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Western News

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Two important events rescheduled

This week's severe weather resulted in two important events being rescheduled.

The community input session designed to give campus and area residents an opportunity to be part of the WMU Alumni Center design process is now set for 4 to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 14, in the Little Theatre. Parking will be available in a lot adjacent to the Little Theatre and in Parking Lot No. 1 by Walwood Hall.

The session is the second in a series of three such events and will feature design professionals from TowerPinkster, a Kalamazoo architectural and engineering firm selected last year to guide the renovation, and the Hopkins Burns Design Studio in Ann Arbor, a firm that specializes in historic preservation.

Also rescheduled is the Academy of Lifelong Learning's January Thaw/Semester Warm-up, now set for 9:30 to 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 13, in the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park St. in Kalamazoo.

That event will allow interested members of the public to learn more about the academy and its offerings, enjoy coffee and refreshments, and discover what's happening at the KIA. A registration fee of \$5 per person is required. Visit wmich.edu/offcampus/lifelong to register or obtain details.

Faculty scholar nominations due soon

Nominations are due Friday, Jan. 31, for the Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award, which is the highest honor WMU bestows on its faculty members. For details and a nomination form, visit wmich.edu/research and click the Awards link.

Chinese research grants available

A research and creative activities grant valued at up to \$3,000 is available to support the study of Greater China by WMU faculty members. The deadline to submit proposals is Friday, Feb. 7. Application information is available on the Light Center website at <http://international.wmich.edu/content/blogcategory/271/1571> or by writing to the center at hige-lightcenter@wmich.edu.

Financial planning reps to visit campus

TIAA-CREF representatives will be on campus Tuesday through Thursday, Feb. 11-13. To schedule a private consultation for investment or retirement planning, visit tiaa-cref.org and click Consultations and Seminars under Services. If unable to register online, call the scheduling group at (800) 732-8353.

Western News delayed by one day

This issue of the *Western News* was printed and distributed a day later than scheduled due to WMU's weather closure Jan. 6 and 7. Barring another unexpected event, the newspaper will be back on schedule with the Jan. 23 issue.

Annual MLK celebration starts next week

Activities at WMU and across the broader Kalamazoo community are planned for January and February to honor slain civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr.

"Past, Present and Future: Living the Dream" is the theme of this year's MLK celebration. Many scheduled events are free and open to the public.

They begin with a birthday celebration at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15, at Kalamazoo Valley Community College's Texas Township Campus and conclude with a career-related panel discussion at noon Wednesday, Feb. 26, at WMU.

Major events taking place this month are:

- Friday, Jan. 17, a "Redeem the Dream: All Hands on Deck" community reflection, 11 a.m., Stetson Chapel, Kalamazoo College.
- Saturday, Jan. 18, a public school students' visitation, 9 a.m. registration, East Ballroom, Bernhard Center. Open to middle and high school students and parents and guardians



A scene from last year's MLK celebration (Photo by Mike Lanka)

from the Kalamazoo Public Schools and surrounding school districts.

- Sunday, Jan. 19, the 28th annual Northside Ministerial Alliance Martin Luther King Jr. celebration, 5 p.m., Galilee Baptist Church, 1216 N. Westnedge Ave. Keynote speaker

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Alumni center to incorporate core of East Hall only

WMU officials, honoring a previously announced Dec. 31 deadline for setting design parameters for the new WMU alumni center, have made a final decision to focus renovation only on the original core of East Hall.

A decision about the final building configuration was made so that design work could be finished in anticipation of a spring 2014 start to construction.

The configuration chosen will turn the University's birthplace into a center that reflects national best practices, preserves the building's designation as part of the National Register for Historic Places and incorporates a high level of sustainable building features.

Construction is expected to be complete

by summer 2015. The budget, set at \$21.4 million, includes \$15 million borrowed by the University as well as \$1 million donated by the WMU Alumni Association. The remaining \$5 million-plus will come from additional private gifts. Funds raised in excess of the project budget will go into landscaping for the site.

East Hall was completed in 1905. The north and south wings of the building, built in 1908 and 1909, respectively, will be demolished before construction on the alumni center begins, with the likely timetable for demolition to be late February or early March. During the design process, WMU

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Building setbacks net about \$200,000 in energy-cost savings

Temperature setbacks in campus buildings from Dec. 14 to Jan. 5 avoided \$194,257 of energy expenditures.

The University began lowering building temperatures Dec. 14 at the end of winter semester, particularly in residence halls.

Then with a single mouse click Dec. 24, business and finance Vice President Jan Van Der Kley used WMU's sophisticated building energy management system to dial back more than 3,000 campus thermostats to 55 degrees for the annual eight-day holiday closure. This closure was expected to avoid about \$140,000 in energy costs.

"We need to be good stewards of the University's resources and a model for campus

sustainability," said Van Der Kley as she dialed back temperatures campuswide from

the University's Campus Facilities command center.

That setback affected 75 campus buildings and some 5,000 pieces of mechanical equipment. The temperature reduction was carefully planned to avoid impacting animal and research spaces on campus.

"The colder the outside temperature, the greater the savings when you lower the inside building tempera-

ture," notes Peter J. Strazdas, associate vice president for facilities management.

"You really can lower your home energy bill by lowering your thermostats at night and when you go on vacation in the winter."



Jan Van Der Kley (Photo courtesy of Facilities Management)

Around campus and beyond

Editor's note: Visit wmich.edu/news/events for details and more event news.

Spring Chinese culture classes slated

The Confucius Institute at WMU is accepting registrations for spring Chinese culture classes that begin the week of Jan. 20. The low-cost classes are open to the public, taught in English and meet once a week for personal enrichment rather than academic credit.

A half-price tuition discount is offered to participants age 55 and older and WMU students. All WMU full- and part-time employees may participate in classes tuition-free. Some classes charge all participants a fee for materials, and those with low enrollment may be canceled.

Spring 2014 offerings are Basic Chinese Painting, Basic Chinese Language, Chinese Minority Dance, Tai Chi, Intermediate Chinese Painting, Chinese Characters, Chinese Crafts, Chinese Calligraphy and Intermediate Chinese Language. More information is available at wmuconfucius.org, wmu-confucius-cc@wmich.edu or (269) 387-3784.

Lee talks to focus on uncertainty

The Lee Honors College's spring Lyceum Lecture Series, called "Living With Uncertainty," will begin Jan. 15 and continue through April 9. Topics to be discussed will encompass areas such as economics, politics, education and the arts as well as explore factors such as

decision making, and information availability and accuracy.

The 12 multidisciplinary talks are free and open to the public and will be held from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesdays in the Lee Honors College Building.

Attendees are welcome to bring a brown bag lunch. No talk will be offered March 5 due to the spring recess. Visit wmich.edu/honors/lectures for more information.

Sichel lecture series resumes Jan. 22

The 2013-14 Sichel Lecture Series continues Wednesday, Jan. 22, with a talk titled "Economic Development from a Historical Perspective: The Origin and Nature of Good Institutions" at 3 p.m. in 2028 Brown Hall.

The program will be presented by Avner Greif, professor of economics at Stanford University and winner of a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship.

The series, now celebrating its 50th anniversary, is bringing six high-profile economists to campus this spring. The theme for 2013-14 is "Award-winning Economists Speak on Contemporary Economic Issues."

First spring faculty-staff mixer set

The first Fridays With Friends faculty-staff mixer of the spring semester will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 24, in the Gilmore Theatre Atrium. This free event features light hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar.

Registration starting for lifelong learning academy classes, trips

Cuba today, dark humor, Spanish conversation, outdoor sculpture, the Republican Party and U.S. women in the 19th century are just a few of the topics that will be explored during the spring session of WMU's Academy of Lifelong Learning.

Twenty-nine courses are being offered this semester, the largest number since the academy was formed in 2011. Three special classes have been scheduled in collaboration

with the Gilmore International Keyboard Festival and a five-week seminar on poverty reduction in Kalamazoo is being offered in cooperation with WMU's new University-Community Empowerment Center.

The academy also has planned several one-day excursions as well as a six-day trip to Minneapolis and a two-day golfing trip.

Registration for most classes and trips began Jan. 6 for members of the Academy of Lifelong Learning. Registration for non-members opens Thursday, Jan. 23.

The Academy, developed under the auspices of Extended University Programs, provides low-cost, short-term, non-credit learning experiences for adults in an informal and stimulating environment without exams or grades. Academy faculty members are volunteers. Some are retired teachers while others are experts from the local community.

The spring courses brochure is available at wmich.edu/offcampus/lifelong or by calling Extended University Programs at (269) 387-4200. Visit wmich.edu/extended/reducepoverty for more information about the poverty reduction seminar.

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.

Professors earn statewide awards

Debra Lindstrom and Jaclyn West-Frasier, occupational therapy, were awarded Distinguished Service Awards during the Michigan



Lindstrom



West-Frasier

Occupational Therapy Association meeting in October.

The awards honor MiOTA members for their continuing and outstanding contributions to the development, growth and process of MiOTA.

Lindstrom also was named to the association's Roster of Fellows, a highly prestigious award that recognizes MiOTA members who have contributed significantly to the education and professional development of members by using special skills or knowledge in therapeutic practice, education, research or administration.

Shakespeare expert writes new book

Grace Tiffany, English, has written a new novel that explores the life of a female writer in the age of Shakespeare. Titled PAINT, the



Tiffany

book is based on the life of Emilia Lanier, an early 17-century poet.

It has been described as both poignant and hilarious and was published in October by the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies.

More information is available at <http://acmrs.org/publications/catalog/paint>.

A WMU faculty member since 2003, Tiffany teaches Shakespeare and Renaissance literature and earned WMU's Distinguished Teaching Award in 2010.

She has written five historical novels set in the Middle Ages or the English Renaissance. Her fiction has been honored by the American Library Association and by Book Sense 76, the "best books" list of the association of American independent bookstores.

Project team receives national honor

Amy Wagenfeld, occupational therapy, was one of three faculty advisors on a project involving University of Washington students that received a Student Honor Award



Wagenfeld

in the community service category during the annual American Society of Landscape Architects conference in November.

The project addressed the unique needs of elderly Japanese American residents by integrating therapeutic and universal design features into the Nikkei Manor Assisted Living Center Ichi-go Ichi-e ('a moment in time') Garden in Seattle.

Wagenfeld, an adjunct faculty member at WMU, has a landscape design consultation practice and is certified in health care garden design.

She is on the review board of two occupational therapy journals and was the lead author of the recently published article, "Collaborative Design: Outdoor Environments for Veterans with PTSD."

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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Key administrative appointments made

Recent appointments have filled two key administrative posts.

Jane Baas is the new associate dean of the Lee Honors College while Nancy B. Mansberger is the new director of academic collective bargaining. The appointments were effective Jan. 1, pending Board of Trustees approval.



Baas



Mansberger

Baas has been a member of the dance faculty since 1981 and since 2012, had been serving her fifth term as department chair.

She also served as coordinator of academic advising for the College of Fine Arts from 1986 to 1990 and even while a full-time faculty member, had partial administrative duties in the dance department as director of recruitment and retention.

Baas received the College of Fine Arts Outstanding Service Award in 2003 and the college's Dean's Teaching Award in 2006. She has received grants to produce her own concerts and recently has conducted research projects focusing on dancer wellness.

Mansberger, associate professor in the College of Education and Human Development, has a research background in the areas of school reform and leadership. She has held leadership posts with the WMU chapter of the American Association of University Professors, including vice president for 2011-12.

A faculty member since 2002, Mansberger was an active research professional at the University for much of the dozen years before she joined the faculty

ranks. She also was a music teacher in the public schools during that period.

Mansberger has played major research roles with the federal GEAR UP program based at WMU and WMU's Center for Research on At-Risk Students, Evaluation Center, Merze Tate Research Center, and Science and Mathematics Program Improvement effort.

Dunn praised for leadership

Acting at their Dec. 5 meeting, WMU trustees unanimously approved a positive annual evaluation for President John M. Dunn.

They cited Dunn for improving the University's financial strength, increasing student diversity, improving relations and giving among alumni, and developing and implementing the University's first strategic plan in many years.

They also praised the president for improving WMU's standing with partners in Lansing, at the Higher Learning Commission and with many other strategic organizations, in addition to his leadership in creating the WMU School of Medicine and a formal affiliation between WMU and the Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

LONG COMMITMENT TO WMU—

Fifty-two people who began their service to WMU in 1988 were inducted into the 25 Year Club Dec. 3. The club is a way to recognize the valuable contributions made by employees who commit their careers to the University. The 2013 inductees included, from left, Amy J. Seth, University Recreation; Delores R. Gauthier, music; Lori A. Bell, construction; and Denise S. Williams, building custodial and support services. (Photo by Mike Lanka)



WMU Board of Trustees approves retirements of 12 faculty, seven members

University trustees approved 19 employee retirements and five faculty resignations during their Dec. 5 meeting.

All of the faculty members retiring are doing so with emeritus status. Their names, positions, years of continuous service and effective dates of retirement are: Nora Berrah, physics, 23 years, effective Aug. 31; Dwayne E. Channell, mathematics, 35 years, effective April 30; John Gregory Fitzgerald, University Libraries, 33 years, effective June 30; Marion W. "Buddy" Gray, history, 18 years, effective April 30, 2019; Barbara L. Harris, teaching, learning and educational studies, 43 years, effective April 30, 2018; James W. Kamman, mechanical and aerospace engineering, 22 years, effective Dec. 31;

Thomas L. Kent, English, 15 years, effective May 1, 2019; Richard G. Long, blindness and low vision studies, 21 years, effective June 1, 2019; Donna M. Ring, University Libraries, 35 years, effective Aug. 31; Leo J. Stevenson, finance and commercial law, 38 years, effective Aug. 31; Susan Weinger, social work, 26 years, effective April 30, 2019; and Allen Zagarell, anthropology, 29 years, effective April 30, 2017.

The staff members retiring are: Linda K. Cleland, Sincuse Health Center, 16 years, effective Oct. 29, 2013; Leon J. Coleman, building custodial and support services, 35 years, effective Oct. 31, 2013; Judy K. Dinda, building custodial and support services, 33 years, effective Dec. 31, 2013; Cheri L. Edgar,

business information systems, 12 years, effective Jan. 5; Patricia A. Evans, University Recreation, 22 years, effective Dec. 31, 2013; Margaret T. Magallon, building custodial and support services, 15 years, effective Jan. 1; and Rosalie J. Nelsen, development and alumni relations, 26 years, effective Dec. 31, 2013.

The faculty members resigning are: Ann Gribbin, family and consumer sciences, effective Dec. 22, 2013; Andreas Rudolph Regelsberger, world languages and literatures, effective Dec. 22, 2013; Steven Tkachuk, aviation, effective Sept. 23, 2013; Alan H. Wuosmaa, physics, effective Aug. 22; and Ruth Zielinski, nursing, effective Dec. 22, 2013.

Service

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

40 Years—Betty A. Kocher, president's office.

35 Years—Donna M. Ring, University Libraries, and Ruby Wilson, building custodial and support services.

30 Years—Lynn C. Kelly-Albertson, Career and Student Employment Services.

25 Years—Joyce A. Alexander, payroll and disbursements; Stephen C. Brumbaugh, building custodial and support services; Michelle E. Hruska, provost's office; Cherie S. Neumann, building custodial and support services; Allan C. Poole, information technology; and John J. Rook, maintenance services.

20 Years—Shahla Bryant, Burnham Dining Service; Shari Glaser, Parent and Family Programs; Shannon K. Landis, Fetzer Center; Tammy M. Miller, building custodial and support services; and Elizabeth

Whitten, special education and literacy studies.

15 Years—Mervyn J. Elliott, College of Aviation; Thomas C. Grossman, College of Aviation; Gary N. Hubbard, University Libraries; Kim L. LaViolette, Valley Dining Service; Jack N. Perlstein, WMUK Radio; Lori A. Prichard, accounting; Ronald S. Robyn, construction; Michael D. Rutz, construction; and Ryan C. Seiler, College of Aviation.

10 Years—Jonathan H. Epstein, Sincuse Health Center.

Five Years—Alexander Aivars, College of Education and Human Development; Debra A. Gambino, Lee Honors College; Cara E. LaLumia-Barnes, university relations; Kathleen Langan, University Libraries; Scott A. Puckett, Enrollment Management; Kristin S. Putney, Center for Fostering Success; Robert J. Ruhf, Mallinson Institute for Science Education; and Adam Scheidt, WMU-Battle Creek and Lansing.

Obituaries

Editor's Note: Visit wmich.edu/news/obituaries for complete obituaries.



Duncan

Lonnie E. Duncan, counselor education and counseling psychology, died suddenly Dec. 31. He was 46.

Anthony Ellis, English, died Jan. 7. He was 46. A celebration of life is being planned for Ellis, who battled leukemia for the past two years.

James A. Howell, emeritus in chemistry, died Nov. 16. He was 81.

John E. Martell Jr., retired from the Lee Honors College, will be honored from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday,

Jan. 17, in the lounge of the Lee Honors College Building. Memorial remarks will begin at 6:30 p.m. He died Nov. 12 at age 71.



Ellis

On Campus with Tom Comer



AIDING COMPLIANCE, EFFICIENCY
(Photo by Deanne Puca)

Examining and evaluating the adequacy and effectiveness of the University's governance, risk management, and internal processes is the job of Tom Comer, director of internal audit.

It's a job that keeps him busy year round as he and information technology auditor Joan Beffel assure that University units are compliant with external regulation and internal policy, and offices are working at their greatest efficiency.

"I work with strict numbers much less than most would think," he says. "Much of our time is spent on compliance activities and technology controls."

Comer is a certified public accountant and joined WMU two years ago after working 12 years as an auditor at Plante & Moran, where the University was one of his clients. That experience helped him with his transition to WMU, as he was already knowledgeable about the policies and operations of the institution. His office reports to the audit committee of the University's Board of Trustees and to President John M. Dunn.

Despite the anxiety that sometimes is associated with "being audited," Comer says his position is as an advocate for the University and its employees.

"We're not out trying to get anyone in trouble," he says. "We like to try to help the University, and be of assistance to anyone on campus."

A native of Alma, Mich., Comer graduated from Alma College, which his wife, Heather, also attended. The couple lives in Mattawan, Mich., and has two children, a son, Grant, and a daughter, Jillian.

Comer is pursuing a Master of Business Administration at WMU. He enjoys football, skiing and golfing and is an avid hunter and angler. Active in the community, he is a board member of Junior Achievement of Southwest Michigan; the local chapter of Ducks Unlimited, a wetlands conservation organization; and the BC Cal-Kal Inland Port Development Corp.

Thirty-seven faculty members granted sabbatical leaves by board

During its Dec. 5 meeting, the WMU Board of Trustees granted sabbatical leaves to 37 faculty members.

Fourteen faculty members were granted leaves by the semester and 23 were granted leaves for the full 2014-15 academic year.

Fall 2014 semester

Bruce E. Bejcek, biological sciences; Elena Gapova, sociology; Barry Goetz, sociology; Michael Millar, Spanish; Michael G. Miller, human performance and health education; Lori Sims, music; Judith Swisher, finance and commercial law; and Stephen M. Tasko,

speech pathology and audiology.

Fall 2014 and fall 2015 semesters

Susan Steuer, University Libraries.

Spring 2015 semester

Lucius F. Hallett IV, geography; Margaret Joyce, chemical and paper engineering (effective date change); Pairin Katerattanakul, business information systems; Cynthia Jo Klekar, English; and Caroline B. Webber, family and consumer sciences.

Full 2014-15 academic year

David A. Barnes, geosciences; Linda J. Borish, history; Kristal E. Ehrhardt, special

education and literacy studies; Autumn Edwards, communication; Harold Glasser, environmental studies; Theresa J. Grant, mathematics; Edward L. Harkness, art; James A. Hopfensperger, art; Jeffrey N. Jones, teaching, learning and educational studies; Katherine Joslin, English; Mitch Kachun, history; Tianshu Liu, mechanical and aerospace engineering; Timothy McGrew, philosophy; Gary J. Miron, educational leadership, research and technology; Holly J. Nibert, Spanish; Ginger Y. Owen, art; Susan V. Piazza, special education and literacy studies; Susan Pozo, economics; Rika Saito, world languages and literatures; Eve Salisbury, English; Laura T. Spielvogel, anthropology; Ann Veeck, marketing; and Yuan-kang Wang, sociology.

Regulatory changes result in fewer student work hours

Beginning Jan. 1, the maximum allowable work hours for student employees was reduced to better align with regulations related to IRS taxation, the Fair Labor Standards Act and the Affordable Care Act.

Students may now work up to 25 hours a week for all student positions during fall and spring semesters, breaks and periods of non-enrollment. They may work longer during the summer I or II sessions, but should stay below 40 hours each week.

A list of the changes, by student employee type, is posted at wmich.edu/career/campus. Direct questions to Career and Student Employment Services at (269) 387-2745.

Departments are responsible to monitor their own student employee hours. Ideally, a WMU student employee will work an average of 25 hours per week over a year's time.

Additional PeopleSoft reporting options are being investigated to help supervisors track student hours worked.

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Annual MLK celebration starts next week

is Michael Nabors, pastor of New Calvary Baptist Church, and professor of homiletics and director of the Master of Divinity program at the Ecumenical Theological Society.

- Monday, Jan. 20: the Kalamazoo Communitywide Day of Service starting at 8 a.m. at Kalamazoo city hall (sign up at volunteerkalamazoo.org); a convocation at 10:50 a.m. at Kalamazoo College with keynote speaker Jevon Caldwell-Gross, pastor and Kalamazoo College trustee; and the march to MLK Park starting at 3:30 p.m. from WMU. Visit wmich.edu/mlk for more complete information about scheduled events.

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Alumni center to incorporate core

officials noted that it would take nearly \$20 million in additional funding to preserve the exteriors of the wings and conserve the interiors for future use.

"Over the past year, we've identified significant levels of private support for the alumni center that will occupy the core of East Hall," says Jim Thomas, vice president for development and alumni relations, whose units will ultimately be housed in the new center.

"People are genuinely excited about the potential for this project. We're working to build a center that preserves and transforms the University's birthplace into a facility that serves both the campus and community and showcases that long and strong relationship."