



Western News

OCTOBER 19, 2017
Volume 44, Number 4

For and about WMU faculty and staff

Board of Trustees meeting scheduled

The next meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees is planned for 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 1, in Heritage Hall. Information about the agenda will be posted online at wmich.edu/trustees closer to the meeting date.

Free shredding event set for this month

Students, faculty and staff can ensure all personal and professional documents and media are properly destroyed and recycled by participating in a free campuswide shredding event from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Oct. 27, in Lot 41 near Sangren Hall. More information is available at wmich.edu/news/2017/10/43127.

Award nominations for staffers sought

Nominations for the semiannual Make a Difference Award are due Tuesday, Oct. 31. The award recognizes staff members for their daily investments of energy and creativity. Guidelines and nomination forms are available online at wmich.edu/makeadifference.

Get moving by joining an activity team

Gather a team of two to four WMU employees and sign up for the Movement Matters Team Challenge Nov. 5 through Dec. 8. Simply track physical activity to accumulate points. Sign up online or at the Benefits and Wellness Expo Wednesday, Nov. 1. For details, visit wmich.edu/wellness/programs.

Commercialization funding available

Funding up to \$20,000 for the current fiscal year is available for researchers with discoveries who need help transitioning from invention to commercialization. Submit applications for the Technology Development Fund by 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 3, using InfoReady, an online submission tool. Details are available at wmurf.org/Technology-Development-Fund.

Three-minute thesis contest planned

Graduate students working on a thesis or dissertation can present their research and compete for scholarships by applying to take part in the Grad Talks/3-Minute Thesis Competition. The event is set for noon Friday, Nov. 10, in 157-159 Bernhard Center and features a first-place prize of \$500. Spectators are welcome. For the application and more information, visit wmich.edu/gsa/gradtalks.

Employee Self Service options updated

The ability to update direct deposit preferences is being made available again in Employee Self Service with the PeopleSoft Upgrade project. Refer to wmich.edu/self-service for instructions on this new feature and additional payroll and personnel data as well as updates related to the travel authorization system. Watch the short video for a sneak peek at the new navigation.

School leadership project gets \$12 million

Two longtime school leadership researchers at WMU will use one of the largest single grants ever awarded to the University for a three-year effort aimed at intense school leadership development in high-poverty schools across West Michigan.

A \$12.5 million award from the U.S. Department of Education will fund the High-Impact Leadership for School Renewal Project, led by Patricia Reeves and Jianping Shen, educational leadership, research and technology. The project focuses on two major outcomes—developing a strong pool of practicing school leaders and improving student achievement.

Working with a pool of elementary schools in 20 West Michigan counties, the project will support teams of school principals and teacher leaders by:

- Providing intense professional development and support, and money for renewal projects for teams of leaders in 75 schools that are implementing a set of new literacy essentials.
- Placing a trained team of school renewal coaches in each project school.
- Providing a lower level of professional development support and funding for leaders in an additional 75 schools.
- Applying a set of proven school leadership practices for school renewal and sustainable implementation.



Reeves



Shen

Continued on Page 4

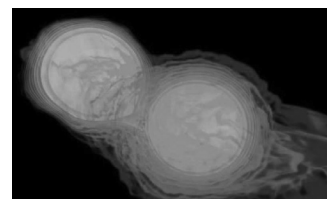
Grad helping to study first collision of neutron stars

A recent WMU graduate is playing an important role as scientists around the world are chronicling, for the first time, what happens when two neutron stars collide.

Ian Brown, a 2016 alumnus and current graduate student at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, has been a participant in one of the international observational teams and working at a radio telescope array in Australia to track

the phenomenon, known as a kilonova. The event was first detected in mid-August. In simultaneous announcements Oct. 16 in

Europe and the United States, those teams unveiled visual observations and information on the gravitational waves they've detected.



Simulation showing two neutron stars colliding and forming a black hole. (Image by NASA Goddard/Albert Einstein Institute)

Their announcements have generated headlines worldwide.

Previously and only very recently, scientists had, according to *Science* magazine, only sensed such occurrences from the gravitational waves they had been able to measure. This time, the “celestial light show” also allowed them to observe the event across the electromagnetic (light) spectrum.

Continued on Page 3

President starts fund for ideas aimed at campus transformation

“Ideas that come from the bottom up are the best ideas.”

With those words, WMU President Edward Montgomery introduced a Transformational Initiative Fund intended to make \$1 million available to campus entities that propose innovative efforts aimed at tackling three major WMU goals.

Speaking Oct. 6 in his State of the University address, Montgomery identified three areas of immediate focus for the campus:

- Improve retention and six-year graduation rates.
- Find alternative revenue streams that reduce reliance on tuition and state funding.
- Make WMU the school of choice for students, faculty, staff and community organizations.

“These three broad goals...are important goals, critical goals. I want to ensure we put the best thinking from every corner of the campus to work in achieving them,” Montgomery said. “People at every level and in every department or unit may well have ideas that will help us achieve one or more of these goals.”

To encourage people to collaborate and bring ideas forward, Montgomery announced the establishment of a \$1 million fund that could support six to 10 initiatives with the potential to impact one or more of the goals he outlined.

“We’re looking for ‘big picture’ ideas and initiatives that will spark institutional change...,” he said. “Preference will be given to initiatives that cut across departmental boundaries, and the successful proposals will need to have the support of their areas. By having that support and leveraging matching funds and contributions, we’ll have the potential to invest \$2 mil-

Continued on Page 4

Around campus and beyond

Graduate school fair coming up

The annual Graduate and Professional School Fair will be held from 3 to 6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 23, in the Bernhard Center's East Ballroom on the Main Campus. The public event highlights many of the options available to those who are considering advanced study. For details, including a list of participating schools, visit wmich.edu/grad/grad-fair.

Student Success Summit slated

Employees may attend the fall 2017 Student Success Summit, hosted by Broncos FIRST and the Office of Undergraduate Assessment and Undergraduate Studies. The keynote speaker is Jillian Kinzie, with the National Survey on Student Engagement institute. The summit is set for noon to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 25, in the Bernhard Center's South Ballroom. A University Showcase takes place from 3:45 to 4:30 p.m. For details, visit wmich.edu/changeresearch/broncosfirst/student-success-summit.

Annual benefits, wellness expo set

Faculty and staff can learn more about their WMU benefits and take part in a wide range of activities to improve their health and wellness during the annual Benefits and Wellness Expo from 9 a.m.

to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 1, in the Bernhard Center's East Ballroom. Meetings scheduled at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. in 210 Bernhard Center will cover the 2018 health plan changes for affected employee groups. In addition, the Sindecuse Health Center will be offering flu shots to WMU employees. More information is available at wmich.edu/hr/benefits-expo.

Cybersecurity is focus of forum

This year's joint ICHITA-IT Forum conference will be held Thursday and Friday, Nov. 2-3, at the Fetzer Center. The focus is on "Health IT Innovation and Cybersecurity in a Digital Age." Registration is open and free to WMU employees and students. For more information, visit wmich.edu/news/2017/10/43116.

ACE organization to hold luncheon

WMU faculty and staff are invited to attend the Michigan ACE Women's Network Women of Color Collaborative Luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 10, in the Bernhard Center's South Ballroom. The keynote speaker is Judi Brown Clarke, from Michigan State University. The cost is \$50 for WMU employees using the promo code WMU-WOCC2017. Register at miacenetwork.org/2017-wocc-fall-luncheon.

Service-October

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

40 years—Patricia A. Keck, university budgets; Judy A. O'Donnell, Registrar's Office; and Lori A. Krum, physics.

35 years—Robin L. McPherson, building custodial and support services.

30 years—Kimberlee S. Hemingway, intercollegiate athletics; Joe Hulsebus, information technology; Selena D. Walker, building custodial and support services; and Mark A. Mundo, Davis Dining Services.

25 years—Cara L. Lieurance, WMUK Radio.

20 years—Sarah A. Rasnake, human performance and health education; Rena J. Lynema, English language and culture center; and Timothy P. Johnson, power plant.

15 years—Linda L. Renauld, cashiering; Vic Cekola, maintenance services; and Cindy L. McFarlin, Sindecuse Health Center.

10 years—Timothy Broadwater, aviation; Katherine E. Garvey, disability services center; Teresa K. Ptacek, building custodial and support services; Donald R. Hall Jr., Paper and Printing Pilot plants; James H. Stoken Jr., Paper and Printing Pilot plants; Joann L. Ambs, Bernhard Center Dining Service; Debra A. Shephard, Burnham Dining Service; Diane Catherine Gonzalez, cash operations; and Teresa Z. Sfeir, Sindecuse Health Center.

Five Years—Adriana Cardoso Reyes, institutional effectiveness; Glenn E. Schrauben, arts and sciences; Jamie M. Payne, building custodial and support services; Edward R. Truitt, building custodial and support services; Gustavo Echavarría, multicultural affairs; Stephanie N. Means, Evaluation Center; Ruth A. Barnhart, Bernhard Center Dining Service; Joe VanDerBos, Sindecuse Health Center; and Brenda K. Misak, Dining Services.

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.

Dunn feted for aiding foster-care grads

John M. Dunn, president emeritus, was honored Sept. 28 for his contributions to the success of young people who have been part of the state's foster care system. Dunn was



Dunn

recognized along with U.S. Rep. Brenda L. Lawrence during the Detroit area's sixth annual Fostering Futures Scholarship Benefit Dinner.

The dinner boosts resources available for the Fostering Futures Scholarship Trust Fund that provides scholarships to former foster-care youth enrolled at Michigan colleges and universities.

Dunn was honored for his commitment to programs advancing the education and life experience of youth who have experienced foster care. Under his leadership, WMU launched its award-winning Seita Scholars Program in 2008. And WMU's Center for Fostering Success is home to a statewide support network and has become a national center for research and best practices.

Staffer earns deans' innovation award

Danielle Field, Haworth College of Business, was awarded second place in the Innovation in Business Education Award program for her work in establishing her



Field

college's Student Professional Readiness Series, also known as SPuRS. The award, sponsored by the MidAmerican Business Deans Association, was presented during an Oct. 2 luncheon in Chicago.

SPuRS provides a framework for business students to explore and develop career skills. Designed and implemented based on employer feedback, it allows all business students to graduate with employer-sought career readiness competencies in such areas as critical thinking, communication, teamwork, digital technology, leadership, work ethic and intercultural fluency.

Prof tapped for TV academy seminar

Jennifer Machiorlatti, communication, has been selected to participate in the Television Academy Foundation's 2017 Faculty Seminar Program. Members of



Machiorlatti

the Television Academy selected just 25 Faculty Seminar Fellows from colleges and universities nationwide for the prestigious annual program, which this year takes place Monday through Friday, Nov. 6-10.

Fellows gain the latest information on the television and content development industries from top entertainment professionals. Machiorlatti says the seminar program is a once-in-a-career opportunity that she applied for seven times before being selected.

An award-winning documentary filmmaker, Machiorlatti serves as director of undergraduate communication programs. Her research and media art and production interests include documentary, aboriginal/First Nation and Native American media, environment and communication, and gender- and feminist-influenced media.

Western News

Volume 44 Number 4

EDITOR: Jeanne Baron. CONTRIBUTORS: Cara Barnes, Paula M. Davis, Tonya Durlach, Deanne Puca, Cheryl P. Roland and Mark E. Schwerin. PRODUCTION: Office of University Relations. DISTRIBUTION AND MAILING: Teresa Ventimiglia.

WESTERN NEWS (USPS 362-210) is published by the Office of University Relations, Walwood Hall, Western Michigan University, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5433, every other week during the fall and spring semesters and Summer I session. Periodicals postage paid at Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5165.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Western News*, Office of University Relations, Western Michigan University, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5433.

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.

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



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Provost search committee set

WMU President Edward Montgomery announced Oct. 5 that he has created a 14-member search committee to identify, and recommend to him, an individual who could become WMU's next provost.

John Jellies, biological sciences, is leading the committee. The other members include faculty members, administrators, staff members, and student representatives from both the graduate and undergraduate levels.

Jellies says Montgomery has set in motion a provost search process that adopts many aspects of a shared governance model of searches for senior leadership. He also says he expects the committee will seek input from campus constituencies early in the process.

In addition, Jellies says the search will be broad and have a national scope. The goal is to have a provost appointed by July 2018.

The successful candidate will replace Timothy Greene, who has stepped down to return to the faculty.

Profs get \$2.6 million to train ESL learners

In response to the exploding number of English language learners in Michigan, the U.S. Department of Education's Office of English Language Acquisition has awarded a \$2.6 million grant to a team of WMU professors to boost professional development efforts for teachers working with English learners.

WMU is the only university in Michigan among this year's awardees to obtain funding.

Selena Protacio, Susan Piazza, Virginia David and Hsiao-Chin Kuo, in special education and literacy studies, will use the five-year training grant to undertake the ELATE program, English Learners and Teacher Education. Protacio is the project's principal investigator.

The effort will provide a rigorous and comprehensive professional development program for both pre-service and in-service teachers. WMU pre-service teachers who have an interest in earning their ESL endorsement can apply to be part of the pre-service cohort wherein they would take three out of seven courses in the program. The classes would be paid for by the grant.

Meanwhile, WMU has partnered with six local education agencies, which have high needs in terms of educators with an expertise in working with English learners. Project ELATE will provide substantial financial support for these in-service teachers as they work toward earning the English as a second language endorsement. In addition, other activities of Project ELATE include hosting an annual ESL conference.



Protacio

Longtime employees to be inducted into 25 Year Club during 36th annual gala

A total of 25 people will be inducted into the 25 Year Club during a gala honoring WMU's longtime employees.

The 36th annual 25 Year Club Gala, which includes dinner, begins at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 28, in the Bernhard Center. Reservations for the invitation-only event are due Friday, Nov. 10. Invitations are expected to be mailed to club members and inductees soon.

The event honors employees who have built their careers at WMU. Once the 2017 class of inductees is in place, the 25 Year Club will have 1,244 members. Of these, 451 are active employees and 793 are retirees. All but two of this year's 25 inductees began their

service to WMU in 1992. The two have prior service credit because they began working at WMU earlier than 1992, separated from the University and then returned in 1992.

This year's inductees are: Karen R. Blaisure, family and consumers science; John A. Brown, health and human services; Barbara J. Cockrell, University Libraries; David Loberg Code, music; Tony O. Dennis, Graduate College; Kerry L. Eldred, building custodial and support services; David J. Flanagan, management; Khanh Hoang, University Libraries; Lori M. Kison, Haenicke Institute; Jil C. Larson, English; Cara L. Lieurance, WMUK radio; Debra K. Lindstrom, occupational therapy; Melinda

Lockett, health and human services; Thomas A. Mills, arts and sciences; Michael S. Nasaney, anthropology; Shannon R. Penny, occupational therapy; Craig A. Peterson, finance and commercial law; Rebecca S. Popp, Valley Dining Center; Mellissa L. Porter, development and alumni relations; Sam N. Ramrattan, engineering design, manufacturing and management systems; Kitty M. Scheffers, health and human services; Karen L. Severson, music; Zoann K. Snyder, sociology; Donna M. Talbot, educational leadership, research and technology; and Allen T. Webb, English.

The current membership list is posted online at wmich.edu/hr/25yearclub. Direct questions to the Office of Human Resources at hr-hris@wmich.edu or (269) 387-3620.

'Stuff the Bus' donation drive to benefit WMU Food Pantry

The College of Engineering and Applied Sciences will be holding a "Stuff the Bus" event to benefit the WMU Food Pantry from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21.

The event will take place at the D&W Fresh Market in Kalamazoo at the corner of Parkview Avenue and Oakland Drive. The college's Sunseeker solar car and Formula SAE and Baja vehicles will be on display.

"Western's food pantry, which is part of the Invisible Need Project, was established to help our students who are hungry," says Jamie Long, chemical and paper engineering, who is organizing the event. "We're hoping that the community will support this effort, with shoppers picking up an extra item or two when they're doing their grocery shopping that day."

WMU Food Pantry drop-off locations are available across the WMU campus. Students in need may shop the pantry as often as every two weeks during its regular hours of 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information about pantry, contact Shari Glaser at shari.glaser@wmich.edu or (269) 387-4820.

Continued from Page 1

Grad helping to study first collision of neutron stars

The collision of two neutron stars in a galaxy 130 million light years away is providing scientists on Earth a front row seat to document the event. For the first time, scientists have been able to simultaneously sense the collision in gravitational waves and observe the light generated by the calamity through dozens of ground-based optical and radio telescopes and several U.S. and European orbiting observatories in space.

The extent of the teams' discoveries was unveiled this week when representatives from the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory, or LIGO, joined with Europe's Virgo gravitational-wave observatory, and a sampling of researchers from 70

other observatories to share their new findings during a briefing in Washington, D.C.

Shortly after the international announcement, Brown emailed his University mentors in physics, Clement Burns, Paul Pancella and Lisa Paulius, to let them know the role he played and to thank them for their support. He had been under a gag order about the kilonova work until the news was revealed.

"It is partly due to your recommendations that I was in the right place at the right time to be included in this amazing astronomical event," Brown, a WMU Presidential Scholar in Physics wrote. "...I have to say, given the current events, grad school is turning out a lot more fun that I thought it would be."

After Brown left college and spent 13 years in the workforce, he came to WMU to finish a degree in physics with an electrical engineering option. He is now working at the Murchison Widefield (Radio Telescope) Array in Western Australia and is a graduate assistant at the U of W's Leonard E. Parker Center for Gravitation, Cosmology and Astrophysics. His name appears as a contributor on two scientific papers that have resulted from the work in observing the kilonova.

For more about the breakthrough, read a full account of the news from *Science* and the *New York Times* at bit.ly/2gKwflW and nyti.ms/2ifBz4D.

Obituaries—wmich.edu/news/obituaries

Meshulam Groper, emeritus in mechanical and aeronautical engineering, died June 30. He was 85. Groper joined the WMU faculty in 1980 and retired in 2000 after more than 20 years of service to the University.

Dawn M. Nelson, a former senior restricted fund accountant in the Grants and Contracts office, died Sept. 21. She was 44. Nelson joined the WMU staff in 1993 and left in August after 24 years of service to the University.

On Campus with Carole Nelson



YOU CAN COUNT ON HER
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

What can be an unwelcome conundrum for campus researchers can often be an interesting puzzle for Carole Nelson in the Grants and Contracts office. That's because Nelson is not just good with numbers, she has an inquiring mind.

"I'm intrigued by puzzles in all aspects of my life, and sometimes it's just very satisfying to solve a puzzle or a problem," says the restricted funds accountant senior. "A lot of the questions we get about how you can and can't spend money are complicated. You can't make everybody happy all of the time, but you can contribute to solving a problem."

Grants and Contracts deals with externally funded research and other projects once funding has been awarded. It partners with project directors and administrative staff, as well as the sponsors who fund these projects.

Nelson assists the directors with determining how the funds can be spent, maintains and prepares financial reports, and handles related administrative duties such as setting up new projects for spending and examining transactions for compliance with University procedures and policies as well as state and federal regulations. The College of Engineering and Applied Sciences is her largest constituent area, and she holds "office hours" in Floyd Hall every two weeks to facilitate communication with this college's researchers.

"A lot of our time is spent responding to questions," she says, noting that an early call to her office can help direct researchers where to go to get necessary information. "We're happy to provide information or find out where to go to get it. It's always helpful if people coming into these projects have some familiarity with policies and procedures."

Nelson earned bachelor's and master's degrees in business and came to WMU in 2001, joining the Grants and Contracts office in 2004. She had previously worked at universities in Nebraska, but admits she had a lot to learn about restricted funding.

"Learning is a lifelong pursuit," she says, "and I'm still learning because the federal regulations that we deal with change all the time."

Nelson and her husband live in Portage, Michigan, and have three grown daughters, one of whom is a WMU alumna, as well as one granddaughter. The couple enjoy music of all kinds. They sing in their church choir and are huge fans of the Bronco Marching Band and University Symphony Orchestra. They have a goal of visiting as many national parks as they can, and love to take day trips to Lake Michigan, walk the beaches and collect a few rocks, hoping to find a Petoskey stone someday.

Continued from Page 1

School leadership project gets \$12 million

The project is a collaborative effort involving WMU and two statewide initiatives called the Reading Now Network and the General Education Leadership Network. Patricia Reeves, the project director, says the initiative began among a group of West Michigan school superintendents determined to improve student reading levels by working together to build a school leadership model around the practices they saw in use at high-performing schools.

"Initiatives that build from the ground up, like this one, are so precious," says Reeves. "They can ultimately lead to real change, and our job is to provide the support necessary to make this enormously ambitious project work and keep a complex range of moving parts in sync."

Along with Reeves and Shen, the project will be led by two educators from Ottawa County—Kyle Mayer, assistant superintendent for instructional services with the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District, and Douglas Greer, director of school improvement with the OAISD.

Reeves specializes in educational leadership and evaluation, measurement and research. She is co-author of School ADvance, one of two research-based performance evaluation systems for school leaders adopted by more than 80 percent of Michigan school districts.

Shen, a 2017 WMU Distinguished Grant Awardee, has led numerous large research projects focused on such topics as principal leadership, school renewal, data-informed decision-making, teacher retention and attrition, alternative certification, and systemic change.

Continued from Page 1

President starts fund for ideas aimed at campus transformation

lion in these strategic initiatives."

Proposals of no more than five pages must be in the hands of the vice presidents of the units making proposals no later than Wednesday, Nov. 1. Some vice presidents have set an earlier deadline, so those submitting proposals should check with the vice presidents involved. The fast-track review of proposals will lead to final decisions on funding that will be announced early in January.

"Time is of the essence. We need to create momentum and want to start making progress," Montgomery said in explaining the pace of the fund rollout.

To read a transcript of Montgomery's State of the University speech, go to wmich.edu/president/state-university-2017. Detailed information on the Transformational Initiative Fund can be found at wmich.edu/president/transformational-initiative-fund.

Giving Day tallies announced

WMU's first Universitywide Giving Day held Oct. 11 resulted in 1,366 donors contributing \$136,968.

Several groups and fundraisers won challenge awards that included money the winners could earmark to WMU. The challenges, monetary amounts and winners are:

- Most donors, academic college (\$3,000)—arts and sciences.
- Most donors, nonacademic (\$3,000)—diversity and inclusion.
- Most donors, individual fundraiser (\$2,000)—Stephen Blanco, Bronco Marching Band student.
- Most liked Facebook post (\$1,000)—education and human development.
- Farthest gift from WMU (\$1,000)—Claudia Cook, 11,063 miles, Perth, Australia.
- Random selection from donors—Tina Thompson, education and human development.
- In lieu of the 1,903rd gift, Spirit Award (\$1,000)—Joe VanDerBos, Sindecuse Health Center, the first to sign up and make a gift.

Gifts are still being accepted. To give or view photos of the winning groups and fundraisers, visit givingday.mywmu.com.



I GAVE GOLD!

Western News

OCTOBER 19, 2017

Volume 44, Number 4

wmich.edu/westernnews