



# Western News

For and about WMU faculty and staff

JUNE 7, 2012

Volume 38, Number 17

## Board of Trustees meeting today

As of *Western News* press time, the WMU Board of Trustees was expected to consider approval of a new three-year contract with the University's Teaching Assistants Union during a meeting at 11:30 a.m. today in 157-159 Bernhard Center. The board is to hear details of a contract that was negotiated during the winter and spring and ratified May 23 by members of TAU.

Also on the agenda are tenure and promotion recommendations for faculty members. The University administration is recommending that 19 faculty members receive tenure and 37 faculty members be promoted to the next highest faculty rank.

In addition, trustees are to consider a property lease between the WMU School of Medicine and Borgess Health. The lease is to continue an ongoing initiative that houses the Kalamazoo Center for Medical Studies Psychiatric Clinic at Borgess. KCMS is merging into the WMU medical school Sunday, July 1.

## Free vocal jazz performances slated

The ninth annual Steve Zegree Vocal Jazz Camp set for Sunday, June 24, through Friday, June 29, will bring participants from across the nation and as far as South Africa to Kalamazoo to work with the University's internationally acclaimed vocal jazz instructors.

Camp participants will perform nightly in downtown Kalamazoo. Everyone is invited to come out and enjoy the music from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, June 25-28, at the Union Cabaret and Grill, 125 S. Kalamazoo Mall. There is no cover charge and no reservations are necessary.

The camp will conclude with a final on-campus concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 29, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. Admission is also free and open to the public.

## Girls basketball camp scheduled

The women's basketball team will host its annual Broncos Day Camp for girls entering grades three through eight from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday, June 25-28. WMU employees receive half off the \$100 registration fee. Visit <http://bit.ly/Kcb20i> to register.

The camp is designed to teach fundamental skills and rules of the game to young aspiring players. Skills will be taught in an energetic, encouraging fashion. All major areas of the game will be covered, including shooting, passing, ball handling, rebounding, defense and sportsmanship.

## Western News to go on hiatus soon

The next issue of *Western News* will be distributed on Thursday, June 21. This will be the last issue for the summer. The deadline to submit items for this issue is 5 p.m. Friday, June 15. *Western News* will resume publication at the beginning of the fall semester.

## New archives facility to be constructed

WMU officials are gearing up for the next major campus construction project as the University begins building a long-planned new home on the Oakland Drive Campus to house its University Archives and Regional History Collections, part of University Libraries.

Ground will be broken later this summer for a new facility that will be located near the intersection of Howard Street and Oakland Drive on the grounds of what was once the Kalamazoo Psychiatric Hospital. The new building will become home to the historical collections that are now housed in East Hall on WMU's East Campus.



Noble Lodge (Photo by Jeanne Baron)

The location selected is just north of Noble Lodge, once part of the KPH but not in use since 2005. Both the lodge and the 2.55-acre lot on which it stands were transferred to WMU by the state in 2010. After careful analysis, a private engineering firm determined that the building cannot be renovated or adapted for reuse in a cost-effective way. It will be demolished this summer at about the same time construction on the new archives facility begins.

The search for a new home for the collections has been a University priority for several years, and a number of locations were considered in the quest to find a spot that would ensure optimal storage conditions as well as easy public access for area residents who regularly use the collections. Funding for the new facility includes two significant private gifts. Details on the project will be announced closer to the anticipated July groundbreaking.

Archives and Regional History Collections consist of historical University, regional and local governmental records. The holdings total more than 28,000 cubic feet, making the WMU archives the largest facility of its type in southwest Michigan and one of the largest in the state. The unit has oral histories, census records, a research collection of books, magazines and newspapers, and several large photographic collections.

## Defense department honors WMU for troop support

President John M. Dunn was honored May 31 for his and the University's long record of support for students and faculty and staff members called to active duty by the National Guard or Reserve.

Dunn was recognized as a "patriotic employer" and for "contributing to national security" by supporting employee participation in the Guard and Reserve.

The award from the Office of the U.S. Secretary of Defense was presented in Kalamazoo by two representatives of the department, retired U.S. Navy Capt. Rick Burn

and Paul Ryan. Both are volunteers with an organization called Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, and Ryan leads the organization's Michigan committee.

Reserve Sgt. 1st Class Erik Conover, information technology, nominated the University for the award. He has been deployed three times for a year or more—once each to Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan. He submitted the nomination late last summer, shortly after his last deployment with the 415th Civil Affairs Battalion working on provincial reconstruction in Afghanistan.



From left, Ryan, Burn, Dunn and Conover (Photo by Mike Lanka)

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## Associate vice president for Human Resources appointed

Warren Hills, associate vice president for human resources at Ferris State University since 1999, has been appointed associate vice president for human resources at WMU.



Hills

Hills, whose appointment was effective April 30, earned a doctoral degree in higher education leadership from WMU.

As WMU's chief human relations officer, he will be a key member of the business and finance senior leadership team, with responsibility for managing, planning and delivering human resource programs and services to WMU's faculty, staff and administration.

He will oversee the main functional areas associated with employee recruitment, benefits administration, employee relations, compensation, training and development, records, human resources information systems, temporary staffing, and labor relations for staff bargaining units.

## Students receive funding for sustainability projects

Reducing paper usage, educating incoming students about sustainability and a novel way to produce green electricity are among the projects WMU students won funding this spring to pursue.

WMU's Student Sustainability Grant Program awarded \$10,928 to four projects during the spring funding cycle to help foster a campus culture of sustainability. Coupled with the \$31,803 that was awarded to six projects in the fall semester, the program has dispensed a total of \$42,731 during the 2011-12 academic year.

The Student Sustainability grants are available to students paying the Sustainability Fee, which students approved by vote in 2010. The four new projects, along with the amount awarded, are:

- Carbon-Neutral USB-Drives, \$4,878, to reduce energy usage and paper waste by using carbon neutral USB flash drives to electronically distribute mandatory reading materials to those attending WMU's financial workshop for Registered Student Organizations.



- New Student Orientation: Strides Toward Becoming Sustainable, \$3,125, to support sustainable efforts by First-Year Experience Programs, including buying durable, reusable umbrellas, which will be loaned out to orientation attendees in lieu of giving attendees disposable plastic ponchos.

- Prototype of a Hybrid Solar Updraft Tower, \$2,925, to produce a prototype hybrid solar updraft tower that uses lenses fixed atop a greenhouse and mirrors to direct sunlight onto a tower, where hot air will rise and drive turbines to create electricity.

- Botany Club, \$721, to support the club's efforts to teach students about plants and how to grow them.

Projects funded in earlier award cycles included building and maintaining a student-led cafe featuring locally sourced, sustainable and healthy food choices; maintaining gardens capable of supplying WMU catering services with sustainably grown produce; establishing a bicycle co-operative; and implementing a used-bike rental program.

## WMU community to gather for biennial golf outing

The fifth campuswide golf outing aimed at fostering camaraderie at WMU will be held Friday, Aug. 17, at The Prairies, 5303 W. Main St. in Kalamazoo next to the PNC Bank.

The biennial WMU Community Golf Outing is designed to introduce WMU colleagues to one another as well as strengthen personal and professional relationships. Anyone affiliated with the University may sign up to participate as a golfer or volunteer.

Volunteers are needed to help with logistics, especially check-in, and are encouraged to stay for dinner afterward.

Golfers must check in between 2:45 and 3:10 p.m. for this nine-hole event. The shotgun start begins at 3:30 p.m. Inexperienced as well as experienced golfers are encouraged to participate.

Since the goal of this outing is to build community at WMU, people may register as

a single (and be matched with someone) or as a double (and bring a colleague or a guest, such as a spouse). Doubles will be matched with another pair from another department within WMU to create a foursome.

Online registration is required. The cost depends on the registration date: now through Saturday, June 30, \$35; July 1 through July 31, \$38; and Aug. 1 through 9, \$45. The price includes nine holes with cart, cash bar, gratuity, prizes, a light dinner and refreshments.

Visit [wmich.edu/apa](http://wmich.edu/apa) for more information and to register. Direct questions to Darin Leigh, University Recreation, at [darin.leigh@wmich.edu](mailto:darin.leigh@wmich.edu) or (269) 387-3765.

## Track closed through September

The Broncos' Kanley Track, which doubles as a public outdoor running track, is closed for improvements and unavailable for use through Tuesday, Sept. 25.

The track surface will be replaced and additional drainage installed along the infield edge. Questions should be directed to projects and construction at (269) 387-854.

## Corrections

Pat Wilcox is positioned second from the right and Paige Warner on the right in the APA/PSSO award winners photo on page 3 of the May 24 issue.

Martha Warfield should have been identified as vice president for diversity and inclusion in the photo caption on page 4 of the May 24 issue.

## Jobs

Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources website at [wmich.edu/hr/careers-at-wmu.html](http://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.

## New book on Federal Reserve a big hit

J. Kevin Corder, political science, has written a new book that shines fresh light on the 2008 financial crisis by scrutinizing the actions of the Federal Reserve. Corder, whose research focus is the Fed, spent two years writing "The Fed and the Credit Crisis."



Corder

The book, released in April by Lynne Rienner Publishers Inc., concludes the Fed turned a blind eye to many practices in the home mortgage and banking industry and has become increasingly politicized. Also, its ability to prevent a similar crisis has been hampered by an ongoing disagreement over greater regulation and obstruction by the financial industry.

Corder's research has made him a hot commodity on news programs across the country. He has been interviewed on such nationally syndicated programs as "Your Money Matters," "Real Wealth" and "On the Money," as well as by numerous radio stations.

## Alma mater honors WMU couple

William B. Harrison III, emeritus in geosciences and founder and curator of the Michigan Geological Repository for Research and Education, and Linda K. Harrison, the repository's administrator, received a 2012 McMicken College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Cincinnati May 18.



L. Harrison



W. Harrison

This is the first time Cincinnati has given the award jointly to two recipients. The two were honored for their work at MGRRE, which is part of the Department of Geosciences, and assistance with the modernization of the geology department at the University of Latvia.

MGRRE is the product of 30 years of effort by William and 20 years by Linda. It now houses Michigan's largest archive of subsurface geological samples and data.

## Art historian selected for NEH seminar

Mary-Louise Totton, art, has been chosen for a National Endowment for the Humanities summer seminar based in the American Academy of Rome. During the seminar, she and 15 other professors from around the country will spend five weeks studying and discussing the constructed networks of the Roman Empire.



Totton

Totton will be the only Asian art historian in the group. Her project compares the iconographic networks of the Roman Empire to the symbolic systems found in the ancient Srivijayan and Sanjaya imperial monuments of Java, Indonesia.

She is WMU's art history area coordinator, teaches classes on a variety of Asian-Pacific topics and has developed a study abroad program in Java. Her research focuses on architectural ornamentation and personal adornment arts of Indonesia.



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WESTERN NEWS (USPS 362-210) is published by the Office of University Relations, Walwood Hall, Western Michigan University, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5433, every other week during the fall and spring semesters and Summer I session. Periodicals postage paid at Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5165.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Western News, Office of University Relations, Western Michigan University, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5433.

**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. Spring publication dates are **May 10 and 24 and June 7 and 21**. 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

# Fulbright grants awarded to four faculty members in 2011-12

Four WMU faculty members received prestigious Fulbright Program awards to work overseas during part of the 2011-12 academic year.

The Fulbright Program was established in 1946 and is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the federal government. Grant recipients are selected based on academic or professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in their fields.

WMU's 2011-12 Fulbright grant recipients were awarded a combination of short- and long-term grants.

- **Kuanchin Chen**, associate professor of business information systems, received a Fulbright Specialist award. Chen spent three weeks at National Chung Cheng University in Taiwan beginning in January. While there, he assessed curriculum opportunities for that university to stay ahead of the competition in higher education and engaged in lectures, research and instruction that guided the business administration faculty's development of a specialty focus in business analysis.

- **William W. Cobern**, professor of biological sciences as well as director of the Mallinson Institute for Science Education at WMU, received a Fulbright Lecturing/Research award. Cobern spent five months in Turkey beginning September 2011. His research and teaching were about secular and religious issues with respect to the teaching of science. He also gave lectures on the experimental study of science teaching efficacy. While in Turkey, Cobern gave 14 public lectures on both topics at various Turkish universities.

- **Richard A. Gershon**, professor of communication as well as co-

director of the University's telecommunications and information management program, received a Fulbright Specialist award. Gershon spent the 2011 fall semester at the University of Navarra in Pamplona, Spain. While at Navarra, he taught two accelerated courses. One course was for undergraduate students focusing on media management and telecommunications and the other course was for graduate students focusing on digital media and innovation.

- **Albert LaVergne**, professor of art as well as the University's sculpture area coordinator, received a Fulbright Lecturing/Research award. LaVergne began a 10 month-stint at Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria in January. His research and teaching involves a comparative analysis of traditional and contemporary Yoruba sculpture processes and his own unique metal-style of fabricating sculptures.



Chen



Cobern



Gershon



LaVergne



**READY TO READ**—Alexander Enyedi, arts and sciences dean, showed support for early childhood literacy by reading aloud to preschoolers at the Kalamazoo Public Library's Party in the Park May 30 in Bronson Park. The event attracted 1,575 preschoolers and focused community attention on the importance of sharing books with children before they enter kindergarten. (Photo courtesy of Andrea Enyedi)

## Facilities Management receives new accolade

Facilities Management has received a 2012 Effective and Innovative Practices Award for its steam trap management program, an extremely efficient system that lowers the cost of energy distribution to a large campus.

The award is bestowed by the Association of Higher Education Facilities Officers, which will present the award during its international conference Tuesday, July 17, in Denver and recognize WMU and other 2012 award winners in its *Facilities Manager* magazine.

The association represents higher education facility officers across the country. The award recognizes programs and processes that enhance service delivery, lower costs, increase productivity, improve customer service or otherwise benefit an educational institution.

WMU's central steam distribution system and trap program is considered a model for U.S. higher education institutions, and since 1988, the University has documented a cost avoidance of \$4.2 million with this program.

### Service

**Editor's note:** Service anniversaries for July and August will be posted this summer on the Human Resources website and printed in the first fall issue of *Western News*.

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

**40 Years**—Lynn M. Ross, Lawson Ice Arena.

**35 Years**—Charles E. Hines Jr., accountancy, and Blaine D. Kalafut, public safety.

**30 Years**—Francies Frazier, building custodial and support services, and Shirley A. Vernia, admissions.

**25 Years**—Jim P. DeMello, finance and commercial law; Betty D. Dennis, Extended University Programs; Angela M. Miller, accounting; and Dan L. St. Clair, maintenance services.

**20 Years**—Lori M. Kison, University Libraries.

**15 Years**—Andrew Rudolph Bachmann, public safety; Earl Conner, building custodial and support services; Gaurav J. Dave, information technology; William Mark Feenstra, aviation; Lisa J. Knutson, Auxiliary Enterprises; Pamela A. McCartney, chemistry; and Jeffrey L. Nilsson, aviation.

**10 Years**—Trent Hines, projects and construction; William Jenkins, West Hills Athletic Club; Paul L. Kirk, building custodial and support services; and Demetrios I. Nearchou, projects and construction.

**Five Years**—Thomas M. Birkenbach, information technology; Susan M. Ketchum, engineering and applied sciences; Robin Beth Pountain, social work; and Theresa M. Whitaker, Medieval Institute.

## WMU signs joint agreement with Grand Rapids college

A new joint agreement between Grand Rapids Community College and WMU's Haworth College of Business will offer students joint admission to both schools.

The agreement will also enable students to initiate their college studies at GRCC and seamlessly transfer to the University to complete a Bachelor of Business Administration degree.

WMU President John M. Dunn and GRCC President Steven C. Ender formalized the agreement with a signing ceremony June 4 at the college.

Students would be admitted to both GRCC and WMU during their freshman year under the agreement, and assuming they meet the requirements of the agreement, would be admitted to WMU's Haworth College of Business prior to beginning their junior year.

A WMU advisor will be available at GRCC twice a month to meet with students in the program. In addition, students will be taking a one-credit WMU Business Enterprise course on the GRCC campus during their freshmen year at GRCC.

The first participants in the joint business program are expected to enroll in fall 2012.

### Obituary



Grace

**John Dale Grace**, a retired faculty member, died May 21 due to complications following a fall. He was 79.

Grace joined the WMU faculty in 1969 and retired in 1997 as professor emeritus of geosciences after 27 years of service to the University.

His work was featured in dozens of journal publications on mineralogy and geochemistry.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Kalamazoo Astronomical Society's Telescope Project. Visit [lifestorynet.com](http://lifestorynet.com) to make a memorial guestbook entry.



# On Campus with Chris Jackson



**FIRMLY PLANTED**  
(Photo by Mike Lanka)

Christopher Jackson's workplace serves as a cost-effective partner in WMU's environmental initiatives as well as research space and a teaching tool.

Jackson, manager of Wood Hall's Finch Plant Science Greenhouse, has been increasingly growing plants for landscape services and more recently working with the Office for Sustainability and student researchers on projects ranging from growing herbs and vegetables to using vermicomposting to convert food waste into nutrient-rich fertilizer.

"Over the past three years, the greenhouse has started more than 15,000 native plants for University-owned preserves and natural areas and started vegetables that have produced 1,000 pounds of food for dining services," he says. "We also provide annuals for landscape services to help beautify campus. It's a win-win situation. They receive low-cost plants, and money is added to the greenhouse budget, which can be used to offset other costs."

Faculty research and maintaining a collection of plants from all over the world are still Finch's top priorities. The collection garners the most interest from outside groups and annually draws several requests for tours from area garden clubs and schools.

Jackson stays busy year-round taking care of plants, providing technical assistance to researchers, working with maintenance services to keep the greenhouse in good repair, and handling operational tasks such as assigning space and ordering supplies.

"The best thing by far is the students. A varied group has worked in the greenhouse over the years—from music and aviation majors to Office for Sustainability interns and biological sciences graduate student researchers," he says. "They see the greenhouse and are drawn to it, especially at night when it's all lit up. It just looks like an oasis. They're enthusiastic, motivated and generally interested."

As for Jackson, he's pretty much rooted at WMU, where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees and then in 1996, hired on as manager of the greenhouse.

He lives in Alamo, Mich., with his wife, Celene, who is the Department of Biological Sciences undergraduate lab coordinator. Jackson enjoys outdoor gardening, hunting and fishing, and "no," he stresses, "given what I do all day, I don't have one house plant."

## Administrative Professional Association elects 2012-13 officers, Executive Board

The Administrative Professional Association has elected its officers and Executive Board members for the 2012-13 year, which begins Friday, June 8.

The association works on behalf of WMU as well as all benefits-eligible non-bargaining employees at the University who are covered under the Staff Compensation System and classified as exempt (salaried).

New or re-elected officers are:

- president, Julie Nemire, Graduate College;
- vice president, Chris Voss, University Recreation;
- treasurer, Faith Wicklund, Miller Auditorium;
- corresponding secretary, Lynda Hunt, development and alumni relations; and
- recording secretary, Sue Kohlert, Sindacus Health Center.

In addition to the officers and immediate past president Amy Seth, University Recreation, the 2012-13 Executive Board includes

15 APA members elected to represent WMU's four major divisions.

The academic affairs members are George Broomell, information technology; Michele Cole, education and human development; Mario Galbreath, information technology; Lou Ann Grover, teaching, learning and educational studies; Randall James, University Libraries; Randy Ott, Center for Academic Success; Kathleen "Kitty" Scheffers, health and human services; and Liz Teviotdale, Medieval Institute.

The administrative affairs members are Suzanne Beals Dauchy, development and alumni relations, and Mary Ramlow, Evaluation Center.

The business and finance members are Julie Lenczycki, construction services;



Nemire



Voss

Michelle Lodeman, accounts receivable; and Laura Vine, business services.

The student affairs members are Ashley Ley, student affairs, and Christopher Sell, Career and Student Employment Services.

APA members and those eligible for membership may email their questions or concerns to the association at [apa-info@wmich.edu](mailto:apa-info@wmich.edu) or direct them to any officer or Executive Board member.

Association dues are \$15 for one year or \$25 for two years. Visit [wmich.edu/apa](http://wmich.edu/apa) to learn more or obtain a membership form.

### Regulations czar to speak

Michigan's chief regulatory officer will talk about his leadership role in reinventing the regulatory and licensing environment in Michigan when he presents the next Keystone Community Bank Breakfast Series talk at 8 a.m. Friday, June 29.

Steven Hilfinger, director of the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, will speak on "Regulatory Reinvention in Michigan" in the Dean's Conference Room of Schneider Hall. His presentation, is free and open to the public.

The event begins with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Reservations are required and can be made by calling (269) 387-6059.

Gov. Rick Snyder created the Office of Regulatory Reinvention within DLARA, and named Hilfinger to his position in 2011.

### Defense department honors WMU

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"Besides me, Western has supported other employees and students who have been called to military duty," Conover says. "The Western community has shown many times over that they care for those of us who have a second job serving our country."

He cited care packages sent to him overseas, colleagues who checked on his family regularly and a department that welcomed him back when his deployments ended.

In accepting the award, Dunn praised the

sacrifices that Guard and Reserve members make in order to fulfill their duties and acknowledged the campuswide effort to support those employees and students who serve.

"I know my name is on the award, but this is an honor intended for our entire campus," Dunn said. "It singles out both those who serve in the Guard and Reserve and those who step up to help support those serving and the families they've left behind."



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