



Western NEWS

For and about WMU faculty and staff

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Innovation fund deadline nears, information sessions planned

Applications for funding through President Judith Bailey's 2005 Innovation Fund are due by 5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 16.

The initiative, first announced by the president in her Sept. 27 State of the University address, will fund innovative ideas with the potential to transform some aspect of the University's core mission. Guidelines for the fund were announced Oct. 31 and can be found on the president's Web site at www.wmich.edu/president.

Two sessions will be held in the Bernhard Center during the coming weeks to answer questions about the fund and the application process, according to Nicholas Andreadis, Extended University Programs, who is the head of the nine-member panel charged with reviewing proposals.

Members of that panel will be available to answer questions from 4 to 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 12, in 204 Bernhard Center and from 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 11, in the President's Dining Room in the Bernhard Center.

Andreadis says the panel also will make available to applicants the names of individuals who can help in writing proposals, if assistance is needed.

Proposals must be submitted in writing by Jan. 16 to Andreadis, Extended University Programs, 1260 Ellsworth, mail stop 5230.

Board of Trustees meets next week

The WMU Board of Trustees will meet at 8 a.m. Friday, Dec. 9, in 157-159 Bernhard Center.

Meeting details were not available at *Western News* press time, but the meeting will begin with a closed informal session of the board before the board holds its public session and acts on its agenda items. Additional meeting details will be available at www.wmich.edu/wmu/news closer to the meeting date.

Three commencement times set

The University will confer 2,237 degrees during graduation exercises Saturday, Dec. 10, in Miller Auditorium. President Judith I. Bailey will preside over three ceremonies, during which 1,706 bachelor's degrees, 498 master's degrees and 33 doctoral degrees will be awarded.

The first ceremony at 9 a.m. is for graduates of the College of Education and Extended University Programs. The second ceremony at noon is for graduates of the College of Aviation, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and Haworth College of Business. The final ceremony at 2:30 p.m. is for graduates of the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Fine Arts, and Health and Human Services.

Center puts focus on electronic portfolios for students, could become national model

A new high-tech initiative at WMU will make student electronic portfolios virtually universal and help University academic departments assess the results of their programs.



Cummings

Both efforts are part of a new center called CEPA—Center for Electronic Portfolios and Assessment—a state-of-the-art technology center that could serve as a national model for speeding the spread of student elec-

tronic portfolios and managing the assessment of student learning outcomes.

The sweeping, high-tech plan is among the largest of its kind, according to its two corporate partners, Sungard SCT and Nuventive, which are firms supplying the new center with two software products needed to make it a reality.

"One of the things they keep pointing out to us is that WMU's implementation of

these two products is probably the largest on any university campus," says Associate Dean Katharine Cummings, College of Education, who is spearheading the effort. "Our goal is to become a national model and provide some real guidance for other institutions trying to do similar things."

The use of student electronic portfolios is taking off, particularly in Europe, and offers many advantages over traditional paper portfolios, Cummings says. Cummings recently returned from a conference in Great Britain, where electronic portfolio proponents are looking at extending the service to every student in the country.

"I've always been a paper and three-ring binder person," Cummings says. "But I've become a real convert. There's a lot we can do with a portfolio electronically and it also makes it easier to share with others for their review."

The center also will support the assessment efforts of University departments, Cummings says. Each department has

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Engineering management programs lauded by professional group

For the second year in a row, the University's graduate and undergraduate programs in engineering management have been singled out as being among the nation's best by the American Society for Engineering Management.

WMU's master's program in engineering management, last year named as one of the top three such programs in the nation, was first runner-up for ASEM's Founders Award this year, effectively giving the WMU program a national second-place ranking. Meanwhile, the WMU undergraduate program in engineering management technology has again earned an ASEM top-five designation.

The programs are co-directed by David Lyth and Larry Mallak, industrial and manufacturing engineering.



Lyth



Mallak

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*Love, laughter,
peace and the joys
of home and family—
these are our wishes
for each of you during
the coming holiday
season and throughout
the new year.*

—Judi and Bren Bailey



University inducts 52 new members into 25 Year club

More than four dozen WMU faculty and staff members were recently honored for their quarter-century of service to the University.

Fifty-two employees were inducted Nov. 29 into the University's 25 Year Club at the annual gala held at the Bernhard Center. New, active and retired members were guests of the University for the evening.

The club, which now has 393 active and 525 retired members, was founded in 1982 with 98 charter inductees. The WMU Board of Trustees established the club as a way to recognize the valuable contributions made to the University by employees who commit their careers to the institution. New members receive a 25-year service pin and framed certificate, and they may choose from a selection of commemorative gifts. This year's inductees are:

Jahan G. Aghdai, College of Arts and Sciences; Sisay Asefa, economics; Ursula Barrett, Burnham dining service; Jeanine M. Bartholomew, College of Health and Human Services; Luann Bigelow, accountancy; Dennis E. Boyle, information technology; Pamela J. Buist, WMU Apartments; Amy L. Burns, College of Education; Judith-Kay M. Chase, University Libraries; Vicki L. Cox, physical plant-maintenance services;

Beth A. denHartigh, Disabled Student Resources and Services; Judy K. Dinda, physical plant-building custodial and support services; Eileen B. Evans, Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Dan J. Farrell, management; Jorge M. Febles, Spanish; Joel M. Fletcher, information technology; James A. Gilchrist, student academic and insti-

tutional research; Barbara A. Gustafson, student financial aid and scholarships; Carol J. Haines, psychology; John "Mick" Hanley, speech pathology and audiology; Edward L. Harkness, art;

N. J. Kate Hayes, College of Arts and Sciences; Cynthia Jackson-Ekeledo, Sincdecuse Health Center; Dean R. Johnson, electrical and computer engineering; Sandra A. Khan, Haenicke Institute for Global Education; Jerald W. Kuss, public safety; Barbara S. Liggett, public affairs and administration; Lawrence J. Link, art; Norma J. Lockway, Burnham dining service; Darla J. Manion, physical plant-building custodial and support services; Arthur R. McGurn, physics; Barbara T. McKinney, Registrar's Office;

Daniel D. Miller, physical plant-maintenance services; Roger K. Mills, physical plant-utilities; Nannette R. Morningstar, nursing; Jon R. Neill, economics; Floyd Pientka, WMUK; Cindee Quake-Rapp, occupational therapy; Miguel A. Ramirez, multicultural affairs; Thomas K. Ramsdell, logistical services; Rick A. Reist, physical plant-landscape services; Barbara K. Rhodes, admissions and orientation; Pamela S. Rooney, business information systems;

Marilyn K. Rowe, College of Arts and Sciences; Diane M. Schuldt, physical plant-utilities; Dawn M. Southworth, student financial aid and scholarships; Darcey M. Stevens, WMU Dining Service; Peter J. Strazdas, physical plant-maintenance services; Patricia L. Suhusky, art; Thomas L. Swihart, physical plant-landscape services; John A. Tanis, physics; and Robert G. Trenary, computer science.

Weather closing procedures, snow removal plans detailed

With the onset of winter, WMU employees and students should review the weather closure and snow and ice removal plans.

Winter weather rarely results in a decision to close the University. It has been more than five years since severe weather closed the University for a full day.

On those infrequent occasions when severe weather does result in closing WMU, first word of the decision will be found online on the University's home page at www.wmich.edu or by calling WMU's emergency information line at (269) 387-1001.



EDITOR: Cheryl P. Roland.

CONTRIBUTORS: Jeanne Baron, Thomas A. Myers and Mark E. Schwerin. GRAPHIC DESIGN: Tammy M. Boneburg.

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WMU is an equal opportunity/employer/affirmative action institution.



Borish consults on sport calendars

Linda Borish, history, was asked to act as historical advisor on a calendar project that salutes female Jewish athletes, both past and present.

The calendars are titled "Jewish + Female = Athlete: Portraits of Strength from around the World" and feature the images of 14 current stars and 13 legends from the past.

Produced by the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute, the calendars feature action photos to celebrate Jewish female athletes from across the globe and pay tribute to the stories of those who pioneered their sports, a rich, but often little-known piece of sport history.

The calendars are \$13.95 and can be ordered by visiting www.brandeis.edu/hbi or calling (781) 736-8114.

Burnie delivers paper in Sweden

Associate Dean David Burnie, Haworth College of Business, was invited to the Royal



Burnie

Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden, last month to present a paper at a symposium sponsored by that nation's Center for Banking and Finance.

The topic of the Nov. 2 symposium was "Uneven Economies, About Real and Financial Economies." Burnie, whose area is finance, delivered a paper titled "Ownership Structure and Volatility: An Empirical Study of Swedish Firms."

He aids water projects in China

Chansheng He, geography, is one of 113 scholars worldwide recently appointed by the Chinese Academy of Sciences to serve as "outstanding overseas scholars" and work with Chinese scholars on hydrologic modeling and water resources management in China.

He, who also serves as an adjunct professor at two universities in China, was invited in November to give a plenary presentation on "Water Resources Sustainability and China's Economic Growth" at the 2005 International Conference on the Circular Economy and Regional Sustainable Development in Hangzhou, China.

In collaboration with researchers from the University of Michigan and Michigan State University, he also co-organized an International Workshop on Advanced Watershed Modeling, Water Resources Management and Complex Environment System Studies, held at Nanchang, Jiangxi, China, last summer. The workshop drew over 200 participants from 28 countries.

Risk earns grounds certification

Norman Risk, landscape services, has become a Certified Grounds Manager through a program offered by the Professional Grounds Management Society.

CGM status has been attained by just over 100 members of the 1,200 worldwide members of the society. Certification requirements include training and supervisory experience in the grounds maintenance field and successful completion of two exams, including one tailored to the applicant's local situation.

Service

The following employees are being recognized during December for 40, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service to WMU.

40 years—Subhash R. Sonnad, sociology.

25 years—Eileen B. Evans, Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Cynthia D. Jackson-Ekeledo, Sindecuse Health Center; Arthur R. McGurn, physics; Rick A. Reist, physical plant-landscape services; and Peter J. Strazdas, physical plant-maintenance services.

20 years—Pamela J. McMakin, physical plant-maintenance services; Ali M. Metwalli, finance and commercial law; Mary E. Pratt, physical plant-landscape services; Ralph Tanner, electrical and computer engineering; and Anne E. Thompson, Office of the Vice President for Information Technology.

15 years—Patrick A. Benton, College of Aviation; Anne C. Hopkins, psychology; Patricia M. Negrevski, Evaluation Center; Kelly L. Penskar, information technology; Christine M. Smith, music; Jane L. Tomlin, information technology; Teresa M. Ventimiglia, university relations; Connie White, Valley #1 dining service; and John

D. Winchell, WMU Archives and Regional History Collections.

10 years—Joel Boyd Jr., Career English Language Center for International Students; David Ladd, student financial aid and scholarships; Lois Lemon, paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging; Thomas C. Marks, Career English Language Center for International Students; Abraham L. Poot, mechanical and aeronautical engineering; and Julie A. Tabbia, Sindecuse Health Center.

Five years—Louann A. Bierlein-Palmer, teaching, learning and leadership; Valery N. Bliznyuk, materials science and engineering; Alamgir Choudhury, industrial and manufacturing engineering; Teresa Crumpton, speech pathology and audiology; Nora Faires, history; Ann C. Mathis, mechanical and aeronautical engineering; Jerry E. McLaughlin, counselor education and counseling psychology; Jane Perk, WMU Bookstore; Ronald N. Prange, finance and commercial law; Angela S. Reiter, mathematics; Norman Charles Risk, physical plant-landscape services; Janice L. VandeVusse, Sindecuse Health Center; Eric Vangsnes, physician assistant; and Annette M. White, Sindecuse Health Center.

Obituaries

Henry J. Beukema, emeritus in engineering graphics, died Nov. 23 in Kalamazoo. He was 90.



Beukema

Beukema retired in 1977, after 35 years of teaching at WMU. Prior to teaching at the University, he taught industrial education at high schools in Algonac and Grand Haven, Mich., and he had an active career in industry, having worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as well as a number of manufacturing companies.

He was the co-author of more than a dozen high school and college textbooks and workbooks in the fields of engineering graphics and welding technology. Active in a number of professional organizations, he served on the boards of the Kalamazoo Engineering Society and the Michigan Industrial and Technology Education Society.

Carol J. Voytas, a physician at Sindecuse Health Center, died Nov. 15 in Kalamazoo after a long illness. She was 51.



Voytas

Voytas joined the Sindecuse staff in January 1997 after having worked in private practice at Westside Family Medical Center since 1983. She practiced on campus until May.

She earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan, her medical degree from Michigan State University and completed a residency in family practice at St. John Hospital in Detroit.

A Detroit-area native, Voytas was active in the community and served on the board of directors of Hospice of Greater Kalamazoo.

Thomas C. Slaughter, emeritus in health, physical education and recreation, died Oct. 19 in Kalamazoo. He was 94.



Slaughter

Slaughter was a coach and professor at WMU from 1948 until his retirement in 1976. In addition to his teaching duties during his tenure, he served as an assistant coach in football, basketball and baseball, coaching more than 1,600 athletes. He was named the "W" Club Man of the Year in 1979 and was a member of the WMU Hall of Fame.

Slaughter was the author with colleague Harold Ray of the book "Go, Broncos!," which covered the history of the WMU football and men's basketball teams.

Exchange

FOR SALE—1996 Ford Probe, 5-speed, 87K, PW/L, AC. Well maintained and runs well. \$2,850 or best offer. Call 353-4731 for information.

FOR SALE—UKC-registered Jack Russell Terriers. Had first shots and wormed. Call Todd at 381-4395 or 760-3934.

FOR SALE—2004 Pontiac Grand Prix GT1. White exterior, black and tan interior. Cloth seats. Excellent condition. Very sharp. Price reduced to \$13,750 or make offer. Still under factory warranty, with just 19,600 miles. Call 337-0408 or 207-3817.

HOME FOR SALE BY OWNER—Kalamazoo Promise Qualified! Located at 1120 Lakeway in Milwood's golden triangle. More than 1,700 square feet on double lot overlooking Milham Park Golf Course. Three bedrooms, two full baths. Large living room with fireplace, formal dining room and large kitchen. Den/office or fourth bedroom on main floor. Three-car garage, three-season screened porch, deck. \$197,000. Call 381-3451 or 387-2940 for more info or e-mail diane.goertler@wmich.edu for photos.

Jobs

The following vacancies are currently being posted through the Job Opportunity Program by the Human Resource Services Department. Interested benefits-eligible employees should submit a job opportunity transfer application during the posting period, and may contact a human resource services staff member for assistance in securing these positions.

(N) **Skilled Trades Helper**, STH, Plant-Building Maintenance Services, 05/06-4970, 11/28-12/5/05

(N) **Faculty Specialist**, FSI Aviation, 05/06-4977, 11/28-12/5/05

(N) **Faculty Specialist**, FSI Aviation, 05/06-4978 11/28-12/5/05

(R) **Chairperson**, CH, Africana Studies, 05/06-4994, 11/28-12/5/05

(R) **Assistant/Associate Professor**, I30/I20, University Libraries, 05/06-4995, 11/28-12/5/05

(R) **Chairperson**, 000, English, 05/06-4996, 11/28-12/5/05

(R) **Chairperson**, 000, Spanish, 05/06-4997 11/28-12/5/05

(R) **Chairperson**, 000, Chemistry, 05/06-4998, 11/28-12/5/05

(R) **Assistant Professor**, I30, Public Affairs and Administration, 05/06-4999, 11/28-12/5/05

(R) **Clinical Specialist**, FS2, Nursing, 05/06-5000, 11/28-12/5/05

(R) **Assistant Professor**, I30, Occupational Therapy, 05/06-5001, 11/28-12/5/05

(R) **Assistant Professor**, I30, Occupational Therapy, 05/06-5002 11/28-12/5/05

(R) **Skills Training Specialist I** (term ends 6/30/06; FTE .79, 31.5 hours per week), 10, Center for Disability Services, 05/06-5008, 11/28-12/5/05

(R) **Skills Training Specialist II** (term ends 6/30/2006), 11 Center for Disability Services, 05/06-5009, 11/28-12/5/05

(R) **Lead Skills Training Specialist** (term ends 06/30/06; FTE .88, 35 hours per week), 12 Center for Disability Services, 05/06-5010, 11/28-12/5/05

(R) **Skills Training Specialist I** (term ends 06/30/06; FTE .88, 35 hours per week), 10 Center for Disability Services, 05/06-5011 11/28-12/5/05

(R) **Clerk** (term ends 06/30/2006; FTE .50, 20 hours per week), 10, Alumni Relations, 05/06-5014, 11/28-12/5/05

(R) **Photocopy Operator**, 10, Dean, College of Business, 05/06-5015, 11/28-12/5/05

(R) **Assistant Professor**, I30, Art, 05/06-5016, 11/28-12/5/05

(R) **Assistant Professor**, I30, Educational Studies, 05/06-5022, 11/28-12/5/05

(R) **Assistant Professor**, I30, Educational Studies, 05/06-5023, 11/28-12/5/05

(R) **Assistant/Associate Professor**, I30/I20, Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology, 05/06-5024, 11/28-12/5/05

(R) **Assistant/Associate/Professor**, I30/I20/I10, Civil and Construction Engineering, 05/06-5025, 11/28-12/5/05

(R) **Assistant/Associate Professor**, I30/I20, Educational Studies 05/06-5026, 11/28-12/5/05

(R) **Professional Specialist**, FSI, Social Work 05/06-5027, 11/28-12/5/05

N= New R= Replacement

WMU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

On Campus with Kathleen Keckler



PICTURE PERFECT JOB
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

Professionally speaking, Kathleen Keckler has painted herself into a corner—and she's loving every minute of it.

Keckler came to WMU in 1997 and has been a support staff member in geosciences and history. But when the School of Art's office coordinator position opened up in 2001, she applied for the job and got it.

"I have a bachelor's degree in art and am an artist, so this was a great opportunity," she says. "I really enjoy interacting with the faculty and staff here and being involved with the faculty and student exhibitions."

Keckler, who serves as the art school's budget officer, is heavily involved with coordinating grants, endowments, travel, and faculty and staff appointment forms as well as with hiring and recruiting student help, managing the extensive student payroll and procurement card system, and arranging events.

"The biggest challenge is keeping up with the work load. It's fast-paced here," she says, noting that she's also involved in planning for the school's January 2007 move to the new Richmond Center now under construction.

Among her favorite off-hour activities is going to student art shows and participating in faculty critique sessions for graduate students. "I like to support the students and to talk to them about their art," she says. "They have new ideas and I love watching their artistic evolution."

Keckler also enjoys visiting her children, gardening, reading, staying fit through WMU's Zest for Life program, and creating art—mostly paintings and drawings—in her in-home studio. The Kalamazoo resident has exhibited her work on- and off-campus and together with her husband, Robert, owned and operated Parchment's Ben Franklin store and Kalamazoo's The Frame Station.

Electronic portfolio _____ continued from page 1

developed an assessment plan that has been approved by a steering committee. The new center will serve as the University's support structure and research center for assessment activities at WMU.

Sungard SCT and Nuventive are providing two major software products, TracDat, for assessment documentation, and iWebfolio, for electronic portfolios. Together, the two products will comprise the backbone for an integrated assessment and electronic portfolio system for students, faculty and the University.

Electronic portfolios can include such information as resumes, samples of class assignments and photos of students at work on a project. Students can make them available to prospective employers, friends, family or whomever they want, anywhere in the world. They may create them for a class, to meet requirements of an overall department program or just for fun.

"It's entirely student-driven," Cummings says, adding that students will be guided by employers, who are offering their feedback on what they'd like to see in an electronic portfolio.

The University's academic departments also will benefit from the new center. Assessment of student learning outcomes is necessary when seeking accreditation from an outside agency or association. Student electronic portfolios also can be used for assessment purposes. TracDat software will make it much easier to manage the assessment process and issue reports on how departments are doing and improvements that have been made.

"More and more of our external accrediting bodies want to see evidence of student performance," Cummings says. "The new center will make this much more readily available."

Engineering _____ continued from page 1

WMU alumni from the programs hold key positions throughout a variety of industries.

Each year since 1991, ASEM has named programs at both the graduate and undergraduate levels as tops in the nation. The top program at each level wins the Founders Award for Academic Excellence for Leadership in Engineering and Technical Management, and ASEM lists the other top contenders for the prize. This is the first year the organization noted the name of the runner-up.

This year, graduate level honors went to the Old Dominion University. At the under-

graduate level, the U.S. Military Academy at West Point took top honors, while the University of the Pacific, the University of Missouri-Rolla, Stevens Institute of Technology and WMU were top contenders.

Announcements of the placings were made at ASEM's annual meeting in late October in Virginia Beach, Va.

Engineering management is a discipline that integrates technical engineering and project systems management skills to prepare students to lead people, projects and teams. In addition to traditional engineering course work, students focus on business, economics, systems management and supervision.

Fall Make A Difference awards recipients will be honored

Ten University staff members who have been selected to receive fall 2005 semiannual WMU Make a Difference awards will be honored at a campuswide reception at 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9, in the President's Dining Room in the Bernhard Center.

Members of the University community are invited to attend the reception, during which the recipients will each receive \$250 and a commemorative certificate.

Fall award winners are: Donna Kim Ballard, the Writing Center; Barbara Caras-Tomczak, Haworth College of Business; Brenda Case-Parris, Career and Student Employment Services; Dori LaChance, Registrar's Office; Natalia Chris Obreiter, military science; Gail Orta, marketing; Donald Paff, landscape services; Jane Perk, WMU Bookstore; Camela Vossen, environmental safety and emergency management; and Daren Webb, Sindecuse Health Center.

The winners were selected by a committee of their peers from participating employee groups. The awards program is a campuswide program that recognizes University staff members for their outstanding accomplishments. Semiannual award winners are eligible for one of four annual awards, with a \$1,000 prize.

This issue is year's last *News*

This is the last issue of the *Western News* for 2005. Publication will resume Jan. 12 with the start of the spring semester. To stay abreast of University news until then, go online to the University's news site, which is updated frequently. The news site can be found at www.wmich.edu/wmu/news.