



# Western News

For and about WMU faculty and staff

JUNE 21, 2012

Volume 38, Number 18

## Two commencement ceremonies set

WMU will grant degrees to nearly 1,500 students during two commencement ceremonies Saturday, June 30, in Miller Auditorium. President John M. Dunn will preside over the summer ceremonies. Visit [wmich.edu/commencement](http://wmich.edu/commencement) for complete details.

A ceremony will be held at 9 a.m. for graduates of the colleges of Education and Human Development and Engineering and Applied Sciences, Extended University Programs, and the Haworth College of Business. The second ceremony starts at noon and is for graduates of the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Aviation, Fine Arts, and Health and Human Services.

## Teaching assistants' contract approved

Acting at their June 7 meeting, WMU trustees approved terms of a new three-year contract with the University's Teaching Assistants Union that is effective for the start of the 2012-13 academic year. The contract elements were ratified by the WMU chapter of TAU during a May 23 union vote.

They include a 1 percent wage increase for graduate assistants at both the master's and doctoral levels, while doctoral associate wages remain frozen for the term of the contract; one additional credit hour per semester for graduate assistants during each of the contract years, taking the level from six to nine credits; and an annual health care premium subsidy of \$1,025 for all TAU members who participate in WMU's health care insurance program.

## University to offer new programs

Since spring, the WMU Board of trustees has signed off on the creation of several academic programs.

The Graduate Certificate Program in Spirituality, Culture and Health is designed to be delivered online and to help health care workers understand and work with the connection between spiritual beliefs and clinical care outcomes.

The Doctor of Philosophy in Science Education now has concentrations in biological sciences, chemistry, geosciences, geography and physics.

The new Master of Arts in Leadership for Organizational Learning and Performance, an enhancement of the former M.A. in Human Resources Development, is being offered at WMU's regional location in Grand Rapids, Mich., as well as on the main campus.

## Western News goes on summer hiatus

Today's issue of *Western News* is the last issue for the summer. *Western News* will resume its regular publication schedule Sept. 6—the first Thursday after the start of fall semester. During the hiatus, visit the WMU News website at [wmich.edu/wmu/news](http://wmich.edu/wmu/news) to keep up with everything happening around campus.

## Snyder announces new Wilson Fellows cohort

An engineer who holds 55 patents, Richard McCoy, is among 13 highly skilled people who are pursuing specially designed master's degrees at WMU to prepare for careers as science and math teachers in high-need public schools.

Each of the 13 has received one of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Woodrow Wilson Michigan Teaching Fellowships. This statewide initiative aims to improve student achievement by placing into secondary-school classrooms career changers or recent college graduates who are particularly talented in math, science or technology.



Tabitha Mingus, mathematics, co-directs WMU's Wilson fellowship program. She and Marcia Feters, teaching, learning and educational studies, manage the program and teach fellows. (Photo by Mike Lanka)

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder unveiled the 2012 cohort at a press conference in Lansing June 13. This is the second year of the program in Michigan. WMU and five other state universities are each training a class of fellows. The students were selected for this competitive fellowship for their strong backgrounds in what are known as STEM disciplines—science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

"Great teachers and great teaching can make all the difference for our students, their educational growth, future success and quality of life," said Snyder in announcing the new fellows. "The W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Woodrow Wilson Michigan Teaching Fellowship is making tremendous strides toward the goal of providing children across Michigan access to

highly effective educators in these critical subject areas, and I commend this work and look forward to its continued role and achievements."

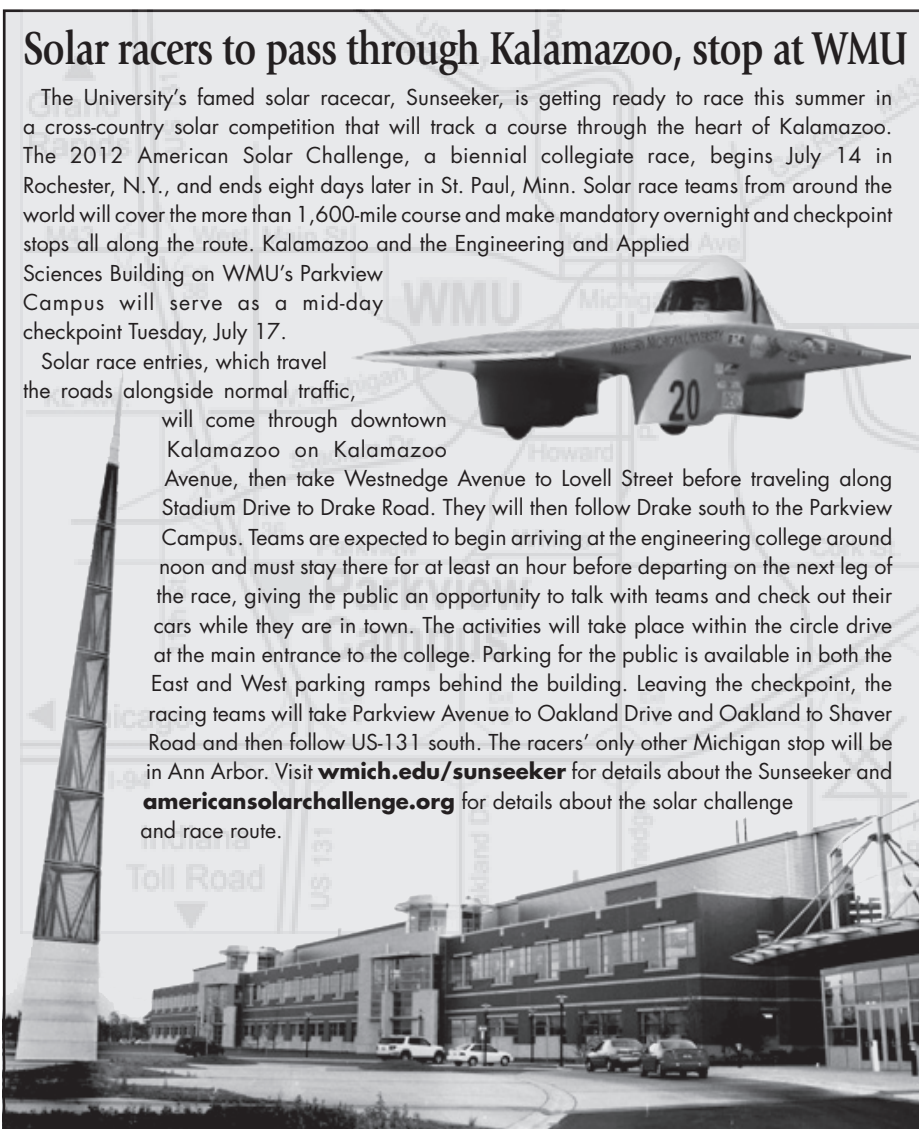
The Wilson fellowship program, which is offered in other states, aims to attract the best candidates to teaching, cut teacher attrition, put talented educators in high-need schools

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## Solar racers to pass through Kalamazoo, stop at WMU

The University's famed solar racecar, Sunseeker, is getting ready to race this summer in a cross-country solar competition that will track a course through the heart of Kalamazoo. The 2012 American Solar Challenge, a biennial collegiate race, begins July 14 in Rochester, N.Y., and ends eight days later in St. Paul, Minn. Solar race teams from around the world will cover the more than 1,600-mile course and make mandatory overnight and checkpoint stops all along the route. Kalamazoo and the Engineering and Applied Sciences Building on WMU's Parkview Campus will serve as a mid-day checkpoint Tuesday, July 17.

Solar race entries, which travel the roads alongside normal traffic, will come through downtown Kalamazoo on Kalamazoo Avenue, then take Westnedge Avenue to Lovell Street before traveling along Stadium Drive to Drake Road. They will then follow Drake south to the Parkview Campus. Teams are expected to begin arriving at the engineering college around noon and must stay there for at least an hour before departing on the next leg of the race, giving the public an opportunity to talk with teams and check out their cars while they are in town. The activities will take place within the circle drive at the main entrance to the college. Parking for the public is available in both the East and West parking ramps behind the building. Leaving the checkpoint, the racing teams will take Parkview Avenue to Oakland Drive and Oakland to Shaver Road and then follow US-131 south. The racers' only other Michigan stop will be in Ann Arbor. Visit [wmich.edu/sunseeker](http://wmich.edu/sunseeker) for details about the Sunseeker and [americansolarchallenge.org](http://americansolarchallenge.org) for details about the solar challenge and race route.



# Annual competitive cycling event scheduled

Cyclists are gearing up for WMU's seventh annual competitive cycling day set for 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, July 14, at the Parkview Campus.

The 2012 Miller Energy Criterium is being organized by WMU and the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club. It will include 11 separate races throughout the day for participants of every age and ability level.

Online registration ends at 11:59 p.m. Thursday, July 11. Race-day registration will open at 6:30 a.m. on site in the Southwest Michigan Innovation Center and close 30 minutes prior



Miller Energy Criterium (Photo by Mike Lanka)

to each race. Registration for the kid's race is free. The entry fee for all other races ranges from \$10 to \$30.

Racing will begin with the Men's Elite 4 event at 8 a.m. and conclude with the Junior ages-10-to-14 event at 5 p.m.

A race for kids of all ages will be held at 1:15 p.m., with free helmets given out to participants while supplies last. A total of \$6,000 in prize money will be awarded during the 2012 criterium.

Rain or shine, competitors will race around a 1.1-mile course that features smooth pavement with three 90-degree turns and multiple sweeping turns.

The criterium is the most popular form of bike racing in the United States. It is the cycling equivalent of the Indy 500—full of high speed and intense action. Cyclists race on a closed-circuit

track, completing each lap in about one minute while traveling at speeds in excess of 30 mph as they race to be the first to cross the finish line without being passed.

A short, closed course makes criterium cycling an ideal spectator sport. For WMU's event, spectators may park at the University's soccer field off Parkview Avenue east of Drake Road, then watch the fast, aggressive action free of charge. Food and beverages will be available for purchase, and vendors will be on hand offering cycling gear and accessories.

The Miller Energy Criterium is part of the area's Race Weekend activities that also include a women's racing clinic from 6:45 to 8:45 p.m. Friday, July 13, at the Parkview Campus in front of the Engineering and Applied Sciences Building and a charity race for the Make-A-Wish Foundation at 8 a.m. Sunday, July 15, in Lawton, Mich.

Visit [kalamazoobicycleclub.org](http://kalamazoobicycleclub.org) for more information, including how to register.

# Promotions approved for 37 faculty members

The WMU Board of Trustees approved the promotions of 37 faculty members at its June 7 meeting. All of the promotions are effective with the beginning of the 2012-13 academic year.

**Promoted to professor** were: Todd J. Barkman, biological sciences; Jonathan Bush, English; Kuanchin Chen, business information systems; Kieran J. Fogarty, occupational therapy; Barbara J. Frazier, family and consumer sciences; Terrell L. Hodge, mathematics; Yvette D. Hyter, speech pathology and audiology; Pairin Katerattanakul, business information systems; Steve Kohler, biological sciences; Yirong Mo, chemistry; Annegret Paul, mathematics; Stephanie M. Peterson, psychology; Eric M. Sauer, counselor education and counseling psychology; Bilinda Straight, anthropology; Jeffrey Strom, mathematics; Judith Swisher, finance and commercial law; and Devrim Yaman, finance and commercial law.

**Promoted to associate professor** were: Sheila Bair, University Libraries; Manuel A. Bautista, physics; William J. Charland, art; Christian L. Coryn, educational leadership, research and technology; Scott Cowan, music; Edward Eckel, University Libraries; Susan Freeman, gender and women's studies; Chien-juh Gu, sociology; Melinda Koelling, mathematics; D. Steven Mackey, mathematics; Thisbe E. Nissen, English; Glinda Rawls, Counseling Services; and Mark W. St. Martin, Counseling Services.

**Promoted to master faculty specialist** were: Jan M. Gabel-Goes, business information systems; Asghar Kayani, physics; Glen P. Langworthy, aviation sciences; David W. Montgomery, music; Susan Nelson, nursing; Mary E.B. Stahl, nursing; and Gay S. Walker, physician assistant and Integrative Holistic Health and Wellness Program.

# Tenure granted to 19

The WMU Board of Trustees approved the tenure of 19 faculty members at its June 7 meeting, effective with the beginning of the 2012-13 academic year.

The names of those granted tenure, along with their units or program affiliations, are: Sheila Bair, University Libraries; Manuel A. Bautista, physics; William Charland, art; Christian L. Coryn, educational leadership, research and technology; Scott Cowan, music; Edward Eckel, University Libraries; Mervyn J. Elliott, aviation sciences; Julie A. Evans, music; Susan Freeman, Gender and Women's Studies Program; Chien-juh Gu, sociology; Asghar Kayani, physics; Melinda Koelling, mathematics; D. Steven Mackey, mathematics; Susan K. Nelson, nursing; Thisbe Nissen, English; Glinda J. Rawls, Counseling Services; Mark W. St. Martin, Counseling Services; Mary Stahl, nursing; and Gay S. Walker, physician assistant and Integrative Holistic Health and Wellness Program.

# Anthropology sets public open house

The annual Fort St. Joseph Archaeology Open House will be held Aug. 11 and 12 at the fort, which is near Niles, Mich. This free event typically features displays, viewing of excavations and informational talks.

## Obituary

**Robert "Bobby" M. Davidson** died June 3 at Rose Arbor Hospice in Kalamazoo. He was 93.

Davidson, of Kalamazoo, is credited with developing the Jazz Studies Program at WMU and founded the University Jazz Lab Band.

He joined the WMU faculty in 1952 as a part-time percussion instructor and retired in 1983 as assistant professor emeritus of

music after more than 30 years of service to the University.

A memorial gathering will take place from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday, June 28, in the Life Story Funeral Home, Betzler-Kalamazoo, 6080 Stadium Drive. Services will be held there at 1 p.m. Friday, June 29. A reception will follow.

Memorial gifts may be made to the WMU Foundation for the jazz studies program or Rose Arbor Hospice. Visit [lifestorynet.com](http://lifestorynet.com) to make a memorial guestbook entry.

## Exchange

**Wanted**—Room to rent to 30-year-old, female Argentine student who will be working on a project with Lewis Pyenson from mid-July through September. Contact: Pyenson at [lewis.pyenson@wmich.edu](mailto:lewis.pyenson@wmich.edu) or (508) 380-4905.

**For sale**—Multi-level home on quiet circle in Milwood neighborhood. Four miles from WMU. Four bedrooms, 1.5 bathrooms and terraced backyard that overlooks Portage Creek. \$119,900. MLS#12001779. Contact: John Clark at [john.clark@wmich.edu](mailto:john.clark@wmich.edu).

## 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.

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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. Summer I 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**



# Legislators OK state budget, \$750,000 for foster youth program

The new Michigan budget approved by the Legislature June 5 includes \$750,000 in the Department of Human Services appropriation to support WMU's renowned program that helps former foster care youth earn college degrees.

The item in the DHS appropriation is part of an overall state budget that also includes a 2.31 percent increase in annual state appropriations to WMU.

The DHS funding is for the Foster Youth and Higher Education initiative, a 4-year-old effort known most commonly as the Seita Scholars program. The program provides a support network for students who have aged out of foster care and are pursuing college degrees. The initiative has already seen its first graduates and has garnered state and national attention as a comprehensive model for supporting the college aspirations of former foster-care youth.

DHS has been involved in supporting the program in the past by providing two state employees at WMU to work with Seita Scholars and serve both as caseworkers and two of the program's five campus coaches. DHS also promotes the Seita program model at conferences around the state.

The WMU program offers a full-tuition scholarship to qualified former foster youth and includes a commitment of year-round housing, which is critical for students without a family home to return to during semester breaks and holiday recesses. This fall, the program is scheduled to welcome its fifth incoming class to campus. The influx of 45 new students will bring the total of students in the program to about 160.

"We credit state Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker, Speaker of the House Jase Bolger and Rep. Robert Genetski who all were strong advocates for WMU in the negotiations. We are enormously grateful to them for championing this important work with former foster care youth," said WMU President John M. Dunn when he outlined the state appropriation process at a June 7 meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees.

The Michigan House and Senate conference committee also settled on budget



These Seita Scholars, as well as this fall's incoming scholars, are benefiting from state support for WMU's Foster Youth and Higher Education initiative. (Photo by Mike Lanka)

provisions for higher education appropriations as part of the final budget negotiations, agreeing on a formula that increases the operations budgets for the state's 15 public universities by an average of 2.25 percent. The exact appropriation amount varies from university to university.

The formula means WMU will see a 2.31 percent—or \$2.15 million—increase, which is the fourth largest increase among Michigan universities and behind the University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Grand Valley State University. The formula used to apportion increases was based on the number of degrees awarded in critical skill areas, research and economic development expenditures and a number of national performance metrics.

There is also a tuition-restraint element designed to provide an incentive for universities to keep tuition increases under 4 percent. Dunn noted it is not yet possible to develop an accurate estimate of what the tuition-restraint incentive would mean to WMU.

Taken together, the increased higher education appropriation, the Seita Scholars allocation and an adjustment to offset WMU expenses for employees who are part of the Michigan Public Service Employee Retirement Service will result in the University receiving 3.21 percent more in state funding for the 2012-13 year than was received for the current fiscal year.

The entire state budget now awaits the signature of Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder.

## Mentors, donated supplies sought for WMU's Seita Scholars

Career mentors are being sought to help guide WMU's incoming Seita Scholars.

Forty-five new mentors are needed to help the former foster youth build networks of supportive individuals as they pursue college studies, then transition into the workplace.

The career mentoring service links Seita Scholars to professionals who engage mentees in activities such as job shadowing, networking, information sharing, and discussion about career paths and plans.

Mentors must meet minimum requirements and commit to completing an application and background screening process, attending an orientation session and mentoring for one full school year. The application deadline for this fall's new mentors has been extended to Friday, June 29, but mentor applications are accepted year-round.

Visit [wmich.edu/fyit/Giving/volunteering](http://wmich.edu/fyit/Giving/volunteering) for additional information or call (269) 387-8362.

In addition, many incoming Seita Scholars will arrive on campus without basic items to help make their school year successful. The University is collecting essential living and personal health care products so welcome packs can be presented to them.

Welcome pack items may be dropped off at Harrison Hall from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, July 9; 5 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 17; 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, July 25; 5 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 2; and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Aug. 10.

Essential items sought range from toothbrushes and toothpaste, body wash, deodorant, and shaving and feminine hygiene products to towels, hypoallergenic pillows, twin-size bedding, laundry baskets, and clock radios with alarms. Dry goods and food and financial contributions also are accepted.

Visit [wmich.edu/news/2012/06/741](http://wmich.edu/news/2012/06/741) for a detailed description of needed items or email [fyit-info@wmich.edu](mailto:fyit-info@wmich.edu) for more information.

## Retirements of three faculty, eight staff members approved

The WMU Board of Trustees June 7 signed off on several retirements and resignations.

Two faculty members are retiring as emeriti. Their names, positions, years of continuous service and effective dates of retirement are: Leonard C. Ginsberg, biological sciences, 35 years, effective April 30, 2013, and Barbara Speas Havira (change in retirement date), history and gender and women studies, 43 years, effective Dec. 31. Also retiring is Michael Grammer, geosciences, 10 years, effective Aug. 19.

The staff members retiring are: Cora Jean Bickel, admissions, 33 years, effective July 31; Diane D. DeZoete, Bernhard Center Dining Service, 11 years, effective April 30; Bonnie S. Gorham, WMU-Battle Creek and WMU-

Lansing, 23 years, effective July 4; Anne C. Hopkins, psychology, 21 years, effective June 30; Michael Ludwiczak, aviation, 13 years, effective June 30; Kay Rafferty, Center for Disability Services, 15 years, effective April 17; Jane L. Tomlin, information technology, 21 years, effective May 31; and Robert E. Taylor Jr., building custodial and support services, 12 years, effective Aug. 19.

Faculty members resigning are: Grace Lemmon, management, effective April 29; Stanley C. Pelkey II, music, effective Aug. 19; Marian Rebros, paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging, effective May 17; Patric Spence, communication, effective Aug. 19; and Richard Utz, English, effective April 29.

## First Light Center grant awarded

Yuan-Kang Wang, sociology, has received the first Timothy Light Center for Chinese Studies Research Grant.

Wang received \$3,000 for his project titled "The Art of Domination: Managing Regional Hegemony in Qing China and the United States." It will result in a book and fill an important gap in international relations literature by providing a comparative, historical perspective on China's rise and dominance in the international system.

Light Center grants are awarded annually and provide support to WMU faculty for research and creative activities that support the study of Greater China. Visit [wmich.edu/chinesestudiescenter](http://wmich.edu/chinesestudiescenter) for more information.

# On Campus with Ellen Eberstein



MAKING CAMPUS LOOK GOOD  
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

"If you like to walk, come out and look at our planters and gardens, and stroll past our fountains," urges master gardener Ellen Eberstein. "This campus is a pretty place to walk around."

Eberstein can't help but take pride in the role she's played in WMU's beautification efforts. She's been involved in the effort for more than 20 years and now is the lead person taking care of the grounds around the Student Recreation Center, all of East Campus, and the power plant, Seelye Center and police building.

"I love my job; I really do. There's always something different to do, and I love being outdoors. My boss lets me run with things, like picking plants and doing some designing," she says. "It's great seeing the fruits of your labor. I'm proud of myself and my team. When you keep up on things, everything looks nice. You feel good about yourself because you're doing something for the University."

Eberstein came to WMU and dining services in 1984 and moved to landscape services seven years later. She learned gardening on the job and now helps train others. Among them is her daughter, Andrea, a WMU student who is one of the student and professional staffers she supervises.

During much of the year, Eberstein's duties include selecting, planting and watering flowers; mulching; mowing; weed whipping; edging; pruning; and applying pesticides as well as removing trash, sweeping and anything else that spruces up her areas. In winter, she shovels snow and salts steps and sidewalks around her assigned buildings. The rest of the time is spent pruning, ordering plants and staying abreast of job-related reading.

Eberstein likes fishing and canoeing and lives on a 23-acre farm in Vicksburg, Mich., with her husband, Todd, a fellow WMU employee. The recently married couple maintains several flower beds and in addition to dogs and cats, keeps goats, chickens, rabbits, ducks and other small animals. Eberstein has three grown daughters, and with Todd, a total of seven grandchildren. "We enjoy spending time with our family, animals and plants," she says. "That's pretty much what we love to do."

## NCAA honors Broncos for academic skill

The University's men's basketball and women's tennis teams are among Division I teams nationwide being honored with Public Recognition Awards from the NCAA for posting Academic Progress Rates in the top 10 percent for their respective sports.

Honorees were announced June 14 by the NCAA. It is the third time in the past four years the men's basketball team has received a Public Recognition Award from the NCAA, and the second time in the past three years the women's tennis team has received the award.

Each year, the NCAA tracks the classroom performance of student-athletes on every Division I team through the annual scorecard of academic achievement, known as the Academic Progress Rate—APR. The score measures eligibility and retention each semester or quarter and provides a clear picture of the academic culture in each sport.

WMU is one of eight Mid-American Conference schools to be honored this year and among just five to have multiple programs recognized. The Bronco men's basketball program was the only such program to post an APR in the top 10 percent. The Bronco women's tennis program is one of four in the MAC to be recognized.

## Construction disrupting localized traffic flow

Summer construction projects are prompting several lane and road closures near Schneider and Rood halls in the coming months, as well as other West Campus areas.

- Rankin Avenue is down to one lane. Flagmen are present, and travel in both directions is now available. Rankin will reopen mid-July.

- Wilbur Avenue is down to one lane. Flagmen are present, and travel in both directions will be available after today. Wilbur will reopen at the beginning of August.

- After today, the section of Wilbur adjacent to the Fetzer Center and Rood Hall will reopen.

- Road, sidewalk and parking lot traffic will continue to be disrupted around the Sangren Hall and pedestrian mall projects.

Visit the Facilities Management website at [fm.wmich.edu](http://fm.wmich.edu) now and throughout the summer for information about construction projects.



## PSSO elects 2012-13 officers, board

The Professional Support Staff Organization has elected its officers for the 2012-13 academic year.

The organization represents WMU's benefits-eligible non-exempt (hourly paid) non-bargaining employees who are covered under the Staff



Culver



Morris-Mier

Compensation System. Membership also is open to University retirees who are former PSSO members.

New or re-elected officers are: president, Terri Culver, accounting; vice president, Carol Morris-Mier, education and human development; secretary, Pat Wilcox, payroll and disbursements; treasurer, Nancy Johnson, associate vice president for finance's office; and members at large, Kim Feenstra, psychology; Kris Kenz, Facilities Management; Rebecca Spanjer, grants and contracts; Jessica Smith, Career and Student Employment Services; and Crystal Stein, Mal-linson Institute.

PSSO members and those eligible for membership may email any board member with WMU-related questions or concerns. Organization dues are \$8 for one year or \$15 for two years.

Visit [wmich.edu/pssso](http://wmich.edu/pssso) to learn more about the Professional Support Staff Organization or obtain a membership form.

## Snyder announces new Wilson cohort continued from page 1

and also transform university-based teacher education programs. The Kellogg Foundation launched this initiative in Michigan, providing \$18 million in funding.

Participants receive a \$30,000 fellowship to complete a cutting-edge master's degree program, commit to teaching for three years and receive ongoing mentoring. Meanwhile, the participating universities agree to redesign their teacher education programs.

This year's fellowship competition attracted 102,000 inquiries and ultimately 2,017 applications. The selection process included screening at the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, a full-day interview led by STEM teachers and careful admissions review by the universities. Michigan's 2012 cohort consists of 64 students who primarily hail from Michigan communities.