



# Western News

NOVEMBER 2, 2017  
Volume 44, Number 5

For and about WMU faculty and staff

## Benefits open enrollment set for 2018

The 2018 open enrollment period for insurance runs Monday, Nov. 6, through Thursday, Nov. 30. Faculty and staff should look for their Open Enrollment Guide in the mail. The period is important for those who plan to contribute to a flexible spending account as well as those who want to make changes to their current health care benefits elections, change health plans, or add or drop family members.

All necessary forms must be submitted to Human Resources by 5 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 30. Elections made during the open enrollment period will be effective Jan. 1, 2018, and remain effective through Dec. 31, 2018. No action is needed if no changes to current benefits are being made.

Open enrollment meetings have been scheduled in the Fetzer Center's Kirsch Auditorium at: (live streamed) 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 6; 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 14; and (retiree focused) 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 30. Forms and more details are available at [wmich.edu/hr/openenrollment](http://wmich.edu/hr/openenrollment). The streamed meetings will be posted on that website after Nov. 6.

## Risk management presentations slated

Faculty and staff are invited to attend a series of presentations on risk management. All presentations will be held in the Bernhard Center's Brown and Gold Room Monday, Nov. 6. The discussion will focus on campus contractors from 8 to 9 a.m., on hunger programs from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m., and on current cyber concerns in higher education from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Send questions to [laura.weber@wmich.edu](mailto:laura.weber@wmich.edu).

## Events planned to honor veterans

The Office of Military and Veterans Affairs is hosting several events and promotions next week in recognition of Veterans Day, which is observed Saturday, Nov. 11. Actions planned include a \$100 Visa prepaid card giveaway, 2-mile run, pancake breakfast and new WMU military T-shirt. A list of events as well as opportunities to financially support WMU's veterans is available at [wmich.edu/military/veterans-week-2017](http://wmich.edu/military/veterans-week-2017).

## Ringers needed for Day at the Kettles

A WMU Day at the Kettles is planned for Saturday, Dec. 2. WMU students, alumni, and faculty and staff members are asked to serve as volunteer ringers during the Salvation Army's Red Kettle campaign. Ringing shifts of two or more hours are available between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. at locations throughout Kalamazoo County and in the nearby Plainwell-Otsego area. Volunteers may decorate their kettle, wear WMU apparel and sing the WMU Fight and Alma Mater songs. Individuals and groups may register to volunteer by contacting the Salvation Army's Penny Allen, at [penny\\_allen@usc.salvationarmy.org](mailto:penny_allen@usc.salvationarmy.org) or (269) 743-0834.

## WMU at center of national STEM network

University researchers have parlayed a series of grants and connections with some of the nation's leading higher education organizations into an effort that positions WMU at the central hub of a network of national educators working to build systemic change that will boost undergraduate academic achievement.

Andrea Beach and Charles Henderson, who lead WMU's Center for Research on Instructional Change in Post-Secondary Education, have just received a new \$905,141 award from the National Science Foundation to support the Accelerating Systemic Change Network, or ASCN. This national network builds on lessons they and other U.S. researchers have learned about improving instruction in the disciplines known as STEM—science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The network's focus will be on using those lessons learned to create systemic change and build learning environments that will improve student achievement.

"Knowing what needs to be done does not equal knowing how to move an institution or department toward that goal," says Beach, educational leadership, research and technology.

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Beach



Henderson

## Nursing wins \$2 million grant to boost diversity

What started with a modest \$5,000 WMU grant has grown into a nearly \$2 million federally funded, four-year project to recruit, retain and graduate more underrepresented students into the nursing profession.

The Nursing Workforce Diversity Grant, through the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration, will fund the Empowering Nursing Students for Success project. It will target students from underrepresented groups and from educationally and financially disadvantaged populations, pairing them with faculty mentors and student navigators to help shepherd them through the Bronson School of Nursing program.

Fostering greater diversity in the nursing profession is vital, says Mary Ann Stark, nursing and the grant's principal investigator.

However, she notes that many students who come from underrepresented minority groups have various challenges, such as financial issues, being graduates of underperforming K-12 schools, and having different social and educational backgrounds than white students.

Ann Tyler, health and human services and a driving force behind the college's diversity and research efforts, says one of the reasons greater diversity is important is that it helps increase the equity in health care services.

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(Photo courtesy of School of Nursing)

## Three University researchers snag prestigious NSF prize

Three researchers—the most in any single year at WMU—have each earned a coveted National Science Foundation CAREER award and associated five-year grant, a top prize for early career scientists who show promise as leaders in their disciplines.

The recipients are Wendy S. Beane, biological sciences; Elena Litvinova, physics; and Fahad Saeed, computer science, electrical and computer engineering, and the Parallel Computing and Data Science Laboratory. They are generating new knowledge and real-world solutions to advance such areas as human health, nuclear physics, computational science and medicine, as noted in stories in the summer 2017 WMU Magazine at [wmich.edu/magazine](http://wmich.edu/magazine).

Those who earn CAREER awards have



Beane



Litvinova



Saeed

the potential to serve as academic role models in research and education and to lead advances in the missions of their departments or organizations, according to the NSF.

Beane is using her \$800,000 award grant to investigate the impressive regenerative abilities of planarian flatworms. The signals that control the animal's adult stem cells, causing them to divide and produce new tissues, are not well-understood.

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# Around campus and beyond

## Russian expo, conference scheduled

The 100th anniversary of the fall of the Romanov dynasty and the 1917 Soviet Revolution will be recognized Saturday, Nov. 4, during the Russian Cultural Expo and Conference. The free event is being sponsored by WMU's Department of English and the Kalamazoo Russian Cultural Association from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Brown Hall.

It will feature lectures and presentations, as well as performance of a play and a reading. Participants will include Russian scholars from WMU and other universities. For descriptions of the presentations, visit [kzoorca.org](http://kzoorca.org).

## Book signing set for Disney volume

Walt Disney's travels, including the animation pioneer's substantial connections to Kalamazoo and WMU, are chronicled in a book by Christopher Tremblay, former WMU associate provost for enrollment management. A book signing for "Walt's Pilgrimage: A Journey in the Life of Walter Elias Disney" is planned from 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 8, in the Zhang Legacy Collection Center. Tremblay will present an overview of his book at 4:30 p.m.

## Event focuses on pairing of efforts

Ronald Kramer, sociology, will draw parallels between efforts to control criminal behavior and reduce climate change when he speaks at 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov.

9, in the Bernhard Center's Brown and Gold Room.

The presentation, titled "Criminal Justice, Social Justice and Climate Justice," is free and open to the public and will be followed by a reception. It is part of the Center for the Study of Ethics in Society's fall 2017 lecture season

## International Education Week slated

International Education Week will be held Sunday through Saturday, Nov. 12-18. Activities at WMU feature student groups, academic departments and units across campus highlighting the various countries and cultures represented at the University.

The public is invited to attend International Education Week events, most of which are free. For details, visit [wmich.edu/internationalactivities](http://wmich.edu/internationalactivities).

## Generational differences is talk topic

Human resource consultants from HRM Innovations will co-present on generational differences in the workplace at the next Mercantile Bank of Michigan breakfast talk.

Kevin Brozovich, founder and chief people officer, and Jacob Bradley, people advisor, will speak at 8 a.m. Friday, Nov. 17, in 2150 Schneider Hall. The free event begins with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Reservations are required and can be made by calling (269) 387-6059.

## Employees to be feted at aviation event

Three people with WMU employment ties will be honored during the College of Aviation's 2017 recognition dinner and induction ceremony for new members of its Hall of Honor. The event will be held at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 3, in the Bernhard Center.



Benton



Dennis

Being inducted into the Hall of Honor will be WMU's Pat Benton and the late Herbert Ellinger, as well as Duncan Aviation, represented by Chairman Emeritus Robert Duncan. In addition, WMU's Tony Dennis will receive an award.

Benton, aviation, retired earlier this year after investing more than 40 years of his career with the aviation college. He is a 1980 alumnus of the college and was instrumental in building the aviation maintenance program.

Ellinger, emeritus in transportation technology, came to WMU in 1942 as a flight instructor and served the University for more than 41 years.

Dennis, who now is director of recruitment and retention for the WMU Graduate College, will receive the college's Excellence in Diversity Award. He was recruited by the late WMU President Elson Floyd to increase the number of women and minorities going into aviation careers.

For more information, visit [bit.ly/2zaNs1Q](http://bit.ly/2zaNs1Q) or contact Tracey Kauppila at (269) 964-4544 or [tracey.kauppila@wmich.edu](mailto:tracey.kauppila@wmich.edu).

## MAC names three academic fellows

Kieran J. Fogarty, interdisciplinary health sciences; Maarten Vonhof, biological sciences; and Devrim Yaman, Haworth College of Business, have been named 2017-



Fogarty



Vonhof



Yaman

18 inaugural Academic Leadership Development Program Fellows. They are among 36 faculty and administrators from Mid-American Conference institutions who were selected.

The MAC Academic Leadership Development Program is a new professional development program to identify a select group of faculty and administrators in an effort to develop, prepare and enhance their ability to be effective academic leaders. It features opportunities to work together and is highlighted by two workshops. This year's workshops will be Nov. 6-8 at Kent State University and Feb. 19-21 at WMU.

"This will be an excellent tool to enhance the growth and development of future leaders in higher education and is another way in which the MAC can provide value to its membership beyond intercollegiate athletics," MAC Commissioner Jon Steinbrecher says.

## Men's soccer team moves up to No. 5 in the nation

At No. 5 in the country, the men's soccer team is now the highest ranked Mid-American Conference team in the United Soccer Coaches Poll.

The No. 5 ranking is the highest for the Broncos in school history. As of *Western News* press time, the Broncos also were ranked in several other formats. *CollegeSoccerNews* had WMU at No. 5, *Soccer America* at No. 7 and *TopDrawerSoccer* at No. 6.

WMU is 14-2-1 overall and 4-0-0 in the

MAC and has clinched the soccer program's first MAC regular season championship. The Broncos also received the No. 1 seed in the MAC Tournament and the right to host conference postseason play Friday and Sunday, Nov. 10 and 12.

WMU closes out its regular season schedule with Senior Day Saturday, Nov. 4, at 1 p.m. against Bowling Green at the WMU Soccer Complex.

## Retirement reception

Ed Kluk, information technology, will be honored for his 30 years of service to the University from 2 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 14, in Heritage Hall.

## Exchange

**For sale**—Two-story contemporary home on wooded lot. Four bedrooms; 2.5 baths; kitchen with custom maple cabinets, granite countertops and stainless steel appliances; family room with fireplace and wet bar; finished basement; and deck. Kalamazoo Promise eligible. Price: \$339,900. Contact: Jaqua (269) 217-4311 (MLS 17049971).

## 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.

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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](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

## University earns geospatial sciences status

WMU and its Department of Geography have earned a designation through the Centers of Academic Excellence in Geospatial Sciences—GS—Program. The program is jointly sponsored by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, or NGA, and the U.S. Geological Survey. Institutions must apply to participate in the program.

WMU earned its GS excellence designation along with an additional specialty area designation in Navigation and Location. Depending on what status they applied for, institutions could receive a GS designation and optional designations in any of 10 specialty areas.

Before granting Centers of Academic Excellence status, NGA and USGS assess each applicant's GS curricula, research and development, faculty and student successes, and related capabilities that align with the agencies' mission needs.



Students in WMU's introductory Geographic Information Science course compete for prizes in the 90-Minute GIS Challenge. (Photo courtesy of Department of Geography)

The designation was established by NGA and USGS to support efforts in building long-term partnerships with America's academic community. The goal is to build, strengthen and cultivate the current and future GS workforce in support of America's geospatial intelligence needs and challenges.

## Children's Place grant supports student-parents

The Children's Place Learning Center on campus has been awarded a four-year federal grant totaling \$718,936 in partnership with the College of Education and Human Development.

The grant, called Child Care Access Means Parents in School Program, or CCAMPIS, provides \$179,734 each year for the next four years. WMU is one of only four Michigan schools to receive the award, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Education.



CCAMPIS will help student-parents address the unique barriers they face while pursuing and completing their degree programs. Funds will be used to enhance programs including academic resources, parenting education, social support activities and staff professional development opportunities.

At Children's Place, Pell-eligible WMU student-parents will receive a 50 percent child-care tuition discount under the grant program. Up to half of the spaces in each of the three classrooms will be dedicated for CCAMPIS.

Providing intentional activities focused on growth and development, Children's Place offers pre-kindergarten, preschool, school age and toddler learning options for children ages 15 months to 12 years. The center is committed to providing affordable child care for children of WMU students, faculty and staff, and the local community.

## Emeriti Council reports leadership for 2017-18

The Emeriti Council, which is open to all retired WMU faculty members, has announced its new officers for 2017-18.

They are: Peter Krawutschke, chair and Faculty Senate representative; James Bosco, vice chair; Donna Oas, secretary; Don Nelson, treasurer and webmaster; Gary Lawson, Program Committee chair; Garrard Macleod and Darryl Salisbury, newsletter co-editors; and Phil Vander Weg, Nominating Committee chair.

The Emeriti Council leadership consists of 12 people elected by and from the emeriti for two-year terms on a staggered basis.

The council presents informative meetings for members and their spouses and significant others on the second Wednesday of the month, from September through May, and holds a breakfast meeting in August.

The next meeting is 2 p.m. Nov. 8 in Walwood Hall's Heinig Emeriti Lounge. James Bosco, emeritus in educational studies, will speak on "Schools vs. the World: Handicapping the Odds."

The council also sponsors three Medalion Scholars and annually provides 25 \$400 book scholarships.

More information about the organization is available at [wmich.edu/emeriti](http://wmich.edu/emeriti).

## Turkey Trot 5K run, walk scheduled for Nov. 18

The annual Turkey Trot 5K run and walk will be held at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 18, at the Student Recreation Center.

The event winds through campus and is open to the WMU community and public.

Check-in will take place from 7 to 8 a.m. on event day. During this period, racers and walkers may register on-site as well as pick up their participant packets.

A new feature this year is a finisher medal for participants. Also new is a before-race packet pickup from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 17, at the SRC's indoor tennis courts.

Participants will receive a long-sleeve race T-shirt, with the size guaranteed for those

## Marketing efforts capture series of CASE awards

Four WMU marketing initiatives won accolades in four categories of the 2017 Pride of Case V competition sponsored by the upper Midwest district of the Council for the Support and Advancement of Education.

The awards will be presented at CASE V's conference in Chicago in December. They showcase best practices in alumni relations, fundraising, advancement services, special events and outstanding communications.

In the best student recruitment video category, the Haworth College of Business and its marketing staff brought home the gold for its "Behind Every Moment" video.

The Office of University Relations captured two silver awards. It came in second in the commercial category with its "Strike Gold" 30-second video and in the excellence in design poster series category with its "We are Gold" posters. Plus, an MBA brochure produced by the Haworth marketing staff was awarded an honorable mention in the "single brochure" category.

"Our talented campus marketers have once again proven to be fierce competition to institutions with more resources," says Chris Hunt, university relations.

## Prize drawings underway

The campus United Way campaign to raise \$200,000 is underway, as well as weekly prize drawings for those who donate.

Employees who give any amount will be eligible for weekly prize drawings on Fridays through Nov. 17.

Names of eligible contributors whose pledge cards are returned to the president's office, mail stop 5202, by 5 p.m. the Thursday before the drawings will be included. Prize information is available at [wmich.edu/news/2017/10/43293](http://wmich.edu/news/2017/10/43293).

who register prior to race day.

The cost is \$22 for those who pre-register and \$30 for those who register Nov. 17 or 18.

Mail-in registrations must be postmarked by Monday, Nov. 13.

The registration deadline is noon

Monday, Nov. 13,

if registering in person

at the SRC's

intramural office. Online registration ends

Thursday, Nov. 16.

For more details, visit [wmich.edu/rec/intramurals/turkeytrot](http://wmich.edu/rec/intramurals/turkeytrot).



## New series features top names in investigative medicine

Seminars in Investigative Medicine, a new monthly research seminar series for 2017-18, is underway at the WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine and features speakers who represent a veritable who's who in the field of immunology.

The series started in October and will end in May. The next speaker, Michael Paul Cancro from the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine, will speak from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 8, in auditorium TBL-2 in the medical school building on the W.E. Upjohn M.D. Campus.

His presentation, "New Subsets, New Checkpoints: Expanding Roles for Tbet+ B Cells in Health and Disease," is free and open to the public. Lunch will be provided. Continuing medical education credit and MEDU credit for students is available for Cancro's visit to the medical school.

The new series serves as a gathering point for a community of investigators at the medical school and beyond.

For more information, including the complete schedule of seminars, visit [med.wmich.edu/node/396](http://med.wmich.edu/node/396).

## On Campus with Veronica Thomas



FURNISHING HER EXPERTISE  
(Photo by Deanne Puca)

As administrative assistant for Residence Life, Veronica Thomas is responsible for paying all bills and managing invoices, making departmental deposits, handling outside vendor contracts, replenishing office supplies and managing a small part of the budget for the office. Thomas also helps supervise the student Move Crew.

But her favorite role is overseeing the condition of furniture and equipment in residence halls and making necessary upgrades.

"I place orders and take bids for all the furniture in the residence hall rooms and campus apartments as well as all the graduate students' and hall directors' apartments in the residence halls," she explains. "It not only breaks up the paperwork part of my job, but I get out of the office and interact with people across the campus community."

The busiest time of the year for her is summer, when rooms are unoccupied and furniture in lounges and common spaces have to be assessed for damage and replacements. Thomas says the most common repairs are painting, carpeting and tiles. But furniture is reupholstered every three to four years because of wear or to update the pattern style.

"We want our students to have a nice place to study and modern-looking space to meet new friends," Thomas says.

She has worked for WMU for 23 years, the first five in accounts receivable before joining Residence Life. The Kalamazoo native is a graduate of the city's school system and attended Kalamazoo Valley Community College. She lives in her hometown with her husband, Charles, who is a pastor in Battle Creek, Michigan. The couple have four children and 11 grandchildren—eight in Kalamazoo, two in Tennessee and one in Georgia. They often vacation to visit their grandchildren who live out of state.

Thomas' hobbies include roller skating, singing and crafting, including sewing and making jewelry and wreaths. She also is a wedding and event coordinator. Viewing family time as important, she schedules time for her family to meet at her mother's house in Kalamazoo every Thursday for dinner, with each household rotating the responsibility to cook. She also visits her mother when she finds time to relax.

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### WMU at center of national STEM network

Beach says change is slower than it should be, in part because no organization coordinates new initiatives and findings.

"People interested in changing the undergraduate STEM experience are all over the place, geographically, and people in different disciplines have difficulty connecting with each other," Beach says.

Henderson, physics and Mallinson Institute for Science Education, says ASCN will be a bridge between explicit academic knowledge about change in the STEM disciplines and the on-the-ground knowledge of active teachers and change agents. The researchers will be carefully looking at the intersection

of theory and change strategies, and their focus will be on framing the network around big questions.

The new NSF award was preceded, in 2016, by a \$794,612 grant from the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, as well as smaller scale support from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, Howard Hughes Medical Institute and Association of American Universities—AAU.

The 2016 funding allowed ASCN to begin its work. In June, ASCN partnered with the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities to bring 40 higher education institutions together for a workshop on

diversity and inclusion in undergraduate STEM education. In August, the network launched a Change Agent Institute for Scaling and Sustaining Institutional Change, a yearlong team-based professional development experience to support systemic change.

The new NSF funding will support a five-year network development initiative that will officially begin in January 2018. In addition to WMU's Beach and Henderson, the work will be led by Linda Slakey of AAU and the Association of American Colleges and Universities and Maura Borrego of the University of Texas Austin. Henderson notes the ASCN will be centered at WMU.

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### Nursing wins \$2 million grant to boost diversity

"This project will be a model from which our other programs in the college can learn as they also strive to foster greater diversity in their professions."

Problems underrepresented students face make it much harder to make the transition to college and are mirrored in the state's nursing demographics, Stark says. As of this year, 83.2 percent of nurses are white, 6.3 percent are black and 1.6 are Latino. But the general population breakdown is 75.4 percent white, 14.2 percent black and 5 percent Latino.

With the help of the \$5,000 grant from the Office of Faculty Development, Stark and other nursing faculty members were able to assemble a group of faculty and students to identify common academic and personal

issues that can impede the success of underrepresented students, who are called "scholars" under the program. Their contact with a student navigator under the watchful eye of a faculty mentor has been beneficial, with the scholar, navigator and faculty mentor all getting together to come up with a plan for the scholar.

Of the 14 scholars initially included in the program, all have been successful academically. Armed with the \$2 million grant, the program is poised for much wider success. Almost half of the grant money goes directly to the scholars for scholarships or stipends. The rest goes to pay for mentoring and to hire student navigators.

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### Researchers snag NSF prize

Litvinova's award, and accompanying \$475,000 grant, support a project that implements novel ideas about nuclear dynamics and benchmarks the theory with the newest experimental data. It has implications for understanding the elemental composition of the universe and predicting the evolution of stars and galaxies.

Saeed's \$500,000 CAREER grant supports his work to develop computer algorithms capable of analyzing massive amounts of genomic and proteomic data—information on genes and proteins—more efficiently than any previous techniques. What the algorithmic tools uncover about genes and proteins could advance drug development and personalized medicine.