



Western News

SEPTEMBER 21, 2017
Volume 44, Number 2

For and about WMU faculty and staff

WMU Alert test date announced

A campuswide test of the WMU Alert emergency notification system will take place beginning at about 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 22. Members of the campus community can sign up for WMU Alert through GoWMU.

Everyone who signed up by Sept. 20 for a text message, phone call or both will receive a test message in addition to email notification to their WMU email addresses. In addition, WMU Alert sends a tweet to the @wmupublicsafety Twitter account.

The scheduled Sept. 22 test will take place unless the WMU Alert system has been activated within the previous 24 hours. If it has, the test will be postponed until Monday, Sept. 25. For more information, visit wmich.edu/news/2017/09/42739. Direct questions about registering or the upcoming test to Cam Vossen at (269) 387-0678.

APA, PSSO schedule open house

The Administrative Professional Association and Professional Support Staff Organization are holding an open house from noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 28, in Miller Auditorium's Grand Tier Lobby. Join colleagues from across campus to provide input and learn more about APA and PSSO.

The two groups recently collaborated on an engagement survey and want to hear about attendees' experiences as WMU employees. The information that's being gathered will facilitate meaningful conversations with the new University administration on behalf of nonbargaining employees.

The open house is open to all WMU hourly and salaried staff who are not members of a bargaining group and will include a free sandwich lunch, door prizes and giveaways. Members who bring a nonmember friend will be eligible for a prize drawing. For more information about APA and PSSO, visit wmich.edu/apa and wmich.edu/pssso.

Strategic planning report available

Reporting for the Gold Standard 2020 priority strategies for the 2016-17 year has been completed and is now available for review by the University community at wmich.edu/strategic/reports.

The Gold Standard 2020 sets the institution's direction for the next five years, identifies five overarching institutional goals for the University community to advance, and lists specific strategies that can be used to achieve them. For more information about strategic planning, visit wmich.edu/strategic or call (269) 387-2380.

Financial reps coming to campus

TIAA representatives will be on campus Tuesdays, Oct. 24 and Nov. 21. To schedule a private consultation for investment or retirement planning, visit tiaa.org and click Consultations and Seminars under Support. If you are unable to register online, call the scheduling group at (800) 732-8353.

Farmworkers aided by \$2 million grant

The University has been awarded more than \$2 million over the next five years to support first-year, first-generation undergraduate students who are migrant or seasonal farmworkers, or the children of such workers.

The U.S. Department of Education and its Office of Migrant Education awarded the grant to fund their long-standing College Assistance Migrant Program. The University is one of only 10 institutions in the country and the only one in Michigan to receive grant money for CAMP's new funding cycle.

WMU's CAMP project, which is housed in multicultural affairs, will receive \$416,293 for the 2017-18 academic year and \$2,107,988 overall. It focuses on science, technology, engineering and mathematics—STEM—education. Diana Hernández, multicultural affairs and principal investigator for WMU-CAMP, reports that the program will enroll an average of 40 eligible students during each year of the 2017 through 2022 grant period.

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Hernández



Rodriguez

Montgomery installation draws enthusiastic crowd

Inauguration events Sept. 15 and 16 for Edward Montgomery as WMU's ninth president drew enthusiastic well-wishers and were capped off by a 37-28 victory over the University of Idaho during the CommUniverCity football game played at home in front of 25,732 fans.

The CommUniverCity weekend timing for Montgomery's inauguration emphasized the ties between the University and the Kalamazoo-area community.

Public events kicked off Friday morning in Miller Auditorium with formal installation of the new president. Participating were academic delegates from colleges and universities around the nation who

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Above, top: Dunn relinquishes the WMU seal medallion to the new president. **Above, left:** Montgomery and First Lady Kari enjoy the after-ceremony picnic. **Above, right:** At the picnic, Montgomery helps direct a performance by a segment of the Bronco Marching Band. (Photos by Mike Lanka)

Teaching, service award recipients to be feted at convocation

Editor's note: Five campuswide award programs will be celebrated during the Fall Convocation Friday, Oct. 6. This issue recognizes winners of two of those programs. The remaining winners will be recognized in the Oct. 5 issue.

Distinguished Teaching Award

This honor is bestowed on faculty members who are exceptional educators and mentors, and demonstrate outstanding dedication in their work.

• Ariel Anderson, teaching, learning and educational studies, was cited by many nominators for being a memorable and influential part of their education—personally as well as academically. They praised Anderson for her passion for teaching, compassion and ability to make students feel welcome. They also commended her for developing relationships that are true student-teacher alliances that help students master content and prepare them for the professional world.

• Louann Bierlein Palmer, educational leadership, research and technology, was nomi-



Anderson



Bierlein Palmer



Tarbox



Felkel



Takahashi-Ede

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Around campus and beyond

Speaker to address management

Organizational behavior will be the topic of the Mercantile Bank of Michigan Breakfast Speaker Series at 8 a.m. Friday, Sept. 29, in 2150 Schneider Hall. Doug Lepisto, management, will give a presentation titled “Leading Institutions in Unsettled Times.” The free event begins with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Reservations are required and may be made at wmich.edu/business/mercantile-rsvp or by calling (269) 387-5964.

Multiple early fall career fairs slated

Three of WMU’s high-profile career fairs are coming up. They are open to all but aimed at the University’s students and recent alumni. Full details are available on the Zhang Career Center’s events page at wmich.edu/business/career. Visit the Career and Student Employment Services events page at wmich.edu/career for non-business event information.

The events, along with their times and dates, are: ISM—Integrated Supply Management—Career Night, 5 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 26; Marketing, Food/Sales Marketing Career Night, 5 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 10; and Business Career Day, noon to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 11.

Hispanic Heritage Month observed

A series of public events organized by multicultural affairs is continuing in observance of Hispanic Heritage Month. They include a free reception in honor of the 40th anniversary of WMUK’s “Alma Latina” radio show from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 5, on Sprau Tower’s 10th floor. Visit wmich.edu/multicultural for the full event schedule.

Workshop focuses on healthy sleep

A Healthy Sleep Lunch and Learn workshop has been slated for WMU employees from 12:10 to 12:50 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 28, in 157 Bernhard Center. The program is free, but registration is required at wmich.edu/wellness/programs.

Sustainability programs highlighted

The Fall Sustainability Celebration will be held Thursday, Sept. 28, in the Office for Sustainability building to recognize WMU’s commitment to sustainability and showcase related campus programs and projects. The celebration will feature a bazaar and open house at 2 p.m. and Sustainability Slam from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Visit wmich.edu/sustainability/events/celebration-0 for details.

Numerous speaker series already underway this fall

Many annual speaker-related series are now in full swing for the fall semester. They are announced in the campuswide Calendar of Events at wmich.edu/news/events, usually with links to the series websites.

Some offerings have a strong academic or technical focus, such as the Biological Sciences Seminar and Geosciences Seminar series. Others, such as the Real Talk Diversity Series, are a combination of talks, discussion sessions and workshops on topics of interest to a broad spectrum of employees and students.

In addition, the English Department hosts noted authors for its wide-ranging Frostic

Reading Series, while several series select a theme around which speakers are brought in for the semester or year.

For instance, the Sichel Lecture Series offered by the Department of Economics is tackling the “Political Economy of Inequality: U.S. and Global Dimensions,” talks offered by the University Center for the Humanities are looking at “The Promise of Education,” and the Lyceum Lecture Series offered by the Lee Honors College is exploring the intersection of the LGBTQ+ identities and other dimensions of diversity.

To stay abreast of WMU’s eclectic mix of talks and obtain timely information about registration requirements and costs, check the campuswide calendar on a regular basis.

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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 fall are **Sept. 7 and 21; Oct. 5 and 19; Nov. 2 and 16; Dec. 7.** Items may be submitted to Jeanne Baron via: email, 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

Faculty trio receives grant funding

Shannon L. McMorrow and Vivian G. Valdmanis, interdisciplinary health programs, and Dee A. Sherwood, social work, received nearly \$14,700 in grant funding to develop curricula aimed at improving cultural competency for health professions students who work with Native American clients. The funding allowed a summer’s worth of work that is now concluding.



McMorrow



Sherwood

It involved developing curricula for the Master of Public Health and Master of Social Work offered through WMU-Grand Rapids. The project is being funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Association for Preventing, Teaching and Research. McMorrow is principle investigator.

Sherwood says the project is engaging graduate students in how to communicate with Native Americans in a culturally appropriate manner about health matters, particularly when addressing diabetes and tobacco use.

Instructor develops ‘go-to’ handbook

David B. Szabla, educational leadership, research and technology, is the creator, developer and chief editor of “The Palgrave Handbook of Organizational Change



Szabla

Thinkers.” Szabla edited the work with William Pasmore, Mary Barnes and Asha N. Gipson.

The book brings to life the experiences of seminal scholars so readers can begin to understand the process of organizational change and analyze what remains to be done for organizations today. It is called the go-to source for learning about the research and practice of organizational change from those who invented, built and advanced the field.

Counselor honored for research

Beverly Vandiver, counselor education and counseling psychology, was awarded the 2017 Distinguished Career Contribution to Research award from Division 45,



Vandiver

Society for the Psychological Study of Culture, Ethnicity and Race of the American Psychological Association. The award honors a senior person in the field of psychology who has made significant contributions in research

related to ethnic minority populations. Vandiver was presented with the award at the APA Convention Aug. 3-6.

The primary focus of Vandiver’s research is on cultural issues, with a specific emphasis on skill development, black racial identity, gender issues and special issues of black populations. She is one of the most prominent scholars in the country on the important issues of culturally appropriate scale development and validation, race and gender identity development, and multicultural theory.

WMU to honor alumni, Detroit influencers

The WMU Board of Trustees and President Edward Montgomery are hosting an on-campus naming ceremony Wednesday, Sept. 27, to honor a trio of celebrated alumni—the



Hall Archer Pickard

late automotive executive Ronald Hall Sr., former Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer and entrepreneur William Pickard.

The 2 p.m. event will include the unveiling of signage at the Western Heights residence hall complex that designates Hall-Archer-Pickard West and Hall-Archer-Pickard East as well as unveiling of signage for the newly named Hall-Archer-Pickard Conference Room in Heritage Hall.

Artist Gale Fulton Ross is creating multiple portraits of the honorees that will be displayed, beginning in 2018, in and around the two residence halls and the Hall-Archer-Pickard Conference Room. A sample image will be on display at the ceremony.

Student-athletes earn University major MAC academic awards

The athletics program has been recognized for having the highest overall institutional grade-point average for student-athletes competing in the Mid-American Conference during the 2016-17 academic year.

The conference announced Sept. 7 that the University received the 2016-17 MAC Institutional Academic Achievement Award based on its 398 students in 15 MAC sports posting an overall 3.253 GPA during the academic year.

MAC Commissioner Jon Steinbrecher will present the honor during the Bronco football team's home matchup Saturday, Sept. 30, in Waldo Stadium.

WMU also learned Sept. 5 that the men's athletics program received the 2016-17 MAC Faculty Athletics Representative Men's Academic Achievement Award.

The trio's lasting friendship began while they were attending WMU in the 1960s and members of Alpha Phi Alpha, the first intercollegiate African-American fraternity.

After graduating, the three went on to impact Michigan and Detroit throughout their careers. They also remained strongly connected to their alma mater, with all three serving on the WMU Board of Trustees.

- Hall served as president of the Michigan Minority Business Development Council and founded Detroit-based Bridgewater Interiors.

- Archer served on the Michigan Supreme Court, was twice elected mayor of Detroit, and was president of the State Bar of Michigan and the American Bar Association.

- Pickard, one of the first African-Americans to own a McDonald's franchise, served as executive director and now executive board member of Detroit's NAACP branch, founded the Detroit-based Global Automotive Alliance and is co-managing partner of a casino in the city.

Researchers explore human-robot communication

WMU researchers are gaining insight into their knowledge of human-robot interactions with a new, glistening white-plastic being that stands nearly 4-foot tall, weighs 65 pounds, and talks and gestures enthusiastically as it maneuvers about on wheels.

Meet Pepper, a humanoid robot that reads the emotions of people it meets and reacts to their moods using its voice, arm and hand gestures, and changes in eye color to express itself. Pepper also carries about a touch screen that it uses to play games and respond personally to the mood of the moment.

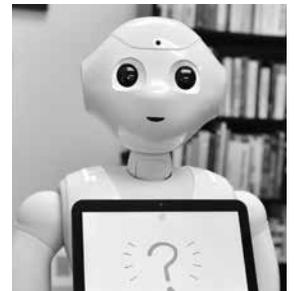
Chad and Autumn Edwards, communication and co-directors of the Communication and Social Robotics Labs, were busy this summer getting to know Pepper before they began live interactions with students this month. The robot was brought to WMU in late July through an anonymous donation.

The two researchers have been working with Pepper to study human-robot message design logic. Although encounters with social robots are quite limited in the United States, they are much more common in Europe and Asia.

Using Pepper in their robotics lab on the second floor of Sprau Tower, they investigated whether the message sophistication preferred among human partners will carry over to what is preferred from a robot interlocutor. Or, owing to more normative expectations of how a robot "should" communicate, will people prefer less sophisticated message patterns?

Autumn and Chad Edwards also can control what the robot says to test different patterns of speaking and observe its interactions with humans from outside the room via cameras.

Before the researchers officially began studies with students, they found that people tend to talk to Pepper as if it's a dog or a small child.



Pepper (Photo by Mike Lanka)

Service-September

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

40 years—Patricia K. Campbell, maintenance services, and Patricia F. Vander Meer, University Libraries.

30 years—Sean M. Bashaw, chemistry; John E. Campos, music; Julie Lenczycki, architecture and design; and Nancy P. Pyne, Bernhard Center Dining Service.

20 years—John H. Coons, interdisciplinary health programs; Colleen D. Scarff, university budgets; and Sally A. Sutkowi, nursing.

15 years—Sara Anderson, Human Resources; Brian P. Bauer, intercollegiate athletics; Cheryl Bruey, theatre; Christina M. Herrmann, information technology; Timothy S. Lewis-Ginebaugh, interdisciplinary health programs; Brandon G. Meissner, University Libraries; Shannon Myers, College of Education and Human Development; Vladimir N.

Risukhin, College of Aviation; Elizabeth C. Teviotdale, Medieval Institute; and Connie Volenski, economics.

10 years—Skip Bladen, public safety; Timothy Lee Buskirk, public safety; Pamela F. Danielson, student financial aid; Cindy K. Hetrick, accounts receivable; Julia Primavera Kuntz, development and alumni relations; Stephen R. Root, landscape services; Scott C. Smith, University Libraries; and Don Jeffrey Upchurch, Valley Dining Center.

Five years—Laura L. Buskirk, student affairs; Seneca S. Edwards, public safety; Sara L. Gurney, Center for Disability Services; Jennifer A. Halseth, payroll and disbursements; Jason E. Johnson, computer science; Mary Lutzke, occupational therapy; Maria Mata, multicultural affairs; Jason D. Morse, maintenance services; Erica E. Ongstad, University Libraries; Zeljka Vidic, human performance and health education; and Bryan E. Wright, student financial aid.

New rankings laud WMU

The University has earned several additional national accolades.

WMU is one of 80 U.S. institutions named an annual Higher Education Excellence in Diversity—HEED—honoree by *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine. WMU has been honored by the publication each year since 2013.

Plus, *U.S. News & World Report* released its 2018 college rankings Sept. 12 and once again listed WMU among the top tier of the country's "best national universities." This is the 27th year WMU has been ranked on the top national universities list that this year includes 311 institutions—190 public, 114 private and seven for-profit institutions.

In a separate listing of top undergraduate business programs in *U.S. News's* online college guide, the Haworth College of Business made the publication's list of the nation's "best business programs." The only other Michigan institutions to make the list are the University of Michigan's Ross Business School and Michigan State University's Broad School of Business.

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Montgomery installation

represented some 30 higher education institutions from 14 states and the District of Columbia.

In a wide-ranging address after his installation, Montgomery pledged a presidency focused on a quest for excellence, close ties with the community and a focus on the success of students.

Visit wmich.edu/inauguration for links to a live stream of the Miller ceremony and text of Montgomery's inaugural address. Text and audio of the address also are available on the website of WMU's public radio station, WMUK, at wmuk.org.

Obituary—wmich.edu/news/obituaries

Celia Yonkers, a retired clerk in the School of Music, died Aug. 29. She was 93. Yonkers joined the staff in 1969 and retired in 1988 after nearly 19 years of service.

On Campus with Pradip Bhatt



JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

Illness is one of life's many stressors, so primary care physician Pradip Bhatt devotes a lot of time to talking to his predominantly 18- to 22-year-old patients. A Sindecuse Health Center staff member since 1986, Bhatt helps his young clientele feel less nervous about being in a doctor's office without a parent, often for their first time.

"Within three months of working here, I fell in love with this age group. What really made me love this is the need to be personal, to make sure students are at ease," he says. "You're not just a doctor. When an 18-year-old walks into a health center and he's sick, he's not looking for an M.D., he's looking for mom or dad or brother or sister."

Ironically, Bhatt never intended to go into college health care. After earning his medical degree, the India native moved to Chicago with his wife in 1975 to do his medical residency. He planned to stay on in the U.S. long enough to build a little nest egg, then return to India and work with the poor. Bhatt landed a job in Kalamazoo in 1979, had a child and went into private practice for a while. But that type of doctoring wasn't his cup of tea, so he jumped at the Sindecuse position when it opened up in 1986.

"One hundred percent of my job is delivering efficient, high-quality patient care to the University community," he says, adding that he only occasionally sees patients with chronic illnesses such as asthma, diabetes and high blood pressure. "Most patients come in because of the flu, sports injuries or other fairly simple, short-term problems. But that's where the challenge is. You're dealing with an essentially healthy clientele, so you need to really keep your eyes open for something you do not want to miss."

Bhatt notes that he and his Sindecuse colleagues are also educators, because "prevention is better than cure." He ferrets out information about a patient's health, then often spends additional time explaining how antibiotics work, what prolongs colds, or what constitutes safe sex. In addition, Bhatt regularly helps students who feel stressed, anxious or depressed. He says freshmen frequently tell him they were able to "play" in high school, but the responsibilities of college life propel their stress level from 0 to 10.

Bhatt and his wife live in Oshtemo Township and love to travel as well as spend time with their three grandchildren and son and daughter-in-law, both of whom live in the area and are doctors. Bhatt belongs to the India Association of Kalamazoo and in prior years was one of its administrative leaders. He no longer plays that role, but his love of people—and talking—means he remains in demand as an emcee at various local functions.

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Teaching, service award recipients to be feted at convocation

nated by several doctoral candidates. They cited her for how instrumental she was in instructing, guiding and supporting them through their coursework, comprehensive exam and dissertation. They also praised Palmer for encouraging and challenging them, as necessary; making them feel as if they were the only student she was teaching; and showing an unrelenting commitment to student success.

• Gwen Tarbox, English, was lauded for her advice and counsel as well as her dedication as a mentor. Nominators wrote that Tarbox exemplifies commitment to education by modeling exceptional teaching, research and service. Notably, they commented on her consistent commitment to student success inside and outside of the classroom—whether

working with a WMU student or a budding scholar from another country.

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.

• Robert Felkel, Spanish, who received the Distinguished Teaching Award in 1989, was praised for his dedicated service to WMU, Kalamazoo and Michigan. In terms of the University, Felkel was lauded for his work with the Faculty Senate and leading such groups as the Medieval Institute board, College Promotion Committee and numerous search committees. Off campus, he has developed and presented workshops for secondary school students, assisted with

developing a high school Advanced Placement English class, and promoted hospice care as well as been a hospice volunteer.

• Yumi Takahashi-Ede, Haenicke Institute for Global Education, is a study abroad specialist. Takahashi-Ede was praised for the high-quality handling of her staff duties as well as developing a program using predictive analytics to anticipate incoming first-year students who are likely to encounter academic difficulties. Nominators also cited her for initiating a pilot study on the effectiveness of regular advising on grade-point average; expanding the study abroad program; and working with hospice interdisciplinary staff members, providing psychosocial end-of-life care to patients and families, and providing bereavement care for families.

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Farmerworkers aided by \$2 million grant

"Migrant and seasonal farmworkers are essential to the agricultural industry in the United States and in Michigan, yet they continue to be one of the most impoverished and underserved populations in this country," Hernández says. "Our unique, holistic service plan for the CAMP program provides participants with the comprehensive academic, financial, school-transition and other support services they need to success-

fully complete their first year of college and continue their college education."

The WMU-CAMP program addresses a federally identified priority that calls for increasing the number of students who are prepared to enter STEM fields. To that end, multicultural affairs and the engineering college have teamed up to give new WMU-CAMP participants increased access to STEM coursework and activities.

"The collaboration between Diana and her team and the engineering college is a win-win situation for participating students, the seasonal farmworker community and WMU," says Jorge Rodriguez, engineering design, manufacturing and management systems and CAMP co-principal investigator. "STEM education is a priority in the global environment and it's something that will have a positive impact in our region."

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