



# Western News

MAY 10, 2018  
Volume 44, Number 15

For and about WMU faculty and staff

## APA meeting to include benefit updates

WMU employees are invited to attend the Administrative Professional Association general membership meeting from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday, May 15, in 157-158 Bernhard Center. The meeting will include benefits updates for the Campus Employee Dispute Resolution Service, health care services and coverages provided through the Sindecuse Health Center, and the income tax impact on WMU's tuition benefit.

To learn more about APA, including how to become a member, visit [wmich.edu/apa](http://wmich.edu/apa). The website currently features a preliminary report on the 2017 Staff Engagement Survey Administered by APA and the Professional Support Staff Organization this past fall.

## Everyone Counts signup is underway

Applications are being accepted through Friday, June 8, for the 2018-19 Everyone Counts Diversity Learning Communities, which are open to faculty, staff and graduate assistants interested in growing personally and professionally while creating change on campus. This program began in 2010 and has engaged more than 150 participants. Learn more at [wmich.edu/diversity](http://wmich.edu/diversity).

## Faculty development programs slated

Faculty development is now accepting applications for the 2018-19 Academic Leadership Academy. Additionally, its Summer Seminar series is set and ready for full-time, part-time and graduate teaching assistants to register. For more information, visit [wmich.edu/facultydevelopment](http://wmich.edu/facultydevelopment).

## Blue Cross reps available to answer questions about health insurance

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan representatives are available most Thursdays to answer questions on medical, prescription drug, vision and dental benefits. Personal consultations are offered in the Seibert Administration Building and by phone. To schedule a consultation, call Human Resources at (269) 387-3620.

## Sign up now for an SRC membership

Benefits-eligible faculty and staff as well as retirees can activate their Student Recreation Center membership now and pay no more than the taxes on \$270. If done now, the membership will run through May 5, 2019.

Enjoy family hours anytime during the summer. Plus, kids 15 and under are free and have access to the pool during open hours, gyms, indoor tennis courts, racquetball courts, table tennis and multipurpose gyms.

To sign up, go to [wmich.edu/rec](http://wmich.edu/rec) and click the facility access icon in the blue bar at the bottom of the page. Select the Benefits-eligible Faculty and Staff or Emeriti and Retiree button for the membership form. To arrange for an in-office presentation or schedule a tour to check out the SRC, call Cindy VanderWoude at (269) 387-3115.

## Wisconsin educator to lead HHS college

Ron A. Cisler, interim dean of the College of Health Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, has been named the new dean of the College of Health and Human Services, effective Aug. 1.



Cisler

Cisler is a professor of health informatics and administration at UWM and an affiliate professor of population health sciences at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health.

He will replace Earlie Washington, who has served as dean since 2006. She plans to return to the social work faculty after a yearlong administrative leave that will begin Aug. 1.

WMU Interim Provost Susan Stapleton calls Cisler "a wonderful match" for the dean position. "He brings with him extensive experience in the areas that reflect this university's strongest commitments—teaching

and mentoring, research, service, and community engagement," Stapleton says.

Cisler earned a bachelor's degree from UW-La Crosse and master's and doctoral degrees from UWM. He did postdoctoral work in addiction and behavioral health at UWM, where he has served in teaching and research positions since 1984.

His primary research interests are in population health disparities, behavioral health risk factors, and alcoholism and alcohol-related illnesses. Cisler is widely published in his discipline and internationally known for his expertise in assessing recovery outcomes for alcohol treatment clinical trials.

He has been a reviewer for numerous federal grant programs, and his own research has attracted strong federal and foundation support. In recent years, he has been in demand as a researcher and a widely quoted expert on the topic of improving urban infant mortality rates and reducing health care disparities.

## WMU preparing for switch to consolidated dispatch

A 30-year effort to centralize public safety dispatch activities across Kalamazoo County will finally be implemented before the end of this year, and WMU officials are busy preparing for a smooth transition.

In fact, campus officials say the transition will be so smooth, most people in the WMU community will never even notice it. "This is consolidated dispatch, not a consolidated police force," notes Chief Scott Merlo, public safety. "It means 911 calls from around the county will be answered in one central location, and it will improve response time and prevent emergency calls or texts made on cellphones from being forwarded from one department to another."

But campus calls for assistance will still lead to responses by WMU's public safety officers, Merlo says. And nonemergency calls for an officer or other assistance will still see the same level of service campus community members have come to expect.

The consolidated dispatch effort will bring all five county police departments' dispatch operations together in one center to ensure efficiency, quick response times and a high level of cooperation among the county's police departments during emergency situations.

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## Two geological research efforts garner rare national recognition

The Geological Society of America has recognized two strands of WMU's geological research with the rare publication of two special papers—each focused on an area of faculty expertise.

The publications are among just over 500 such writings in the GSA's 130-year history—a publications average of less than four per year. Both WMU-related volumes were published in April, making the recognition even more unusual. The two publications each contain multiple papers or "chapters" focused on a single topic. They are:



- "Quaternary Glaciation of the Great Lakes Region," co-edited by WMU's Alan Kehew, geological and environmental sciences, and B. Brandon Curry from the University of Illinois. The work focuses on new developments in glacial geology, with three of the 12 papers written by WMU authors. It was published April 3.

- "Paleozoic Stratigraphy and Resources of the Michigan Basin" (pictured at left), co-edited by G. Michael Grammer, William B. Harrison III and David A. Barnes. Harrison and Barnes are WMU emeritus professors, and Grammer is a former WMU faculty member now at Oklahoma State University. This volume explores the signifi-

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# Around campus and beyond

## Registration open for culture classes

Registrations are due by Friday, May 11, for summer Chinese culture courses offered by the Confucius Institute at WMU. The six-week, low-cost courses begin the week of Monday, May 14; are taught in English; and open to all ages. A half-price tuition discount is offered to those age 55 and older, WMU part-time faculty and staff, and WMU students; tuition is free for full-time WMU employees. Details are available at [wmuconfucius.org](http://wmuconfucius.org).

## Virtual reality training offered

Introduction to Virtual Reality, a free three-day workshop series for faculty, runs 1:30 to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, May 16-18, in 0135 Waldo Library. All days must be attended, and registration is required at [wmich.edu/facultydevelopment](http://wmich.edu/facultydevelopment).

## Montgomery to be series speaker

WMU President Edward Montgomery will be the final speaker for this season's Mercantile Bank of Michigan Breakfast Speaker Series talk. Montgomery will speak on "WMU: Higher Education at the Crossroads" at 8 a.m. Friday, May 18, in

1035 Fetzner Center. The free event begins with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Reservations are required and can be made at [wmich.edu/business/mercantile-rsvp](http://wmich.edu/business/mercantile-rsvp) or (269) 387-6059.

## Walk slated for Foster Care Month

May is National Foster Care Month, and WMU's Seita Scholars Program has planned an awareness walk from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, May 19, at Kanley Track. Registration is \$15 and \$10 for students. Register at [fcaw2018.eventbrite.com](http://fcaw2018.eventbrite.com).

## Western Wellness events scheduled

WMU employees must register by Monday, May 21, at [wmich.edu/rec/pokerwalkregform](http://wmich.edu/rec/pokerwalkregform) to take part in the Poker Walk from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 22. Participants walk around a 2-mile campus course and collect playing cards for a chance to win prizes.

Employees also may gather a team for the Get Moving Challenge May 28 through June 24. They may sign up at the Poker Walk, or online by Friday, May 25. A form for tracking activity to accumulate points is available online. For details, visit [wmich.edu/wellness/programs](http://wmich.edu/wellness/programs).

## Far-reaching OT text gets big update

Sandra Edwards, emerita in occupational therapy, has substantially revised a popular 2002 text for occupational therapists and OT



Edwards

students that she wrote with WMU OT alumni Donna Gallen and Jenna McCoy-Powlen. Current faculty member Michelle Suarez joined the authors in working on the book's second edition.



Suarez

The updated "Hand Grasps and Manipulation Skills: Clinical Perspective of Development and Function" was published in March by Slack Books with a reworked title.

The first edition has been used worldwide and by disciplines as far-reaching as mechanical engineering, biotechnology and robotics. The new one has more content areas and new photographs, illustrations and charts for students and clinicians to use in education and practice.

## Economists edit book about China

Wei-Chiao Huang and Huizhong Zhou, economists, have edited and provided the introduction for a new book titled "The



Huang

Impacts of China's Rise on the Pacific and the World."

The volume, released in March by the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, is a collection of papers originally presented during WMU's 52nd annual Werner Sichel Lecture Series held in 2015-16.



Zhou

It features perspectives of a group of noted experts on how China's economic expansion and internal reforms are impacting its neighbors in the Pacific region as well as the United States and the rest of the world. China is projected to surpass U.S. gross domestic product in 2028.

## Maier receives 'marquee' honor

Paul L. Maier, emeritus in history, was recently named an Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Inductee by the Mar-



Maier

quis Who's Who family of biographical publications that began in 1899 with Who's Who in America.

Maier received the honor in recognition of outstanding contributions to his profession and the Marquis Who's Who community. He is now featured on the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement website at [ltachievers.com](http://ltachievers.com).

Maier retired in 2011 after teaching on the WMU campus for 51 years and serving as a campus chaplain for 39. He is a prolific scholarly writer and in demand as a national speaker and commentator. In addition, he originated two new literary genres: the theological thriller and the documentary historical novel, in which all characters and major episodes are authentic.

## Help select WMU's top four staffers for 2017-18

Fifteen staff members are in the running for the Make a Difference Annual Award.

Members of the campus community have through Thursday, May 31, to submit documentation in support of the nominees.

This prestigious award is reserved for only four of the winners of the 2017-18 Semian-

nual Make a Difference Award—the best of the best. The four will receive a cash prize of \$1,200 (before taxes) and be honored at WMU's 2018 Fall Convocation.

For details and a list of the annual award candidates, visit [wmich.edu/makeadifference/candidates](http://wmich.edu/makeadifference/candidates).

## Service anniversaries

The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 45, 40, 30, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service during May.

**45 years**—Carol A. Olmstead, information technology.

**40 years**—Betty J. McKain, grants and

contracts.

**30 years**—Lorrie A. Racine, admissions.

**20 years**—Robert T. Kakuk, Human Resources, and Tina Lynn Thompson, education and human development.

**15 years**—Edmund Clayton Bates, intercollegiate athletics.

**10 years**—Myra L. Currie, public safety; Tonja R. Iocca, philosophy; Deanne C. Puca, university relations; Eric S. Schipper, maintenance services; Sara Volmering, University Libraries; and Lisa M. Wales, theatre.

**Five years**—Bethany W. Gauthier, Miller Auditorium, and Anastacia L. Whaling, building custodial and support services.

## Correction

The last name of Jeff Stone, intercollegiate athletics, was listed incorrectly in the April 18 *Western News* story announcing the spring Make a Difference winners. (See Page 2 above for more Make a Difference news.)

## 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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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

# WMU and KCC announce signing of major transfer agreement

WMU and Kellogg Community College have signed a major agreement that will create a smoother process for KCC graduates who transfer to the University.

The institutional articulation agreement signed by representatives of KCC and WMU facilitates the transfer of students who complete an associate degree at the community college into a degree program at the University. The agreement, which outlines how credits earned at one school will transfer to another, helps students save time and money by minimizing the loss of credits and duplication of coursework.

“This partnership between two robust institutions is a victory for the many students who begin their college careers at KCC and intend to finish at WMU. Currently, most KCC students who intend to transfer go on to WMU,” KCC President Mark O’Connell said. “Never before have the pathways from KCC to WMU been better designed, and never before has it been easier for a Bruin to become a Bronco.”

“This is all about the student experience

and ensuring that every class taken advances the student along a pathway to success,” said Susan Stapleton, WMU’s interim provost. “We’ve had a close working relationship with KCC for many years, and our partnership has led to successful degree completion for hundreds of students. With this carefully structured agreement, we’re making sure that pathway is absolutely seamless and every step they take puts them closer to their goal.”

The agreement between KCC and WMU is a solution locally for what is a national challenge. According to a U.S. Government Accountability Office report in 2017, students who transferred from one college to another between 2004 and 2009 lost, on average, an estimated 43 percent of their credits. In many cases, the underlying problem is the absence of a comprehensive articulation agreement between the schools.



Signing the new agreement were (front row) from left, KCC President Mark O’Connell and WMU Interim Provost Susan R. Stapleton. (Photo Courtesy of KCC)

The KCC-WMU institutional articulation agreement is designed for students who follow a prescribed plan of study leading to an associate degree at KCC. The credits from each KCC program will be included in the total credit hours required for the WMU baccalaureate degree, thus saving students the confusion of determining which courses transfer and which do not.

For more information, including a list of programs covered by the agreement, visit [wmich.edu/news/2018/05/46804](http://wmich.edu/news/2018/05/46804).

## Stay involved with South Neighborhood planning

Work to redevelop part of the South Neighborhood subcampus kicked off recently with community input sessions and the launch of a student survey.

The survey seeks views on what amenities should be included within and surrounding new housing and a student center in the South Neighborhood.

It and the input sessions are the first steps in an initiative announced last fall to transform the area of campus adjacent to Stadium Drive into a new campus gateway. Additional input mechanisms will be scheduled for the projects as they evolve.



New housing and a student center will be sited between Waldo Library and South Hayes Drive, replacing all of McCracken Hall, center of picture.

David Dakin, planning, space management and capital projects, says websites for the various projects are under development and will include online feedback mechanisms for the campus community. Information being gleaned will be used to help develop new housing and a student center as well as a subcampus master plan.

To take the student survey or learn more about improvements planned for the South Neighborhood, visit [wmich.edu/news/2018/04/46677](http://wmich.edu/news/2018/04/46677). To follow progress on work in the neighborhood, visit the webpages for capital projects, [wmich.edu/capitalprojects](http://wmich.edu/capitalprojects); student center, housing and dining planning, [wmich.edu/students/planning](http://wmich.edu/students/planning); and WMU Build Facebook, [facebook.com/wmubuild](http://facebook.com/wmubuild).

## Donations for paver spots at Heritage Hall due May 24

The deadline for donations to install the remaining engraved brick pavers at Heritage Hall this summer is Thursday, May 24.

There are fewer than 150 12-inch-by-12-inch spaces remaining, and all of the 2,700 4-inch-by-8-inch brick pavers on the Heritage Hall portico have sold out.



The expected donation for the larger paver is \$500. There is a limit of 189 characters total, including nine lines of text and 21 characters per line. All letters will be capitalized, and only letters and basic symbols found on a keyboard are permitted.

For more about this chance to “cement your legacy,” visit [mywmu.com/acbricks](http://mywmu.com/acbricks).

## Obituaries—[wmich.edu/news/obituaries](http://wmich.edu/news/obituaries)

**Jo Ann Betz**, a former finance clerk, died March 15. She was 84. Betz joined the staff in 1978 and retired in 1995 after 17 years of service.

**Brenda L. Boerger**, a former physical therapist in the Sindencuse Health Center, died April 14. She was 65. Boerger came to WMU in 2000 and retired in 2014 after nearly 15 years of service.

**Walter Brunhumer**, professor emeritus of history, died March 15. He was 93. Brunhumer retired in 1986 after 29 years of service.

**Helen J. Flaspohler**, a former executive director of development, died April 18. She was 87. Flaspohler joined the staff in 1973 and retired in 1992.

**Stephen G. Jones**, professor emeritus of music, died suddenly April 25. He was 70.

Jones joined the faculty in 1972. He is survived by his wife, Linda, who also is a WMU retiree. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 19, in Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 504 S. Westnedge Ave., Kalamazoo.

**Carl A. Newton**, a former assistant director of maintenance services-energy, died April 24. He was 70. Newton joined the staff in 1996 and retired in 2008 after 12 years of service.

**John O. Norman**, emeritus in history, died April 27. He was 68. Norman joined the faculty in 1989 and retired in 2017 after



Flaspohler



Jones



Newton



Norman

27 years of service.

**Irene E. (Illes) Tocco**, a former Dining Services worker, died April 18. She was 90. Tocco joined the staff in 1978 and retired in 1988 after some 10 years of service.

**Clara Van Eck**, whose death was previously announced, will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 12, in the Langeland Family Funeral Homes’ Westside Chapel, 3926 S. Ninth St., Kalamazoo.

# On Campus with Debbi Hands Kreps



SHE HAS IT DOWN TO A FINE ART  
(Photo by Madeleine Fojtik)

As a graphic designer for university relations, Debbi Hands Kreps is part of the creative team that produces high-quality materials that support WMU's brand. This involves staying on top of design trends and adapting to new technology.

In the case of the University's most-recent GOLD Campaign, that translated into a design that added radiating lines around the W and incorporated dynamic photography and infographics, she says.

"The audience we're primarily talking to is in the 14-to-22-age range," she explains. "We need to stay on top of trends and quickly adapt to new technology. With Generation Z, authenticity is key, and quick online interactions are the norm."

In her role the past five years, she has had a hand in art direction, print and digital design, copywriting and editing, multimedia presentation, photography and project management. Video work and digital publications also have become more prevalent in that time, according to Kreps.

In addition, she was on the team that redesigned WMU's website in 2014. That project involved reinventing the look and user experience on the website, as well as adding website landing pages for all of the colleges.

Besides her work for university relations, Kreps has served on the Western Wellness committee the past two years as an advocate for the program through her communication and marketing efforts.

In her spare time, she is a soccer player and soccer coach, as well as a runner. A member of the Southwest Michigan Area Printmakers, she also teaches printmaking at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts.

She graduated from WMU with a Bachelor of Science in graphic design and previously worked locally at several advertising and marketing firms.

Kreps is a lifelong resident of southwest Michigan. She and her husband, Marcus, have four children and live in Portage, Michigan.

## Medievalists flock to WMU for annual congress

Medieval scholars from around the world are in Kalamazoo through Sunday, May 13, for the 53rd celebration of WMU's International Congress on Medieval Studies.

The event, which has become a rite of spring in the Kalamazoo community, has drawn some 3,000 scholars from 47 nations, 49 states and the District of Columbia.

Kalamazoo County residents and those with a valid Bronco Card may attend the congress at no cost. Local attendees may register on-site in the Eldridge-Fox Residence Hall lobby if they have not preregistered.

Among this year's attractions are more than 550 sessions, including one with an outdoor learning demonstration showing how the plans of great cathedrals were laid out using stakes, string and measuring rods.

To mark the 1,100th anniversary of the death of Æthelþlæd, daughter of King Alfred the Great, activities will include screenings of the BBC trilogy "King Alfred and the

Anglo-Saxons." BBC celebrity Michael Wood, who created this television series, will be a speaker during one of the congress' many sessions.

In addition, a new annual lecture series on the reception of the classics in the



Example of cathedral architecture (Stock photo)

Middle Ages will be launched, while the exhibits hall, a favorite gathering place for Kalamazoo residents, will return.

For more details about the 2018 congress, visit [wmich.edu/medievalcongress](http://wmich.edu/medievalcongress).

## Open house, commencement to honor inaugural med school grads

A community open house Saturday, May 12, and a commencement ceremony Sunday, May 13, will mark and celebrate the graduation of the first class of physicians to earn their degrees at the WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine.

Four years after beginning their studies in fall 2014, 48 students are successfully completing their time as the inaugural medical school class and moving on to the next step as physicians, entering residency training in programs around the nation.

Saturday's open house will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. at the W.E. Upjohn M.D. Campus in downtown Kalamazoo. Brief comments are planned for 2 p.m. The commencement ceremony will take

place at 2 p.m. the following day in WMU's Miller Auditorium.

Both events are open to the public without the need to make a reservation.



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## Consolidated dispatch

WMU has a self-imposed summer deadline to have all infrastructure changes ready for the late fall anticipated activation date.

Consolidated dispatch means campus 911 calls and calls from the 118 campus "blue light" emergency call boxes will go directly to the dispatch center and be conveyed to WMU officers. Campus calls for police assistance will continue to result in the dispatch of WMU public safety officers.

Calls to (269) 387-5555, the normal public safety contact number, will result in an automated answer that prompts callers for next steps. Requests about facilities and nonpolice matters also can be made to a 24-hour automated phone line, (269) 387-8514.

More consolidation details are available at [wmich.edu/news/2018/04/46694](http://wmich.edu/news/2018/04/46694).

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## Two geological research efforts

cant role the Michigan Basin has played in understanding geological processes as well as outlines the distribution of natural resources in the basin. It was published April 25.

Kehew says the publication of a single special paper by GSA is considered a major accolade for both a researcher and his or her department. The fact that two from the same unit have been published at the same time is considered extraordinary.

"This is a big deal for geologists," says Kehew, who worked on his publication for some three years.

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