/27530.

Prizes available for survey respondents

Take a Dining Services survey online through Monday, Nov. 23, for a chance to win prizes that include a GoPro camera, RCA 10" tablet with Bluetooth keyboard or a Dining Dollars gift card. To take the survey or learn more, visit wmich.edu/dining/survey.

Holiday gathering planned for staffers

Register by 5 p.m., Friday, Nov. 20, at mywmu.com/apaparty to attend a holiday gathering for Staff Compensation System employees and their guests. The Administrative Professional Association and Professional Support Staff Organization invite staffers to celebrate this holiday season at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3, in the Alamo Drafthouse in downtown Kalamazoo. The event will include time for socializing, three classic animated Christmas movies, food and more. Register by 5 p.m., Friday, Nov. 20, at mywmu.com/apaparty.

Strategic planning survey opening soon

The WMU community is invited to participate in the strategic planning stakeholder survey that will be released during the week of Nov. 30. The University's leadership is looking for input to help WMU transition from the previous plan to a revised plan that will guide WMU through 2020. Information on the survey, as well as the planning process is available at wmich.edu/strategic.

New time for tuition-related session

An informational session for employees' children who are considering enrolling at WMU will start 15 minutes earlier than previously announced. The session will help explain WMU's tuition-related benefits for employees' eligible children.

It will now take place at 8:15 a.m. Friday, Dec. 4, in the President's Dining Room of the Bernhard Center, just before a regularly scheduled admissions office open house. Parents are welcome to attend. In addition, one more brown bag session for employees who are considering enrolling at WMU is set for noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 9, also in the President's Dining Room.

Fetzer Center plans annual Santa event

Avoid the long lines at the mall and bring your children to breakfast or lunch with Santa in the Fetzer Center. The breakfast is from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 5. The lunch is from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6. Visit wmich.edu/fetzer/santa for admission costs and reservations.

WMU one of nation's leading green colleges

The Sustainable Endowments Institute has named WMU one of the country's six top-performing colleges for energy savings and cutting greenhouse gas emissions.



In an announcement Nov. 10, the organization that manages the nation's Billion Dollar Green Challenge lauded WMU as one of the colleges and universities that have captured the top performance slot in the organization's Green Revolving Investment Tracking System—known as GRITS.

The institute's Best of GRITS awards recognized WMU as the large institution with the most carbon emissions saved to date.

The other five award winners are: Den-

nison University, small institution with the most carbon emissions saved; the University of New England, mid-sized school with the most carbon emissions saved; Edgewood College, small college with the highest average annual

energy savings from a single project; Southern Connecticut State University, mid-sized institution with the highest average annual energy savings from a single project, and the University of Michigan, institution with the most projects completed.

The GRITS program is tracking more than 1,300 completed projects that have saved more than \$138 million and 18 million MMBTU of energy. Together, the projects

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Lifelong learning entity gets \$1 million endowment

The Bernhard Osher Foundation has awarded WMU a \$1 million endowment gift to support the University's lifelong learning efforts.

WMU President John M. Dunn announced the award Nov. 17 at the annual membership meeting of OLLI—the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at WMU. In addition, the Osher Foundation awarded the University a \$50,000 bridge grant to make funding immediately available until the new endowment begins generating interest.

WMU's lifelong learning entity opened in 2011 after two years of planning by emeriti faculty members. It has been part of the



In October, WMU OLLI director Shirley Swanson, left, and Extended University Programs Associate Provost Dawn Gaymer met with Bernard Osher. Visit wmich.edu/olli to learn about OLLI. (Photo courtesy of EUP)

Osher Foundation's famed national network of OLLIs since 2014. The San Francisco-based Osher Foundation, founded by businessman, community leader and philanthropist Bernard Osher, made an operating grant of \$100,000 to the University when the WMU OLLI was launched last year. At the time, the foundation noted it would consider providing a \$1 million permanent support gift once the WMU OLLI demonstrated success and the potential for sustainability. What is now WMU OLLI annually serves some 900 local citizens.

University garners 6th consecutive 'Best for Vets' honor

WMU has been named one of the nation's best institutions for military veterans pursuing higher education, making the top-100 list for the sixth consecutive year.



In a Nov. 9 pre-Veterans Day release of its latest assessment, *Military Times* placed WMU on its 2016 "Best for Vets"

list of colleges and universities. With a ranking of No. 76 this year, WMU is the only Michigan school to have appeared on all six years of the publication's annual list of the top colleges in the United States considered "the best fit for service members, military veterans and their families."

Two other Michigan universities are

among the top 100 schools on the 2016 list: Saginaw Valley State University and the University of Michigan. The rankings are published in full in the issues of *Army Times*, *Navy Times*, *Air Force Times* and *Marine Corps Times* on newsstands this week and online at militarytimes.com. The rankings can also be found on each magazine's website.

According to the publication, more than 600 colleges and universities from across the country completed a detailed survey that, along with data factored in from several national databases and federal departments, determined their standing.

This is the second such accolade WMU has received this month. On Nov. 5, both WMU and the WMU Thomas M. Cooley

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Around campus and beyond

Ethics talk for professionals is today

Nelson Miller, a WMU-Cooley Law School professor, will explore how professionals can examine their own ethics when he speaks at 6 p.m. today in 205 Bernhard Center as part of the Center for the Study of Ethics in Society's Fall 2015 Lecture Series. The talk, "Sources of Ethical Commitment: Finding Your Ground for Finding Your Way," is free.

Realtor to give breakfast series talk

The real estate market in southwest Michigan will be the focus at the upcoming Mercantile Bank of Michigan Breakfast Speaker Series. Dan Jaqua, president of Jaqua Realtors, will discuss "Trends in the Housing Market and Real Estate Activity" at 8 a.m. Friday, Nov. 20, in 2150 Schneider Hall. Reservations are required at (269) 387-6059 or wmich.edu/business/mercantile-rsvp. The free event begins with breakfast at 7:30 a.m.

Turkey Trot 5K race is this weekend

The annual Turkey Trot 5K race is set for Saturday, Nov. 21. The festive event begins at the Student Recreation Center. Check-in starts at 7 a.m. while the race starts at 8:30 a.m. Registration fees vary. Visit wmich.edu/rec to obtain more information or to register.

Bands to premiere faculty work

The WMU Symphonic and Concert bands will perform a range of music in a combined concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 22, in Miller Auditorium. The free program will include the world premiere of School of Music faculty composer Christopher Biggs' thought provoking work titled "Extinction."

The bands also will perform the music of Jennifer Higdon, Gustav Holst, Ron Nelson, Alfred Reed, Joaquin Rodrigo and Dana Wilson. For more information, visit wmich.edu/music or call (269) 387-4667.

Annual Innovation Day slated

A Friday, Dec. 4, Innovation Day celebration at the Parkview Campus will allow the public to review new product innovations by students from grades K-12 through graduate school. The event will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the atrium of the engineering college building.

Now in its eighth year, the free event will include a keynote speech at 10:30 a.m. by Jia Jiang, who is the founder of FearBuster and author of the book "Rejection Proof: How I Beat Fear and Became Invincible, One Rejection at a Time." For more information, visit wmich.edu/engineer/innovationday.

Anthropologist pens book of proverbs

Erika Friedl Loeffler, emerita Meader Professor of Anthropology, has written a new book titled "Warm Hearts and Sharp Tongues: Life in 555 Proverbs from the Zagros Mountains of Iran." The book was published by New Academic Press this past spring.



Friedl Loeffler

The collection and annotation of this large body of proverbs provides an insightful ethnography of the philosophy of life of a Lur tribe in the Zagros Mountains, a fascinating Persian people.

Friedl Loeffler collected the sayings over the past 40 years during many visits and observed the local way of life as it changed from "the old times" to modernity.

Researcher receives group's top award

Margaret Joyce, chemical and paper engineering, has received the WMU Paper Technology Foundation's Honor Award for her outstanding contributions to the paper engineering program. The honor, the foundation's highest award, was presented during the organization's annual banquet in October.



Joyce

Joyce, a pioneering researcher in the area of flexible printed electronics, was recognized for her contributions to the pulp, paper and allied industries and her interest in the foundation, which has enhanced the reputation of WMU's Department of Chemical and Paper Engineering. She also has demonstrated exemplary performance in training young men and women to enter the pulp, paper and allied industries.

MAC honors soccer head coaches.

Head coaches Nate Norman, women's soccer, and Chad Wiseman, men's soccer, each were voted Mid-American Conference Coach of the Year this month by their fellow coaches in their respective sports.



Norman



Wiseman

Norman, who just finished his fourth season, is the first head coach in the women's program history to be so honored. This year, he guided the Broncos to a second-place regular season showing and their second MAC Tournament championship title in the past three years. The team fell 1-0 to No. 2 seeded University of Florida in the first round of the NCAA Women's College Cup.

It ended the season at 14-4-4.

Wiseman, who became head coach of the Bronco men's soccer program in 2013, led this year's team to an 11-3-4 overall, 3-1-1 MAC record. The No. 2 seeded Broncos fell to No. 3 seed University of Buffalo in overtime in the MAC Tournament semifinals. WMU cracked the TopDrawerSoccer national top 25 poll this year for the first time in school history. The Broncos were ranked No. 24 on Sept. 14 and moved up to No. 18 on Sept. 21.

Ten staffers to be honored for outstanding service

Ten staff members will be honored as outstanding employees during a reception at 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3, in 157 Bernhard Center.

The University community is invited to attend the event, which recognizes the fall 2015 recipients of the semiannual Make a Difference Award. The recipients will each receive \$300, before taxes, and a commemorative certificate.

This fall's award winners are Sheila Atherton, accounts receivable; Jayne P. Fraley-

Burgett, Disability Services for Students; Kathleen MacKenzie, theatre; Delores J. Minshall, information technology; Johnny L. Paige, Bernhard Center; Renee M. Pearl, development and alumni relations; Emma Perk, Evaluation Center; Teri Schrimpf, Institutional Research; Karen M. Steeno, Career and Student Employment Services; and Joe VanDerBos, Sindecuse Health Center.

The Make a Difference Award Program is a campuswide peer-to-peer program that recognizes University staff members for their outstanding accomplishments and daily investment of energy and creativity. Award winners are selected by a committee comprised of their peers.

For more information or for a year-round nomination form, visit wmich.edu/makeadifference.

Retirement reception

Karen Dean, College of Aviation, will be recognized for her 17 years of service to the University during a retirement reception from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20, in 1207 Aviation Education Center. There will be a formal presentation at 5 p.m.

Jobs

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

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WMU is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer consistent with applicable state and federal laws.



Campus community to make its marks on new dining facility

A topping-out ceremony will be held at 3:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20, to mark a milestone in the new Valley Dining Center construction project.

WMU students and employees as well as members of the community are welcome to attend the event, which will be held at the construction site near Goldsworth Valley Pond. Attendees are invited to sign the final steel construction beam between 3:30 and 4 p.m. The ceremony will conclude with a beam-raising at 4 p.m., when the signed support beam will be lifted by crane and placed on the main floor of the Valley Dining Center.

Making brief remarks at the event will be Diane Anderson, vice president for student affairs, and a representative of the construc-

tion firm the Christman Co. A traditional topping-out ceremony is held when the last piece of steel is raised into place, often adorned with an evergreen tree for good luck as well as other symbols important to the building's owner.

The Valley Dining Center is a nearly 67,000-square-foot building. It is scheduled to be completed in August 2016 and will primarily serve the campus' Valley Neighborhood.

The new facility will replace the three existing dining locations in the Valley residence halls, which will be re-deployed to enhance the residential experience in each of the three Valley complexes. Student feedback will be



Valley Dining Center site (Photo by Mike Lanka)

a key driver in determining the added amenities and services.

There will be nine distinct venues in the new facility,

providing a restaurant-like atmosphere where fresh food is prepared in front of guests. Café 1903, a retail cash operation and convenience store, will be open for extended late-night hours.

Participatory presentation, tour set for Valley pond-area project

The WMU community is invited to attend a walking tour and participatory presentation at 4 p.m. Monday, Nov. 23, at Goldsworth Valley Pond.

The landscape architecture firm of O'Boyle Cowell Blalock will present the proposed schematic design concept for improvements to the area around the pond that are taking place in conjunction with construction of the new Valley Dining Center. Attendee input is welcome.

Plans call for pond-area improvements to start in spring 2016 and the project to be completed in summer 2016.

Improvements will include new gathering spaces and walking paths along the water's edge as well as native and wetland landscape plantings and bio-swales to provide storm water and wildlife buffers.

Activist and journalist Gloria Steinem, left photo, and Michigan First Lady Sue Snyder, right photo, visited WMU earlier this month and were featured as part of this fall's Raise Your Voice Series lecture series. Steinem spoke Nov. 6 in Miller Auditorium and also signed copies of her newest book, "My Life on the Road," which details her more than 30 years as a feminist organizer. Snyder was on campus Nov. 9 with Rebecca Campbell from Michigan State University. They spoke on sexual assault prevention at Michigan's higher education institutions, Michigan's campus sexual assault grant program and the benefits of trauma-informed response to survivors. The free Raise Your Voice Series addresses issues of street and workplace sexual harassment, rape on college campuses, and ineffectual responses to marginalization, bullying and abuse. (Photos by Mike Lanka)



Farm is living, learning laboratory modeling sustainability in everyday life

A seven-layer perennial "food forest" on the west side of WMU's Gibbs House property is a complex ecosystem, though still in its infancy.

Much of the fledgling forest was last year the unpaved driveway to a soccer field, and thus largely hardpan, stony, not very fertile.

But the land and the students working it are resilient, demonstrating that careful planning and planting will over time return vitality to what was once barren.

"It's all nut- and fruit-producing plants that mimic the interactions between species that you see in a normal forest," says Josh Shultz, the property's permaculture program coordinator. "We have all seven different

trophic levels."

This area of knee- and shoulder-high trees along with other plantings is part of the nearly two-acre property anchored by the 160-year-old Gibbs farmhouse on the edge of the Parkview Campus.

East of the food forest are the annual vegetable gardens that produced 63 different crops this summer. Near the gardens are plots crowded with beds of native wildflowers adjacent to compost mounds. Two large student-built hoop houses hosted tomato plants, Swiss chard, loofa squash, leeks and other crops this summer. And the hoop houses will help extend the growing season to Thanksgiving and beyond.



Gibbs House farm stand customers are met by friendly students like Ali Leist and Kelsey Pitschel, who sell fresh vegetables grown on site free of herbicides and pesticides. (Photo by Mike Lanka)

Harvested carrots, eggplant, garlic, green beans, squash, peppers and other vegetables were sold on site at the student-run Friday Farm Stand to campus catering services for outside events, as well as to some local food truck vendors.

"We're teaching students how to grow food and show them that they can grow it in ways that are more sustainable than conventional methods that use chemicals, herbicides and pesticides. We don't use any of that here," says Shultz, a 2009 graduate of WMU's business management, and environmental and sustainability studies programs.

In addition to working the land to grow food using methods that harmonize with the natural environment, students also conduct related research. Some of these researchers—Gibbs House fellows—live in the farmhouse.

Read more about the Gibbs House research in the fall 2015 WMU magazine at wmich.edu/magazine.

Obituaries

Philo G. "Glen" Bishop, WMUK and instructional communications, died Nov. 7. He was 84. He retired in 1995 after 41 years of service. Gifts may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project or Hospice Care of Southwest Michigan. For more, visit langelands.com.



Bishop



Sitkins



Vuicich

Frederick Z. Sitkins, emeritus in engineering design, manufacturing and management systems, died Nov. 7 after a short illness. He was 78. Sitkins retired in August after 36 years of service. Gifts may be made to the WMU Foundation in Sitkins' memory. For more, visit mlive.com/obituaries/kalamazoo or langelands.com.

George Vuicich, emeritus in geography,

died Nov. 2. He was 89. Vuicich joined the faculty in 1968 and retired in 1993 after 25 years of service. Services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 19, in Kanley Chapel, followed by a luncheon in the Fetzer Center. Gifts can be made to the George Vuicich Memorial Scholarship Fund. For more, visit avinkcremation.com.

On Campus with Arnold Taylor



PART OF EVERYONE'S SUPPORT NETWORK
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

Without realizing it, a host of employees and students have Arnold Taylor protecting their backs. As associate director for support services in the Office of Information Technology, Taylor is responsible for numerous free, front-end services that help the campus community be productive.

He's in charge of the Help Desk, Faculty Technology Center, computer labs and general classroom technology, as well as a small group of local area network managers who provide computer networking support for a variety of offices and the switchboard's cadre of telephone operators who field 387-1000 calls. In addition, Taylor serves as a liaison between OIT and several campus groups that deal with IT support issues, including groups focused on disability services and WMU's colleges. He and his 15 staffers also are involved with residence hall move-in, the temporary One Stop Convenience Center, and orientation sessions for new employees as well as students.

"We have the opportunity to serve the campus community and to make a difference. It can be challenging making sure that we're adequately meeting the needs of our clients and customers and if we're not, taking the appropriate steps to eventually meet them. But that's something we take very seriously," Taylor says. "I've got an excellent group of folks who really understand what it means to be a support unit. And that makes it fun to be a part of this team. I think a lot of our service areas have a passion for serving customers and clients. Oftentimes, I think that gets overlooked."

He encourages people to make the Help Desk their first point of contact when they have questions or their own challenges. He says desk personnel can provide assistance in many areas, or at least point callers to the right place to go for help.

Taylor earned two degrees from WMU, a bachelor's degree in computer science in 1995 and a master's degree in educational leadership in 2007. He started his career as a programmer analyst "writing code" for the city of Kalamazoo in 1993. He returned to WMU in 1997 as a systems specialist in the budget office and four years later, became special assistant to then-president Elson S. Floyd. Taylor moved to OIT as manager of customer success in 2003 and has remained in the continually expanding post ever since.

The Comstock resident is married, has three children, and enjoys spending time with family and participating in his church. He also likes to work out as well as to play golf and basketball.

Collaboration, teamwork help push up grant total

An increase in collaboration and multidisciplinary teamwork has led to a sharp rise in grants to WMU.

Externally funded awards, much of them for research, pushed the grant total for the 2014-15 fiscal year past \$35 million, an increase of nearly \$8 million over the previous year. The grant total in June, the last month of the University fiscal year, came in at \$3.7 million.

The year-end grant total—\$35,166,490—was announced at the WMU Board of Trustees October meeting in Grand Rapids. It is roughly \$8 million above the \$27,179,910 for

fiscal year 2013-14. Trustees also learned that over \$5 million in externally funded awards were received during July and August, the first two months of this fiscal year.

"Our office has been encouraging and facilitating large collaborative, multidisciplinary, multi-institutional and multi-national partnerships to successfully receive large grants and to create and support research centers," says Daniel Litynski, vice president for research. "WMU's outstanding faculty can and do compete and collaborate with the best institutions and experts in the nation in our areas of expertise."

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WMU one of nation's leading green colleges

report a median annual return on investment of 18.6 percent.

WMU was singled out by the Sustainable Endowments Institute in 2011 as home to the nation's oldest green revolving fund. Such funds are tools that allow institutions to invest in sustainability projects and then harvest the savings from those projects to invest in new energy projects. Considered a new campus tool by most schools in the early part of this century, WMU's semi-revolving fund was established in 1980 and has financed more than 100 campus projects with an average annual return on investment of 47 percent. WMU also is a

founding member of SEI's Billion Dollar Green Challenge, the goal of which is to invest a cumulative total of \$1 billion in self-managed green revolving funds that finance energy efficiency upgrades on campus.

"This new honor from SEI is an acknowledgement of WMU's long-term, innovative approach to cost-saving energy conservation," says Harold Glasser, sustainability office and environmental and sustainability studies program.

"This approach helped create a firm foundation for WMU's more recent, broader efforts to build a culture of sustainability on campus and beyond."

Western Herald turning 100

Leading up to the *Western Herald's* 100th anniversary, mywmu.com is seeking stories and memories from past staff members and readers of the student newspaper.

Along with sharing memories, mywmu.com and the *Western Herald* will regularly post flashback stories, starting from 1916 and leading up to more current times. In addition, mywmu.com also will share special features about the *Herald*, and how it has covered major events over the past 100 years.

The *Western Herald* is the oldest student organization on campus, and is completely staffed by students.

To share memories of the *Herald* in celebration of its centennial milestone, send an email storyteller@mywmu.com with "Herald 100 Memories" in the subject line. For more information, visit bit.ly/1LjM8o1.

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University garners awards

Law School were lauded as 2016 Military Friendly Schools by Victory Media, the publisher of *G.I. Jobs* magazine.

WMU's Office of Military and Veterans Affairs serves more than 600 veteran students, the greatest number of veterans enrolled at a public university in Michigan. The office was established in 2009 to support veterans, service members and the family members of veterans. Details are at wmich.edu/military.