



# Western News

For and about WMU faculty and staff

DECEMBER 1, 2011  
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## Board of Trustees meeting scheduled

The next meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees is set for Thursday, Dec. 8. The board will meet at 11:15 a.m. in 157 Bernhard Center. Details and key agenda items will be posted online at [www.wmich.edu/news](http://www.wmich.edu/news) closer to the meeting date.

## Fall commencement exercises slated

President John M. Dunn will preside over three commencement ceremonies Saturday, Dec. 17, in Miller Auditorium. Visit [www.wmich.edu/commencement](http://www.wmich.edu/commencement) for ticket information and full details.

The ceremonies will take place at 9 a.m. for the colleges of Education and Human Development, Engineering and Applied Sciences, and Fine Arts; 12:30 p.m. for the Haworth College of Business and colleges of Aviation and Health and Human Services; and 4 p.m. for the College of Arts and Sciences and Extended University Programs.

## Holiday reception set for employees

The WMU Board of Trustees and President and First Lady John and Linda Dunn invite faculty and staff to a holiday reception from 2 to 4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8, in the Bernhard Center Ballroom.

## Savings plan limits have increased

Limits have increased for 2012 on tax-deferred savings plans, which are a great way to save for retirement. Visit [www.wmich.edu/hr/benefits/tax-deferred-savings-letter.html](http://www.wmich.edu/hr/benefits/tax-deferred-savings-letter.html) for details about changing contributions or scheduling a meeting with investment advisor Jane Brady-Ertz.

## Oaklands staging murder mystery event

A murder mystery dinner and show will be staged from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10, in the Oaklands. Tickets are \$45, and reservations are due by Friday, Dec. 2. Character roles will be emailed to participants by Monday, Dec. 5. To make a reservation or obtain more information, visit [www.wmich.edu/oaklands](http://www.wmich.edu/oaklands) or call (269) 387-4073.

## Students organize free Farmers Feast

WMU students will be promoting locally sourced food through a free meal and program set for 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2, in the Bernhard Center Ballroom. The Farmers Feast menu features local produce and was developed by Nick Petruska, catering. The event is being sponsored by the Campus Beet, a registered student organization, with support from WMU Dining Services.

## Western News goes on holiday break

This is the final issue of *Western News* for fall. *Western News* will resume its regular publication schedule after the start of spring semester. The spring publication schedule is Jan. 12 and 26, Feb. 9 and 23, March 15 and 29, and April 12. The deadline to submit material is 5 p.m. the Friday before each issue is published.

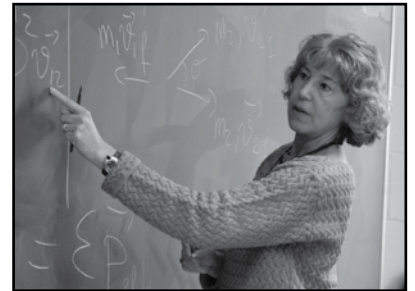
## Team turns theory into observable science

A method of differentiating two similar chemical systems that once was only a theoretical concept has been directly observed through experiments conducted by an international team of physicists led by Nora Berrah, physics.

The publication *PhysOrg.com* recently reported the breakthrough, reviewing published results of work conducted at the 2-year-old Linac Coherent Light Source, at the SLAC National Laboratory at Stanford University in Menlo Park, Calif.

The experiments at the Stanford facility are providing a new way to explore atomic structure and dynamics and giving the scientific community more evidence of what the world's most powerful hard X-ray laser can do.

The article, reviewed by *PhysOrg.com*, appeared in an October issue of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. It represents the first published piece that reveals a favorable comparison with earlier theoretical modeling on how molecules can be differentiated by using free-electron lasers to create a double-core hole by ejecting two electrons from their positions.



Berrah (Photo by John Gilroy)

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## WMU named among nation's 'Best for Vets' schools

For the second consecutive year, a national publication that serves all branches of the armed forces has identified WMU as Michigan's top-ranked school for outreach and service to veterans.

Military Times' *EDGE* magazine announced its annual list of the nation's colleges and universities it calls "Best for Vets" in its November issue. WMU was ranked 33rd on the list of 59 schools nationally that earned the coveted designation. The only other Michigan school on the list is the University of Michigan-Flint, which came in at No. 41.

Among other schools ranked by *EDGE* are Eastern Kentucky and Concord universities, which were tied for first place, and Arizona State, Ohio State and George Washington universities. Of the 59 schools honored, 51 are public institutions.

Tracey Moon, director of WMU's Office of Military and Veterans Affairs, says *EDGE* chose this year's honorees using a new tool developed last spring based on polling of more than 500 student veterans on what they consider the most important services campuses can offer them. The resulting assessment tool is focused heavily on academics, staff knowledge of veterans' issues and the existence of critical core services such as a central veterans' office.

With the new assessment tool, this year's final list includes fewer schools than the first list, which appeared in 2010. WMU, however, remains Michigan's top-performing school.

—continued on page 4



Warm regards this holiday season,  
and best wishes for the new year.

—John and Linda Dunn

# Around campus and beyond

## APA schedules holiday gathering

The Administrative Professional Association will hold its annual holiday gathering at 5:05 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2, on the second floor of Kalamazoo's University Roadhouse, 1332 W. Michigan Ave. This informal social event will feature a cash-prize drawing, appetizers and games. The cost is \$5 per person, payable at the door.

Only APA members may participate in the prize drawing, which is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Membership forms will be available for those who wish to join APA before the drawing starts. APA members will receive one additional entry into the drawing for each APA-eligible guest they bring to the event.

## "Choral Christmas" concert slated

The popular holiday "Choral Christmas" concert featuring Cantus Femina, the University Chorale and the Collegiate Singers will take place at 4 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, in the First Presbyterian Church, 321 W. South St. in Kalamazoo.

General admission tickets are \$15, \$12 for senior citizens and \$5 for WMU students with a valid school ID. They are available at the door and through the Miller Auditorium Ticket Office at [www.millerauditorium.com/som](http://www.millerauditorium.com/som) or (269) 387-2300.

## Annual event supports scholarships

The School of Music will hold a scholarship benefit concert, "Jazz for the

Holidays," at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. The concert has become a tradition for many Kalamazoo-area families. More than 100 musicians will present this year's show, which will include medleys of holiday tunes mixed with unique arrangements of traditional songs and carols as well as an audience sing-along.

Concert proceeds will be applied to scholarships for outstanding WMU music students. General admission tickets are \$15, and \$5 for senior citizens and WMU students with a valid school ID. They are available at the door and through the Miller Auditorium Ticket Office at [www.millerauditorium.com/som](http://www.millerauditorium.com/som) or (269) 387-2300.

## Students to present senior projects

A hybrid airship prototype, a geodesic pool dome cover for above-ground pools and a "Broncobot" multi-tool additive manufacturing system that has the ability to rapidly improve manufacturing time will be among the projects presented Tuesday, Dec. 6, at the 49th Conference on Senior Engineering and Design.

WMU students will showcase and demonstrate their projects from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Engineering and Applied Sciences Building. The free event will feature 122 seniors presenting the results of 44 projects they have completed to solve problems facing business and industry. Visit [www.wmich.edu/engineer/senior-design-conference.htm](http://www.wmich.edu/engineer/senior-design-conference.htm) for more information.

## Prof examines health communication

Julie Apker, communication, has written a book that explores the communication processes, issues and concepts that influence the



Apker

lives of patients, health professionals and others in health institutions.

"Communication in Health Organizations," published in October by Polity Press, integrates scholarship from communication, medicine, nursing, public health and allied health.

A comprehensive review of the research literature, the book explains the complexities and contingencies of communication in health settings using systems theory. It familiarizes readers with how health institutions function communicatively, and why health professionals interact as they do.

An associate professor, Apker joined the faculty in 2001. She teaches and conducts research in organizational and health communication.

## Years of research culminate in book

H. Byron Earhart, emeritus in comparative religion, has a new book out that is the first comprehensive English-language study of the evolving religious and aesthetic symbolism of the world's most famous mountain.



Earhart

"Mount Fuji: Icon of Japan" was published in October by the University of South Carolina Press. Illustrated with color and black-and-white images, it provides an overview of

the imagery of Mount Fuji from prehistoric to modern times.

In addition to firsthand descriptions of religious practices of pilgrims climbing the peak and pilgrimage organization meetings, the work provides a link to the author's streaming 28-minute video documentary of Fuji pilgrimage and practice.

Earhart, a WMU Distinguished Faculty Scholar, retired in 2000. He is an expert in world religions and continues to teach online courses in Japanese and world religions.

## Economist edits forecasting text

Matthew L. Higgins has edited a book assessing economic forecasting methods in the wake of one of the greatest recent economic downturns—the "Great Recession."



Higgins

"Advances in Economic Forecasting," published in November by the Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, features six papers presented for WMU's 2009–10 Werner Sichel Lecture-Seminar Series.

"Advances in Economic Forecasting" argues that the economics profession can better exploit data through model and forecast combination, and advocates for models that are adaptive and perform well in the presence of nonlinearity and structural change.

Higgins has been a faculty member for 16 years. An associate professor, he focuses his research on econometric methods for understanding how uncertainty about the future affects the economy.

## Student scholarships available for study abroad

WMU students are invited to apply for scholarships that offer awards of up to \$2,500 to offset the cost of participating in a select group of short-term study abroad programs.

The Dean's Scholarship for Summer Study Abroad supports enrollment in 20 short-term programs that will be taught by WMU faculty members late in the spring semester or during the summer I and II sessions.

The 2011-12 Dean's Scholarships, which are administered by the Haenicke Institute, allow WMU students to apply for need-based awards of up to \$1,500. In addition, those with a 3.0 grade point average also may apply for merit-based awards worth \$1,000.

Visit the WMU Study Abroad website at [www.international.wmich.edu](http://www.international.wmich.edu) for a Dean's Scholarship for Summer Study Abroad application. Informational brochures for all WMU-offered study abroad programs are available at <http://brancosabroad.international.wmich.edu> through the recently launched Broncos Abroad system.

Jan. 20 is the deadline to enroll in most of the scholarship-eligible overseas programs, some of which have spots open for WMU employees and members of the public.

## Correction

The employment status for Robert J. Bensley was incorrectly reported in the Nov. 17 issue of Western News. Bensley, professor of human performance and health education, is a full-time faculty member.

## Jobs

Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources Web site at [www.wmich.edu/hr/careers-at-wmu.html](http://www.wmich.edu/hr/careers-at-wmu.html). 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. Fall publication dates are Jan. 12 and 26, Feb. 9 and 23, March 15 and 29, and April 12. Items may be submitted to Jeanne Baron at [jeanne.baron@wmich.edu](mailto:jeanne.baron@wmich.edu), (269) 387-8422 or Campus Mail Stop 5433.

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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY



# Efforts to improve area water quality is changing WMU landscape

Walking around campus these days is like going on an environmental field trip.

Six interpretive signs have been installed near the University's most prominent stormwater management areas.

The signs show the locations of vegetative strips, rock-filled detention basins, rain gardens and other examples of best management systems for slowing and filtering stormwater before it leaves WMU property and enters surrounding watersheds. They also explain how the various treatment systems employed at those locations work.

"Many of these treatment areas are underground and therefore go unnoticed," says Cari Delong, WMU Facilities Management natural areas manager and coordinator of campus stormwater initiatives. "The University felt the addition of signage would be a great way to educate the community while also advertising WMU's commitment to sustainability."

The new signs can be found near the Chemistry Building, Goldsworth Valley Pond, Miller Auditorium, across Western Avenue from the Gilmore Theatre Complex (Parking Lot 23), the Engineering and Applied Sciences Building, and the Business Technology and Research Park Pond.

They should clear up some confusion concerning curious areas of campus, such as



This interpretive sign, top photo, describes the stormwater treatment systems installed around the Chemistry Building, right photo. (Photos by Jeanne Baron)

the rock basin near the Chemistry Building. That space is one of the major stormwater detention basins on campus.

The basin collects stormwater and filters it slowly through rocks and sand, a process that naturally filters out pollutants and reduces flooding and erosion.

The goal is to slowly release stormwater back into the ground reserves, keeping the



water on University property.

WMU has been implementing such treatment systems since 1998 to better manage stormwater on campus.

## Service

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

**30 Years**—Gaylene Luhman, information technology, and Bruce L. Paananen, information technology.

**25 Years**—Deborah M. Code, maintenance Services; Duane R. Hampton,

geosciences; Lonnie L. Page, maintenance services; and Cindy A. Walton, building custodial and support services.

**20 Years**—Deborah L. Cronkright, Bernhard Center Dining Service; Muralitharan Shanmugam, University Libraries; and Carol Sundberg, disability services center.

**15 Years**—Sondra Y. Brooks, Online Education; William W. Liou, mechanical and aeronautical engineering; Anna Marie Murphy, building custodial and support services; and Jiabei Zhang, human performance and health education.

**10 Years**—Vernon Nathaniel Chambers, building custodial and support services; William J. Cubit, intercollegiate athletics; Susan K. Davis, Sindecuse Health Center; Douglas Robert Gray, landscape services; Tetyana S. Koshmanova, teaching, learning and educational studies; Michael G. Miller, human performance and health education; Angela M. Penney, West Hills Athletic Club; David Schuster, physics; Wuwei Shen, computer science; Stephen M. Tasko, speech pathology and audiology; and Teri Lynn Wagner, building custodial and support services.

**Five Years**—Barbara Banks, Bronco Express Services; Shona L. Drake, Haenicke Institute for Global Education; Jennifer L. Johnson, paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging and Pilot Plants; and Brenda Pietrzykowski, Valley I Dining Service.

## Bioalcohol from algae is Bronco Biodiesel's next frontier

Bronco Biodiesel first made a splash five years ago by converting waste vegetable oil into renewable alternative biodiesel fuel. Now it's going underwater.

The Bronco Biodiesel collaboration team has expanded its sustainable energy research to include producing bioalcohols from algae grown in over-nutriented surface waters and municipal wastewater. As with the original Bronco Biodiesel project, algal energy products use materials recovered from existing urban waste streams and do not compete with food production.

In their research, team members John Miller and Steve Bertman, chemistry, and Sarah Hill, anthropology, are converting carbohydrates from wastewater algae to ethanol, an alcohol commonly added to gasoline. In addition to creating new alternative energy sources, the process could help to rectify the significant water quality problems associated with high nutrient levels in surface waters, including harmful algal blooms.

According to Miller, WMU research quickly revealed that carbohydrates in the algae were the most promising energy source and could be used as a feedstock for bioalcohols.

"We believe the technology is there, but there are obviously many other factors involved," he notes. "This means that for now, we're operating on a small scale. As such, we're able to work closely with a number of undergraduate and graduate students who are engaged in the research, which we certainly see as a positive thing."

The Bronco Biodiesel team is involved in algal projects in several locations, including WMU's Goldsworth Valley Pond and, through a partnership with Muskegon County Wastewater Management Systems, upstate wastewater treatment lagoons.



## Obituaries



Burns



Callan

**James F. Burns**, a staff member since 2000, died Nov. 25. He was 54. Burns was a supervisor in Facilities Management-maintenance services.

**Edward T. Callan**, internationally known scholar and emeritus in English, died Nov. 17. He was 93. Callan came to WMU in 1957 and retired in 1983 after 26 years of service.

One of WMU's most venerated faculty members, he was appointed a

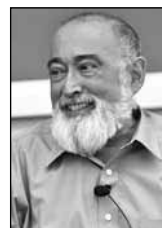
Distinguished Faculty Professor, the University's highest faculty honor, in 1983 and received the Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award, the University's highest scholarly honor, in 1980.

Memorial donations may be made to Hospice Care of Southwest Michigan or St. Joseph Catholic Church.

**Edward H. Holloway**, a former staff member, died Nov. 25. He was 58. Holloway came to WMU in 1994 and retired in 2008 as a systems support specialist in University Libraries after 14 years of service.

**Frona "Toni" Ward**, a former staff member, died Nov. 11. She was 101. Ward came to WMU in 1966 and retired in 1978 as a biology department secretary after 11 years

of service. Memorial contributions may be made to the Kalamazoo Humane Society.



Wolpe

**Howard Wolpe**, a former faculty member and U.S. representative, will be honored during two public memorial events.

Locally, there will be a celebration and reception starting at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13, in

Miller Auditorium. Nationally, an event has been planned for 11 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 19, in the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington, D.C.

Memorial donations may be made to the Woodrow Wilson Center's Africa Program.

# On Campus with Tracey Kauppila



FLYING HIGH AT AVIATION COLLEGE  
(Photo courtesy of Tracey Kauppila)

An interest in aviation and love of World War II aircraft brought Tracey Kauppila to the College of Aviation seven years ago.

As the administrative assistant in the dean's office, Kauppila provides administrative support to the dean by working with students and parents, scheduling meetings and coordinating events, and working with registered student organizations and community partners.

"What I love the most about my job is getting to know our students, addressing their needs and concerns, and watching them achieve their academic and career goals," she says. "It's very rewarding when students call or write after they have graduated to let us know where they are or what they're doing. It makes me feel like I may have made a difference while they were here."

Kauppila started at WMU in 1995 as a compensation coordinator in Human Resources and was promoted to executive assistant to the University provost in 2000. She moved to the aviation college in 2004.

One of the most challenging parts of her job is keeping up with people and events on the main campus and keeping in touch with colleagues.

"Due to the distance between the aviation campus in Battle Creek, Mich., and main campus in Kalamazoo, there are former co-workers that I've not seen in years," she says. "Sometimes I really miss being in the heart of campus and working face-to-face with other departments."

Kauppila was born in Battle Creek and raised in Plymouth, Mich. After high school, she worked at the University of Michigan's law library and the anesthesiology department. She sought a job at WMU to be closer to her family in Battle Creek.

There, she met her husband, John, a lead maintenance technician at Duncan Aviation. The two married this past October, so many in the WMU community might still know her as Tracey Henry. The newlyweds live in Battle Creek with their golden retriever Hunter and enjoy cars, boating, camping, golf and spending time with family.

## Fall staff award winners to be feted at reception

Ten staff members have been selected to receive semiannual Make a Difference awards for fall 2011.

The awards will be presented during a reception at 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 5, in 157 Bernhard Center.

Members of the University community are invited to attend the reception, during which each award recipient will receive a before-tax prize of \$300 and a commemorative certificate.

The fall 2011-12 recipients are:

- Christin Fawley-Zehner, Valley I Dining Service
- David Florida, electrical and computer engineering
- Margaret Hamilton, College of Fine Arts
- Anthony Helms, College of Education and Human Development
- M'Myia Hughes, College of Education

and Human Development

- Lori Krum, physics
- Rainer Liebert, Sindecuse Health Center
- Jessica Parker, Extended University Programs

- Scott Puckett, enrollment management
- Roxann Swank, College of Education and Human Development

The WMU Make a Difference awards program is a campuswide peer-to-peer program that recognizes University staff members for their outstanding accomplishments and daily investment of energy and creativity.

Up to 15 staff members may receive the award in each of two semiannual award periods every academic year. Semiannual award winners are eligible to receive one of the four annual Make a Difference awards that are presented each academic year and include a before-tax prize of \$1,200.

## December is great time to hear free classical music at WMU

University musicians are staging a variety of free concerts this month in honor of the holiday season.

- Two concerts are set for today in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. The Percussion Ensemble will perform global percussion grooves at 6 p.m. The Western Horn Choir, which is composed of French horn artists, will perform with special guest Michael Wood at 8:15 p.m.

- Friday, Dec. 2, the Symphony Orchestra will perform popular compositions by Russian masters at 8:15 p.m. in the Dalton Center Recital Hall.

- Monday, Dec. 5, student and faculty soloists will feature the music of Franz Liszt when they present "Lisztomania" at 7 p.m. in the Dalton Center Recital Hall.

Visit [www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/arts](http://www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/arts) for stories about some of the upcoming free concerts and [www.wmich.edu/events](http://www.wmich.edu/events) for a complete list of holiday-related events.

## WMU named among 'Best for Vets'

WMU has made veterans a priority over the past five years with a number of initiatives that reach out to both veterans returning from deployment and National Guard members who might be called to serve at any time.

The University has the largest population of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans among all of Michigan's 15 public universities.

## Team turns theory into observable science continued from page 1

Berrah, who is on sabbatical this year and doing research at the SOLEIL light source facility in Paris, is the lead author on the published results.

Working on her team were researchers from Japan's Institute for Molecular Science and Tohoku and Hiroshima universities, Finland's University of Turku, Sweden's Stockholm and Uppsala universities, the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, and the Sincrotrone Trieste free-electron laser facility in Italy.

Successful observation of the concept and

evidence of how the observed results match the theoretical modeling, Berrah says, will help researchers fingerprint molecules that are similar and lead to a rebirth of electron spectroscopy for chemical analysis—the detection of particles and measurement of their energies.

Visit [www.physorg.com/news/2011-10-bright-small-molecular-differentiation-free-electron.html](http://www.physorg.com/news/2011-10-bright-small-molecular-differentiation-free-electron.html) for the *PhysOrg.com* review and [www.pnas.org/content/108/41/16912](http://www.pnas.org/content/108/41/16912) for the full *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* article.