



# Western News

OCTOBER 6, 2016  
Volume 43, Number 3

For and about WMU faculty and staff

## Board of Trustees meeting is Oct. 11

The next formal meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 11, in Heritage Hall. Information about the agenda will be released shortly before the meeting at [wmich.edu/trustees](http://wmich.edu/trustees).

## Guidelines cover political activity

Guidelines advising the campus community about WMU policy that covers political activity on campus have recently been updated and posted to the Office of the General Counsel website. They outline pertinent state and federal law and describe activities that are permitted and prohibited for individuals and the institution. For details, visit [wmich.edu/legal/resources](http://wmich.edu/legal/resources).

## Employee mixer set for next week

All faculty and staff members are invited to a casual Gold Gathering mixer from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 13, in the Gilmore Theatre Complex atrium. Complimentary light hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar will be available. The Meemic-Redman Agency, which is sponsoring the event, will raffle off a Samsung tablet. The next mixer is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 10. Direct questions to Sue Daniels at [susan.daniels@wmich.edu](mailto:susan.daniels@wmich.edu) or (269) 387-2383.

## United Way campaign kicks off Oct. 10

United Way and WMU are again striving to make gains in education, income, health and other basic needs for area individuals and families with the launch Monday, Oct. 10, of this year's campaign. President John M. Dunn and Robert G. Miller, associate vice president for community outreach, will speak at 11 a.m. in the Lee Honors College lounge. Employee pledge cards should arrive soon.

## Nominate colleagues for award

Nominations for the fall 2016 semiannual Make a Difference award are due Monday, Oct. 31. Make a Difference is a campuswide peer-to-peer program that recognizes staff members for their accomplishments and daily investment of energy and creativity. For more information, visit [wmich.edu/makeadifference](http://wmich.edu/makeadifference). Nomination instructions and forms as well as lists of previous winners are available year-round on this website.

## Getting flu shots on campus is easy

Students, employees and retirees can get their flu shots either by making an appointment at the Sindecuse Health Center at [wmich.edu/healthcenter](http://wmich.edu/healthcenter) or (269) 387-3287 or by attending an on-campus clinic.

Appointments are available from 8 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 4:30 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays and from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 4:30 p.m. Thursdays. No appointment is needed for the outreach clinic Wednesday, Oct. 26, for employees or Wednesday, Nov. 2, for students. For details, visit [wmich.edu/news/2016/09/34893](http://wmich.edu/news/2016/09/34893).

## BTR Park's Phase II garners federal grant

A \$2.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration will provide funding needed to begin 2017 infrastructure development for Phase II of WMU's Business Technology and Research Park.

U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker on Sept. 28 announced the award for the BTR Park expansion that has been the topic of careful planning and public input since August 2015. The expansion is ultimately expected to attract investments totaling \$50 million and create 200 high-tech jobs.



The BTR Park has attracted more than \$150 million in investment and generated more than 800 jobs and hundreds of internships for WMU students in 42 private companies located there. (Photo by John Lacko)

"Our universities are key drivers of innovation, job training and business development," said Pritzker in making the announcement. "EDA's investment to expand Western Michigan University's business and technology park will directly support the region's growing manufacturing and biotechnical industry clusters."

According to Bob Miller, WMU associate vice president for community outreach and WMU point person on BTR Park development, the application for EDA funding was a team effort, bringing together Oshtemo Township, the Kalamazoo County Road Commission and several offices at the University. He notes that infrastructure construction on the 54-acre Colony Farm Orchard property, which is located at the northwest corner of Drake Road and Parkview Avenue, will not begin until sometime next year.

The need for Phase II of the park was triggered by the fact that the original BTR Park, located just south of the Phase II acreage, has no room left for development, with all but

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## Portage to benefit from state funds for geological survey

Area legislators and geoscientists gathered Sept. 29 on the WMU campus to announce a \$500,000 investment by the state of Michigan in the Michigan Geological Survey, which has been housed at WMU since 2011.

The funds are part of the 2017 Michigan budget and will be used to map the subsurface of Michigan in a way that will dramatically enhance economic development and ensure that vital natural resources are analyzed,

of supporting high-capacity municipal wells. To date, the only information on these important water resources have come accidentally during single well drilling.

The four-month survey in Portage will begin the systematic mapping of 55 square miles of subsurface, using data from 220 stations to produce maps that will both define the size and scope of the valleys and deliver the information needed to protect them.

"These bedrock valleys would be priority targets for future water supply wells for an expanding population," says John Yellich, director of the Michigan Geological Survey. "Without this mapping, the valleys cannot be adequately protected by zoning from potential contaminants from such land usage as storage facilities for fuel, agricultural chemicals and fertilizers, and industries that use toxic chemicals."

The state funding will allow the survey to begin to take full advantage of its potential as both an environmental protection and economic development tool. With only 10 percent of the state subsurface mapped to date, Michigan is at an economic disadvantage and has fallen behind neighboring states.

"The \$500,000 appropriation awarded to Western Michigan University from the state budget will benefit our local community, our region and our state through the expansion of the Michigan Geological Survey," said state Rep. Brandt Iden of Oshtemo. "I believe that

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State Rep. Brandt Iden, of Oshtemo, left, played a key role in securing the state funding. Joining him for the Sept. 29 announcement was survey director John Yellich, right, and, from southwest Michigan, Sens. Margaret O'Brien and Tonya Schuitmaker and Reps. Al Pscholka and Jon Hoadley. (Photo by Mike Lanka)

protected and used wisely. Notably, one Kalamazoo-area initiative will soon benefit from this mapping.

WMU geoscientists will devote immediate attention to mapping the city of Portage's subsurface to define several bedrock valleys and coarse-grained aquifers that are capable

# Around campus and beyond

## Inclusion at WMU is talk topic

Terrell Strayhorn, professor of educational studies and director of the Center for Higher Education Enterprise at Ohio State University, will speak on "Success in College and Beyond" from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 19, in the Bernhard Center Ballroom. His presentation is part of the Real Talk Diversity Series and will provide a forum for discussing what belonging and inclusion mean at WMU.

Strayhorn has been named one of the nation's "Top 12 Diversity Scholars" by *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*. He will engage participants about what it means to navigate a college campus landscape as part of the numerical minority and as part of the majority, and how each person can contribute to an environment that cultivates purpose and success for themselves and their peers. Visit [wmich.edu/diversity/events](http://wmich.edu/diversity/events) for more details.

## RSVP for Student Success Summit

Faculty and staff members are invited to attend the 2016 Student Success Summit featuring keynote speaker Terrell Strayhorn from Ohio State University. It is set for noon to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 19. RSVPs are required at [wmich.edu/changeresearch/broncosfirst/2016-student-success-summit](http://wmich.edu/changeresearch/broncosfirst/2016-student-success-summit).

## Solve a mystery while networking

WMU faculty and staff members as well as students will receive a 10 percent discount to attend the "Night of Mystery" annual meeting and fundraiser being staged on campus by the West Michigan Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council. The event is set for 6 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 20, in the Heritage Hall Ballroom. It will feature a plated dinner, cash bar and chance to solve a murder mystery while networking with green building experts. For more information, visit [bit.ly/2bv1Yeg](http://bit.ly/2bv1Yeg).

## Annual graduate school fair slated

This year's Graduate and Professional School Fair will take place from 3 to 6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 24, in the Bernhard Center Ballroom. The fair provides opportunities to explore options for advanced studies. Representatives from graduate and professional schools in Michigan and throughout the United States will be participating in the event.

Those seeking tips on how to apply to graduate, law or medical schools may attend one of three workshops set for 3 to 4 p.m. on the second floor of the Bernhard Center near the fair's main exhibit hall. No registration is required to attend the workshops.

## Universitywide, ethics-related book readings underway

This academic year's University Common Read spotlights "Station Eleven," a finalist for the National Book Award that is set in Michigan and praised as a highly literary, genre-crossing postapocalyptic novel.

Meanwhile, the Center for the Study of Ethics in Society is sponsoring events related to "The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion" and "Locked In: A Novel of the Near Future." This book reading series aims to encourage discussion about the role of ethics in decision making and moral judgment.

Members of the campus and broader com-

munities are encouraged to read along and attend related activities taking place this fall.

For "Station Eleven," those activities include the book's author, Emily St. John Mandel, speaking at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 19, in the Fetzer Center's Kirsch Auditorium.



Mandel

For event updates as well as interviews, reviews and other resources related to the book and Mandel, visit [libguides.wmich.edu](http://libguides.wmich.edu), choose the "All Guides" tab and click the link for University Common Read 2016-17.

For "The Righteous Mind" by social psychologist Jonathan Haidt, WMU's Jil Larson, English, is leading discussions at 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Oct. 25 in 2072 Moore Hall. In addition, Tyler Gibb, WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine, will lead discussions of "Locked In" by John Scalzi in the Medical Library of the medical school at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 1; Wednesday, Nov. 16; and Sunday, Nov. 20.

Everyone is invited to sign up for both groups focusing on the ethics books, which the ethics center will supply. For details, visit [wmich.edu/ethics](http://wmich.edu/ethics).

## 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.

## Author's poetry book is award finalist

Hedy Habra, Spanish, was one of five finalists in the poetry category of the 2016 International Book Awards announced this



Habra

spring by [bookvana.com](http://bookvana.com). Awards were presented for titles published in 2014, 2015 and 2016.

Bookvana.com covers books from all sections of the publishing industry—mainstream, independent and self-published. Habra was honored for "Under Brushstrokes," her second poetry collection with Press 53.

It is a collection of poems responding to more than 50 works of art that was published in 2015. An artist herself, Habra created the cover art for this collection. The cover design was created by Paul Sizer, Design Center.

## Chemist's research bearing fruit

Gellert Mezei, chemistry, continues to make progress on his long-standing research related to "nanojars." In 2000, he helped



Mezei

discover these 2-nanometer-wide compounds that have a cavity inside and look like a jar.

Within the cavity, nanojars can encapsulate ions, including some toxic ions, so they could possibly be used to purify water. Mezei and his team have shown that nanojars can reduce levels of arsenic and chromate in water to those acceptable to the Environmental Protection Agency.

The project lay dormant for almost 10 years, but Mezei revived it a few years ago and in 2014, received a \$284,833 National Science Foundation grant to further study nanojars. In addition, he has filed one related patent and eventually hopes to commercialize a process for sequestering toxic ions from water.

Earlier this year, Mezei had his research not only published in *Chemistry: A European Journal* but also highlighted on its front cover. In addition, more results have been published in *Chemical Communications* and *Dalton Transactions*.

## Coolley director to lead Michigan bar

Lawrence P. Nolan, vice chair of the WMU Cooley Law School Board of Directors, was sworn in Sept. 22 as the 82nd president of the



Nolan

State Bar of Michigan. Nolan, of Eaton Rapids, Michigan, is the founder and president of Nolan, Thomsen & Villas.

He had served on the SBM Board of Commissioners since 2006, and is a past SBM treasurer, secretary, vice president and president-elect.

In his new role, he is charged with leading the organization's 45,000 members. He will help improve the administration of justice, promote the legal profession and build public understanding of the legal system.

Nolan has been a member of the Cooley board since 1983, and while serving as its chair in 2013-14, was instrumental in the development of the formal affiliation between WMU and the law school. He is an alumnus of both institutions.

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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

# Fall 2016 enrollment is up in some areas, down slightly overall

The University is seeing increases in its honors student population and increased minority enrollment this fall, despite a slight dip in its overall student numbers.

WMU's official overall student enrollment for fall 2016 is 23,252, a 1.3 percent decrease over the number of students tallied in fall 2015. Graduate enrollment decreased at the master's level, but remained stable at the doctoral level and increased at the specialist level, for a 1 percent decrease overall in the number of graduate students.

Minority student enrollment continued a trend of previous years, growing by 2 percent compared to last fall's total. Over the past five years, total minority enrollment has increased by nearly 11 percent, with



Upward enrollment trend continues for Lee Honors College members as well as minority students. (Photo by Rhino Media)

increases in all categories except native Hawaiian/Pacific islanders. Total minority enrollment this fall stands at 5,147—22 percent of total enrollment.

Additional highlights of this fall's enrollment numbers include the following:

- Lee Honors College enrollment increased by 1 percent to 1,779. At 418, the college's incoming freshman class is the largest in WMU history, continuing a trend that has seen growth in the college by nearly 8 percent over the past four years alone.

- The beginning freshman class of more than 3,000 students hails from 61 Michigan counties and 26 other states, as well as 25 other nations.

- A full 86 percent of WMU students are Michigan residents.

- The number of doctoral students remains at a total of 919—the largest WMU doctoral enrollment number ever and one that was first reached last fall.

- International enrollment this fall decreased slightly from 1,859 last year to 1,833 this year, and international students this year are from 100 countries.

## WMUK sets Oct. 8 as start of fall 2016 pledge drive

WMUK's annual Fall Membership Drive will begin Saturday, Oct. 8.

Licensed to WMU, WMUK 102.1 FM is celebrating 65 years of broadcasting service to southwest Michigan in 2016. Part of the station's legacy includes being one of the founding member stations of National Public Radio, which began service in 1971.

WMUK has set a pledge goal of \$175,000 during the weeklong fall campaign. Listener contributions to WMUK financially support the production of local news and arts content, as well as help the station to purchase popular NPR programs such as "Morning Edition" and "All Things Considered."

"I think most people would agree that this has been a rather extraordinary election year, with critical local and statewide seats at stake, as well as a presidential election unlike any we've ever seen," says Stephen Williams, WMUK general manager.

"That kind of comprehensive coverage by our staff is an absolutely fundamental part of WMUK's public service to our community, but it is also the most resource-intensive... which is why we truly rely on listener contributions to maintain this public trust."

Contributors to WMUK's fall campaign will be entered into a drawing to win a pair of tickets to see the Oct. 18 opening night performance of Book of Mormon at Miller Auditorium.

To make a financial gift to WMUK and for more details, visit [wmuk.org](http://wmuk.org).

President John M. Dunn delivered his final State of the University address during the Sept. 30 Fall Convocation. He said the state of WMU is strong and this strength is increasing exponentially. "We are an ascending research university and we are continuing to solidify a unique position in the higher education arena," he said. "Value, access, service, sustainable development,



diversity, civility and soaring academic achievement are the individual qualities that fit within our self-described role as a learner-centered, discovery-driven and globally engaged research university." Dunn went on to list some singular accomplishments that fall under those three tenets and describe the path forward. For the full text of the address, visit [wmich.edu/president/stateoftheuniversity](http://wmich.edu/president/stateoftheuniversity). (Photo by Mike Lanka)

## Impact of federal FLSA changes subject of employee meetings

Changes to the Fair Labor Standards Act, their impact on employment at WMU and what WMU is doing to ensure it is in compliance by Dec. 1 will be discussed at two Tuesday, Oct. 18, town hall meetings.

The presentations will cover identical content and take place at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. in the Fetzer Center's Kirsch Auditorium. Each presentation also will be livestreamed.

They are designed to inform the campus community of the legal review performed for WMU by the law firm Warner Norcross & Judd LLP and the steps WMU needs to take to be in compliance with the new federal regulations by the Dec. 1 effective date.

The FLSA changes mean that some WMU employees will experience a salary increase, while others will be changed from salaried/exempt personnel to nonexempt/hourly employees eligible for overtime, based on WMU business needs and budget impact.

The Oct. 18 sessions will detail the number of employees impacted and the University's guiding principle in making its decisions—that all employees doing the same job (i.e. same job code/job title) should have the same FLSA status. Impacted employees will be formally notified Wednesday, Oct. 19.

Informational training sessions on the FLSA's wage and hour requirements will be held at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Oct. 24 and

27, and at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Oct. 25. The training sessions will be open to the campus community and targeted toward managers, supervisors, timekeepers and nonexempt employees themselves.

For more details, visit [wmich.edu/hr/flsacompliance](http://wmich.edu/hr/flsacompliance).

## Obituaries



Cain

**Mary Cain**, emerita in education and professional development, died Oct. 1 in Kalamazoo. She was 91. Cain joined the faculty in 1961 and retired in 1991 after 30 years of service.

Visitation is taking place from 3 to 5 p.m. today at Langeland Memorial Chapel, 622 S. Burdick St. in Kalamazoo. A funeral service is set for Friday, Oct. 7, at Oakwood Cemetery in Grand Ledge, Michigan. A memorial service for Cain is planned for early spring 2017.

**Russell P. Griggs**, a former construction supervisor in landscape services, died Aug. 13. He was 81. Griggs joined the staff in 1958 and retired in 1997 after 39 years of service.

**Frank R. Olenchak**, emeritus in education and professional development, died Aug.



Olenchak

24. He was 88. Olenchak joined the faculty in 1966 and retired in 1984 after more than 17 years of service.

**Kay A. Shearer**, a former Mallinson Institute office coordinator, died Sept. 17. She was 71. Shearer joined the staff in 1986 and retired in 2005 after almost 19 years of service.



Watson

**Margaret J. Watson**, a former Media Laboratory supervisor for University Libraries and classroom technology consultant for information technology, died Sept. 26. She was 61. Watson joined the staff in 1981 and retired in 2015 after more than 33 years of service.

## On Campus with Linda Poquette



QUIETLY EFFICIENT  
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

"There's a lot more to running a university than you can imagine," says Linda Poquette, executive assistant in the Office of the Vice President for Business and Finance. "It just amazes me everything the people in this office do and how much I've learned."

Poquette notes that the vice presidential area is responsible for accounts receivable, payroll and a host of other financial services; supervises key functional units such as Logistical Services, Human Resources, the Department of Public Safety, Facilities Management and Auxiliary Enterprises; and works closely with outreach-focused entities such as the Business Technology and Research Park. The business and finance office also bridges both the nonacademic and academic strategic plan of the University.

A legal secretary before coming to WMU, Poquette has held her current job for the past five years. She came to the University's alumni relations office in 1990, worked in the administrative offices at Bronson Methodist Hospital from 1992 to 1996, then returned to alumni relations. She says in some ways, what she's doing now is like coming full circle because she not only works with WMU's legal affairs staff, but also serves as recording secretary for the new medical school's Finance Committee.

Poquette ensures that University contracts are properly reviewed by Legal Affairs and Risk Management before they go to her office's vice president or associate vice president for their review and signature. Plus, she maintains the schedules for both of those administrators, a critical activity as time-sensitive items are frequently brought to the office.

Importantly, she also fields both on- and off-campus calls, assisting employees and students as well as campus vendors and business partners. Additionally, Poquette serves on the Staff Compensation Committee and is the recording secretary for the Campus Planning and Finance Council, which reports to the Faculty Senate.

"Honestly, it has been so nice working here. It will be hard to retire," she says. "I see how hard these people work. We're really busy, and everybody helps each other out. And it's good to see the students, too, because the students are really what it's all about."

Poquette and her husband, Jim, live in Kalamazoo and have two sons, two stepdaughters and six grandchildren. She earned a bachelor's degree from WMU 13 years ago while working full time and now one of her grandsons is a WMU freshman. She enjoys visiting family members as well as gardening, reading, sewing and crocheting.

## Get in step this fall with Western Walks program

Getting in step with fall is easy for WMU employees who decide to take part in the Western Walks program offered through Western Wellness.

Group walks for people of all ability levels start at four locations across campus and continue through Nov. 17. Led by wellness champions, they are designed to foster a culture of walking on campus and build camaraderie and support.

Starting locations and days and times of

walks are: noon Tuesdays, Ellsworth Hall (west entrance); 2 p.m. Tuesdays, College of Health and Human Services (main entrance); 8 a.m. Wednesdays, Bistro 3, Davis Hall (loading dock); and noon Thursdays, Fountain Plaza.

No registration is required. People can put on their walking shoes and just stroll over to the location of their choice.

Direct questions to Katie Alkema at (269) 290-5167 or [kalkema@holtynhpc.com](mailto:kalkema@holtynhpc.com).

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### BTR Park's Phase II garners federal grant

one parcel either fully developed or under contract for future development.

Additional funding to begin the expansion project will come from Oshtemo Township, the University and, it is hoped, from success with additional grant programs.

The planning process for Phase II at the Colony Farm Orchard property began last fall and included:

- formation of an external advisory committee that included a variety of community stakeholders,
- selection of award-winning design firms Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber and O'Boyle, Cowell, Blalock & Associates to design Phase II, and
- a series of public input sessions held in Oshtemo to encourage the public to provide

feedback at each step along the way until a final design plan was developed and publicly unveiled in June.

The original BTR Park was developed as a partnership between the city of Kalamazoo and WMU.

The two companies hired to do the design work for Phase II also developed the site plan for the park's Phase I. That development has been repeatedly honored for its environmentally sensitive design.

While just across the street from the original park's boundaries, the Colony Farm Orchard property is located within the boundaries of Oshtemo Township and will be developed as a partnership between that government entity and the University.

## WMU's first Universitywide military scholarship available

The Office of Military and Veterans Affairs is taking applications through Saturday, April 1, for the Veterans and Dependents Scholarship, a need-based award.

It will be available to those currently serving, those who have served and military dependents. Unlike other military scholarships, there are no requirements or restrictions regarding major, minor or branch of service.

Students awarded the scholarship will be notified by May 1. For eligibility criteria and application information, visit [wmich.edu/westernwarrior](http://wmich.edu/westernwarrior).

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### Portage and geological survey

this is an investment in Michigan's future and an opportunity to obtain vital data on our state's natural resources that will aid in the conservation of such viable assets and prioritize future planning for strategic developments to grow our economy safely, create jobs and ensure energy independence."

Since the state designated WMU as the survey's home in 2011, the University's Department of Geosciences and its extensive research capabilities and geologic resources have been integral to the survey's work. For more about the survey, visit [wmich.edu/geologysurvey](http://wmich.edu/geologysurvey) and for more about WMU geosciences, visit [wmich.edu/geology](http://wmich.edu/geology).

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