



# Western News

JUNE 21, 2018  
Volume 44, Number 18

For and about WMU faculty and staff

## Board of Trustees meeting slated

The next meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday, June 27, in 157-159 Bernhard Center. Information about the agenda will be posted online at [wmich.edu/news](http://wmich.edu/news) closer to the meeting date.

## Funding opportunities highlighted

Included in this month's highlighted funding opportunities for WMU researchers are grants to support education and special education research and training, the use of digital marketing to increase participation in a child support program, and art projects that demonstrate exceptional national or regional significance and impact. Visit the research website at [wmich.edu/research](http://wmich.edu/research) and click Funding to view additional highlights and sign up to receive funding alerts by email.

## New travel authorization tile available

Beginning June 4, a new WMU Travel Authorizations tile became available in GoWMU's My Work channel. Live demos of the new system have been held. Instructions and a video demo are available on the WMU Travel site at [wmich.edu/travel/authorization-expense](http://wmich.edu/travel/authorization-expense).

## MBA students seeking donations

WMU MBA students are partnering with The Alliance for the Great Lakes to host a beach cleanup and fundraiser at Holland State Park Sunday, June 24, as a part of the program's impact project tradition. More information can be found online at [facebook.com/donate/2065790693670623](https://www.facebook.com/donate/2065790693670623).

## Summit set for supervisors of students

WMU employees who supervise student employees are encouraged to attend a WMU Student Supervisor Summit from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday, July 11, in 208-209 Bernhard Center. The event will include discussion and activities, and will cover changes in the process or policies for hiring WMU student employees. Register at [bit.ly/2MEaPFs](http://bit.ly/2MEaPFs).

## Healthy eating is focus of events

Two upcoming events will focus on encouraging WMU employees to eat more healthy foods. Registrations for both may be made by visiting [wmich.edu/wellness](http://wmich.edu/wellness) and clicking Classes and Programs. A mason jar salad workshop also is set for 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 25, in 3015 Student Recreation Center. Registrations are due Monday, July 23. Employees also are encouraged to sign up for the seven-day Fruit and Vegetable Challenge Monday, July 30, to Sunday, Aug. 5. Register by Monday, July 30.

## Western News goes on hiatus now

This is the last issue of *Western News* until fall. The next issue will be published Thursday, Aug. 30. To keep up with WMU news in the interim, visit [wmich.edu/news](http://wmich.edu/news).

## WMU part of student mental health effort

As part of its Success at WMU initiative that will launch with the fall 2018 incoming class of new students, WMU has completed its initial membership steps to become a JED Campus, putting a campuswide focus on student well-being and mental health.

WMU is now one of nearly 200 campuses across the country enrolled in the four-year-old national initiative that serves more than 2 million college students. The JED Campus program is designed to increase student resilience and decrease the two leading causes of death among young adults—accidents, including those caused by prescription drug overdoses or alcohol poisoning, and suicide.



Orientation students like these from a prior year are learning about the new effort this summer. (Photo by Mike Lanka)

To begin assessing the match between WMU's level of services and the mental health needs of its students, WMU took part in a "Healthy Minds Study" during the spring semester as well as a baseline assessment of services. Through the online survey, some 4,000 WMU students were asked to share their attitudes, behaviors and awareness of mental health issues.

Along with that survey just completed, the JED Campus program will include another survey near the end of the WMU-JED relationship.

Becoming a JED Campus was the focus of a single submission in a call for transformational ideas issued last fall by WMU President Edward Montgomery. Several of the more than 60 ideas submitted for funding, including the JED Campus proposal, ultimately became part of one major campus initiative called Success at WMU. Preparations have been underway since January to welcome all new students to campus in the fall with a solid Success at WMU program in place to ensure academic success. The program will include a peer mentor for every incoming student, among other services.

"We are thrilled to become a JED Campus because our students' success is our No. 1 priority. Grit and resiliency play a key role in performance. This program enhances our ability to improve student emotional and mental health," Montgomery says.

Gary H. Bischof, dean of the Lee Honors College, is the University's point person on the JED Campus portion of the Success at WMU initiative. Bischof and Suzie Nagel-Bennett, dean of students, are co-chairing WMU's 19-member JED Campus team, composed of representatives from across campus. Bischof says WMU's entry into the JED effort makes it one of 15 Michigan colleges and universities that will operate in the JED program as a Michigan

Continued on Page 4

## Valley Dining Center achieves LEED Gold status

The Valley Dining Center has been awarded a Gold certification in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, demonstrating continued support for the strategic goal of sustainable stewardship.

The second highest award of four levels of LEED certification, the achievement is evidence of WMU's commitment to excellence and sustainability in facility design and construction. Achieving LEED Gold certification is a noteworthy achievement for a dining facility due to the complexity of its mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems, as well as the energy utilization and waste challenges that are inherent in a high-capacity food service facility.

"We are so proud to have been awarded LEED Gold certification," says Diane Anderson, vice president for student affairs. "This means we have succeeded in our commitment to advance environmental sustainability practices, while offering students an incredible space to gather and dine in the Valley Neighborhood."

SmithGroupJJR, a Detroit-based design, architecture and engineering firm, was integral in leading the project with a focus on excellence and sustainability. Notable sustainability features in the Valley Dining Center include:



Along with sustainability, comfortable, natural furnishings are hallmarks of the Valley Dining Center. (Photo by Mike Lanka)

Continued on Page 4

# Around campus and beyond

## Hundreds on campus for orientation

This year's New Student Orientation program began May 24 and will conclude Thursday, June 28. During this time period, hundreds of incoming students and their family members will be on campus.

## WMU slates night at the zoo

West Michigan Bronco families are invited to enjoy special late night access at John Ball Zoo in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Once the gates close to the public, Broncos will gain exclusive access to the property for three hours. The event is set for Saturday, July 14. It includes a Bronco picnic from 5 to 6:30 p.m. and exclusive zoo access from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Register at [bit.ly/2K9dadd](http://bit.ly/2K9dadd).

## Startup lunch and learn series set

Warner Norcross + Judd LLP is partnering with the WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine's Innovation Center to offer a lunch-and-learn series on Thursdays designed to help technology startups be more successful in business.

The six-part series begins today and will continue through Nov. 8. The only other session this summer is a presentation on key employment issues for startup companies July 19.

All sessions are free and take place from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Innovation Center's multipurpose room. Advance registration is required at [med.wmich.edu/node/456](http://med.wmich.edu/node/456).

## Fort St. Joseph project offers lectures and open house

The Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project, a partnership between WMU and the city of Niles, is hosting a summer lecture series and open house.

The lecture series invites the public to meet and listen to nationally and internationally known speakers who will discuss this year's theme: "Technology, Then and Now." The annual four-part series begins at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 11, in the Niles District Library. The lectures will be held at the same time and location and feature the following topics and presenters:

- July 11—"Explaining the 'Boom' in Copper Studies: How New Technologies Help Us to Understand Old Ones," Kathleen L. Ehrhardt, research associate, Illinois State Museum, Springfield, Illinois.
- July 18—"Cross Cultural Technologies of the Great Lakes Region during the Fur Trade Era," Larry Horrigan, reenactor and expert in firearms of New France and the fur trade.
- July 25—"Crafting Culture at Fort St. Joseph: The Technology of Tinkling Cone Production," Brock Giordano, archaeologist,

Environmental and Historic Preservation, Region II, New York City, EHP supervisor, New York Hurricane Sandy.

• Aug. 1—"Telling Time with Technology: Glass Trade Beads of Fort St. Joseph," Heather Walder, professor of anthropology, Northern Illinois University.

Fort St. Joseph also will host its free open house from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 4, and Sunday, Aug. 5, at the corner of Fort and Bond Streets in Niles. Attendees can meet WMU archaeologists working on-site, observe period demonstrations at the Living History Village, explore ongoing excavations, participate in children's activities and crafts, and more. For additional information, visit [wmich.edu/fortstjoseph](http://wmich.edu/fortstjoseph).

## Receptions

**Johnny Paige**, Bernhard Center house staff, will be honored for 30 years of service during a retirement reception from 2 to 4 p.m. Friday, June 22, in 157 Bernhard Center.

**Dorothy Fancher**, assistant director of Disability Services for Students, will be honored for 16 years of service during a retirement reception from 3 to 6 p.m. Friday, June 29, in the Trimpe Building Multicultural Center. Remarks will be made at 4:30 p.m.

**Kristin Gustafson**, appliance repair person in maintenance services, will be honored for 30 years of service during a retirement reception from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., Thursday, June 28, in the Bernhard Center's Brown and Gold Room.

**Pamela McCartney**, **Robert Sutton** and **Tami Yonkers**, chemistry, will be honored during a retirement reception from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, June 26, in the Bernhard Center's Brown and Gold Room. Light appetizers and refreshments will be served.

## 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.

## Professors receive research grants

Upul Attanayake and Xiaoyun Shao, civil and construction engineering, and William Liou, mechanical and aerospace engineering,



Attanayake



Liou



Shao

have been awarded grants through the Georgeau Construction Research Center in WMU's College of Engineering and Applied Sciences. The vision of the center is to advance the construction industry through innovative research focused on addressing global construction challenges and creating better, stronger, sustainable, safer and more resilient construction systems and materials.

Attanayake and Liou are co-principal investigators on a project that received funding to further Attanayake's recent research evaluating various roof systems and materials for improving structural resilience in damaging winds.

Another project funded to continue previous work went to Liou, who has built a predictive tool to simulate incidents of fire and smoke events and predict the location and likely growth of fire and smoke in smart buildings. The second phase of his research involves developing two datasets for predicting fire spread in smart buildings and then using those datasets to design an artificial intelligence-based algorithm for big data analytics for fire safety in smart buildings.

The third grant went to Shao, who has been studying an innovative application of construction adhesives to enhance the resilience of wood-frame buildings. Her funded project will investigate additional novel approaches to dramatically enhance the resilience of wood-frame buildings using construction adhesives.

## Book focuses on 'remarkable' Fetzer



Wilson

Brian C. Wilson, comparative religion, has written a new book that will be released in August. Titled "John E. Fetzer and the Quest for the New Age," it is being published by Wayne State University Press as part of the Great Lakes Books Series.

The book follows the spiritual sojourn of Fetzer, a Michigan business tycoon born in 1901 who lived most of his life in Kalamazoo. Fetzer parlayed his first radio station into extensive holdings in broadcasting and other enterprises. By the time he died in 1991, he had been listed in Forbes magazine as one of the 400 wealthiest people in America.

Wilson is his department's graduate advisor. He researches American religious history and new religious movements, religion in the Midwest and in the Yankee Diaspora, and theory and method in the academic study of religion. His previous books include "Dr. John Harvey Kellogg and the Religion of Biologic Living" and "Yankees in Michigan."

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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 summer are **May 10 and 24** and **June 7 and 21**. No issues are printed during summer II. 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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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

# Physical plant upgrades expected to cause few disruptions

Leading this summer's construction projects is the demolition of the Elmwood Apartments complex. Demolition began in May, and site cleanup is expected to be completed in August.

Removing the complex's 16 1950s-era structures prepares the way for transforming the portion of WMU's South Residential Neighborhood adjacent to Stadium Drive into a more attractive and dynamic area of the University for students, the community and visitors.

As with most other physical plant projects taking place around campus this summer, the Elmwood project is not expected to create any major disruption in vehicle or pedestrian traffic.

According to Peter J. Strazdas, WMU associate vice president for facilities management, the only significant long-term disruption so far is the closure to through traffic of a short section of Arcadia Loop between Moore Hall and Waldo Library.

Underground steam lines traversing that roadway are being replaced, affecting the small section of Arcadia as well as Moore Hall's Lot 27. The library's Lot 28 remains available, but spots are limited and access to them can be delayed due to truck traffic. Demolition of nearby McCracken Hall is not an issue, as the remaining portion of the building will not be razed until summer 2019.



All 16 buildings in the Elmwood Apartments complex have now been razed. (Photo by Jeanne Baron)

"Most people won't even notice the bulk of the work being done over the summer," Strazdas says. "There will be some minor disruptions because of repaving, but except for Arcadia Loop, we only anticipate a few short-lived road and parking lot closures."

## Previous projects

A few projects started earlier this year are still in progress this summer. For instance, upgrades to campus signage are continuing, with this component of the University's wayfinding initiative to be completed by July.

In addition, renovation of Central Kohrman Hall is moving forward, although not affecting traffic flow.

Meanwhile, both Army ROTC and landscape services moved into their new home in May. The two units now occupy the addition

to the Campus Services Building that was constructed last year.

## New projects

The majority of visible projects taking place this summer involve paving.

Key among them is work in the Valley Neighborhood that began earlier this month. The work includes repaving of the Valley III access drive, lots 56 and 97, and North Ring Road from the Valley I to Valley III access drives. At least one lane of Ring Road should remain consistently open during work in the Valley, which will be done in July.

New projects yet to begin include repaving around Schneider Hall and the Fetzer Center that will affect Business Court and Lot 72E, plus maintenance work on both the Miller Auditorium and Ellsworth parking ramps.

Inside building work on the list for this summer includes remodeling in Schneider Hall to house the newly created Sanford Center for Financial Planning and Wellness, renovation of the Little Theatre to serve as an esports gaming venue and renovation of the Ernest Wilbur Building to become the home of WMU's new physical therapy program.

## More information

Information about notable disruptions to summer vehicle and pedestrian traffic will be reported to faculty and staff through the WMU News website at [wmich.edu/news](http://wmich.edu/news) or the WMU Today email service.

To view Facilities Management's 2018 Summer Construction Map, visit [wmich.edu/maps/print](http://wmich.edu/maps/print). For descriptions of ongoing capital projects, including those affecting the South Residential Neighborhood, visit [wmich.edu/capitalprojects](http://wmich.edu/capitalprojects).

Those interested also may follow all Facility Management projects and activities at [twitter.com/facilities\\_wmu](https://twitter.com/facilities_wmu).

## Facility transfer from WMU to LMC moves forward

The University transferred ownership of its building at the Lake Michigan College Napier Avenue campus, home to WMU-Southwest, to LMC June 15.

With two classrooms dedicated to WMU's programs on the Napier Avenue campus, the University will continue to have a presence and invest in educational and professional development opportunities in the area.

"We are committed to ensuring our students in Benton Harbor are able to earn their degrees without interruption," says Dawn Fortin Mattoon, associate provost of Extended University Programs. "Delivering a complete education is always our top priority."

Another high priority is a sustained commitment to the social work program, which was one of the first programs WMU brought to the Benton Harbor/St. Joseph area.

"As opportunities for partnerships to benefit the Benton Harbor community arise, we'll continue to have a presence," adds Fortin Mattoon. "WMU is committed to bridging the resources of our research University to support this community."



## Enjoy more 2018-19 Miller show discounts by subscribing

WMU faculty and staff can save big on 2018-19 shows at Miller Auditorium by taking advantage of their employee discount in conjunction with purchasing a subscription.

Benefits-eligible faculty and staff receive a 15 percent discount on personal-use series as well as single-ticket purchases.

Zhang Financial Broadway in West Michigan Series subscriptions are available now and are the best way to receive priority seating and additional discounted tickets. Subscribers can see all four Broadway shows in the series for as low as \$36 each, if enrolled by Friday, June 29. As an extra benefit, subscribers can add Lake Michigan Mailers Spotlight Series shows to their order, most at a discount.



Another way to gain priority seating and early access to tickets is to become a Friend of Miller. With donation levels starting as low as \$25, members can purchase priority discounted tickets to Lake Michigan Mailers Spotlight events and, depending on the donation level, be the first in line for tickets to any Broadway shows before they go on sale to the general public.

Meanwhile, group tickets are available now for all performances. And most shows have discounts available for groups comprised of at least 10 members. On-sale dates for single tickets will be announced later this summer.

For ticket and show details, visit [miller-auditorium.com](http://miller-auditorium.com) or call (269) 387-2300.

## Area families encouraged to host international visitors

WMU is seeking homestay opportunities for visiting international teachers and students arriving in August. A stipend of \$450 a month will be paid to each hosting family for the duration of the guest's stay, which can range from four weeks to one year.

Host families will be assigned an international visitor and are required to provide them with a private bedroom and two meals daily—breakfast and dinner. The guest pays for all other personal expenses while in the United States.

Hosting comes with many benefits, including exposure to a new language and culture and a chance to share America's values and traditions. To apply, send an email to [findyournest@gmail.com](mailto:findyournest@gmail.com) or call Barb Curley, host family coordinator with Lodge & Learn in Portage, Michigan, at (269) 217-9094.

## Obituaries

Helen Flaspohler will be celebrated from 4 to 8 p.m. Saturday, July 14, in the Gilmore House, 1219 Short Road in Kalamazoo. Flaspohler, who was instrumental in developing private fundraising efforts for the University, died April 18 at age 87.

## On Campus with Monica Liggins-Abrams



CREATING RECIPES FOR SUCCESS  
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

Since coming to WMU in 2014, grant-funded staffer Monica Liggins-Abrams has been promoting student success. That focus will become a full-time job this fall, when the Success at WMU Presidential Transformational Initiative is officially launched with her as its director and Keith Hearit as its executive director.

Liggins-Abrams has been serving as associate director of Broncos FIRST as well as for the Center for Research on Instructional Change in Postsecondary Education, which houses Broncos FIRST and 14 other grant projects. Broncos FIRST is winding down, and funding for the entire project is due to run out next year.

"Originally, I was going to help with the Success at WMU transition because my grant was winding down. But it made sense to stay on and run the day-to-day activities," she says. "It's really exciting because this is going to be the biggest student success program on our campus. We're going to be serving 5,000 first-year and first-year transfer students."

Liggins-Abrams will be overseeing all operations, including the program's more than 100 peer mentors, budget and data collection. She also will be responsible for its research design and assessment plan as well as keeping the program tied to the University strategic plan, specifically in terms of supporting students and increasing retention rates.

Previously, Liggins-Abrams was a pediatric residency coordinator for 18 months at the WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine, and she did administrative grant and other work for five years before that with the Kalamazoo Public Schools.

"What I've enjoyed about working at Western so far has been seeing the impact of my work—knowing that maybe I'm part of something else on campus that's helping a student actually graduate and find themselves and their purpose," she says. "I've also really enjoyed the employees and my colleagues. I've met some awesome people here at Western. I've been able to collaborate with people all over campus and build relationships."

Liggins-Abrams co-leads WMU's enrollment management risk/opportunity team, is the new president of the Administrative Professional Association and just completed the first year of her doctoral degree in educational leadership. She and her husband, Lester, are raising four children, ages 3, 5, 13 and 19, and enjoy spending time at home playing family games and watching college and professional sports.

### Continued from Page 1 Student mental health

cohort, and the institutions involved will gather periodically to share resources and effective practices.

He notes that WMU's four-year commitment to the program will revolve around student awareness of the help that is available to them.

"Increased awareness and use of services and a more supportive campus climate are among our expected outcomes," Bischof says. "We want to help our students develop the behaviors most often associated with grit and resilience."

### Fun and games continue this summer atop Prospect Hill

More outdoor events will be held atop Prospect Hill in and around Heritage Hall this summer.

They include the last two installments remaining in the family-oriented Broncos Night Out series: Magic Night starting at 7 p.m. Friday, July 13, with renowned magician Gene Anderson and WMU celebrity amateur magicians, and Throwback Movie Night starting at 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 10, and featuring a showing of the 1984 film "Ghostbusters."

In addition, BrewFest 2018 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 10, is moving outdoors this summer and will feature more than 20 Bronco alumni-affiliated breweries and industry experts who are shaping the craft brewing scene. Advance registration at [mywmu.com](http://mywmu.com) is strongly encouraged.



President Edward Montgomery, pictured, and first lady Kari took part in the inaugural motorcycle ride June 8 that ended at Prospect Hill. (Photo courtesy of development and alumni relations).

### Continued from Page 1 Valley Dining Center achieves LEED Gold status

- An exterior living wall and green roof section.
- A sustainable rain garden that helps to keep 100 percent of stormwater on-site.
- Landscaping designed to be drought tolerant and require little to no irrigation.
- Energy efficient heating, ventilation, air conditioning, lighting and water systems.
- A Food Pulper and Water Extraction System that can reduce the typical food and scrap volume by 87 percent and save about 83 percent of the water.
- The harvesting, reclaiming or extracting and manufacturing of 33 percent of building materials within 500 miles of the site.

- New dishwashers with energy-recovery units that use the steam generated during operation to pre-heat the water for further operations.

- Customizable made-to-order food options, right-sized portion and tray-less dining to help reduce food waste.

- Consolidation of dining facilities to enhance the collection of recyclable materials and post-consumer food waste.

The state-of-the-art dining center opened in fall 2016 to serve WMU students, faculty, staff and visitors in the Valley Residential Neighborhood. Designed to foster involvement, community and engagement,

the two-story 61,152-square-foot facility overlooking Goldsworth Valley Pond has a seating capacity of just over 1,000.

Its second floor features nine distinct food venues with fresh menu items prepared in front of customers in a restaurant-style dining environment. The ground floor includes Café 1903, a convenience store and café, with public gathering spaces and seating.

To commemorate the building's LEED certification, a plaque will be awarded to WMU Dining Services and displayed at the Valley Dining Center. An unveiling ceremony will be coordinated to honor the accomplishment in the fall.