



# Western News

OCTOBER 22, 2015  
Volume 42, Number 4

For and about WMU faculty and staff

## Two calls for proposals announced

Those wishing to give presentations during the Teaching With Technology Symposium have until Friday, Oct. 30, to submit their proposals. The annual symposium, which will be held Wednesday, Feb. 10, provides an opportunity for faculty members and graduate teaching assistants to showcase their use of technology.

Proposals also are being sought for those interested in presenting high-tech, low-tech, and no-tech tools in January and March. These Cool Tools for Teaching programs help colleagues enhance their teaching methods.

Visit [wmich.edu/facultydevelopment](http://wmich.edu/facultydevelopment) for submission details about either call for proposals or to register for an upcoming Cool Tools session. Sessions are scheduled for Friday, Oct. 30; Monday, Nov. 16; Wednesday, Nov. 18; and Thursday, Nov. 19.

## Time to help recognize WMU staffers

Nominations for the spring semiannual Make a Difference awards are due Saturday, Oct. 31. The awards recognize staff members for their daily investment of energy and creativity. Visit [wmich.edu/makeadifference](http://wmich.edu/makeadifference) for more information, including guidelines and the nomination form.

## PSSO annual fundraiser underway

The Professional Support Staff Organization is selling popcorn from Kalamazoo Kettle Corn as part of its annual fundraiser. Orders are due by 4 p.m. Monday, Nov. 23. Proceeds support PSSO, which is able in turn to support WMU's Seita Scholars, Relay for Life and Invisible Need Project as well as scholarships for PSSO members and their dependents. Visit [wmich.edu/pssoholidayfundraiser](http://wmich.edu/pssoholidayfundraiser) to make an order.

## Faculty scholar nominations sought

Nominations are due no later than Friday, Feb. 12, for the Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award, the highest honor WMU bestows on its faculty members. The award is based on outstanding professional achievements. It recognizes those whose work is widely known beyond campus and constitutes a significant body of achievement, a substantial amount of which has been accomplished while a WMU faculty member.

Current, continuing board-appointed full- and part-time employees with faculty rank are eligible if they have at least seven academic years of service to WMU and are not previous winners.

For more information, visit [wmich.edu/research/awards/dfsa](http://wmich.edu/research/awards/dfsa).

## Renew parking permits by Oct. 31

Employees can register for their 2015-16 parking permits through Saturday, Oct. 31, online through GoWMU or by visiting [wmich.edu/parking](http://wmich.edu/parking). Renewals also can be made in person at Parking Services.

## Heritage Hall grand opening details set

The community values that gave birth to WMU will take center stage Friday, Oct. 23, as the Kalamazoo and University communities gather to formally reopen Heritage Hall.

An outdoor ribbon-cutting ceremony at 2 p.m. will mark the return to service of the building as home to the University's Alumni Center and Office of Development and Alumni Relations.

The event will focus on the role of values and heritage in creating WMU. It will feature remarks by Richard G. Haworth, chairman emeritus of Haworth Inc. and a WMU trustee emeritus, whose family and company made a major in-kind gift to furnish the newly renovated facility.

Also speaking at the ceremony will be WMU President John M. Dunn; Jennifer Brinn Lentner, president of the WMU Alumni Association; and James S. Thomas, WMU vice president for development and



Dignitaries and three days of open houses will mark Heritage Hall's grand opening. (Photo by Mike Lanka)

alumni relations.

Numerous other gifts will be highlighted by speakers, including a major gift from the Gilmore Foundation and large private gifts that have led to named rooms within the facility.

The program also will include music provided by the Bronco Marching Band and a flag-raising ceremony by the Army ROTC Bronco Battalion. That ceremony will feature a U.S. flag that once flew over the U.S. Capitol and was sent to WMU for the occasion by Congressman Fred Upton. The flag pole on site was a gift from the WMU Class of 1942 and was "Dedicated to all men of Western in the Armed Services of the United States in World War II."

Following the ribbon cutting, self-guided tours of the building will begin and last until 4 p.m. In addition to touring the building, those attending the ceremony will be able to visit a number of stations around the building.

In addition to a hospitality tent, they will

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## Numerous events scheduled to honor veterans

Students and employees will be engaging in a weeklong celebration of Veterans Day, which is officially observed Wednesday,



Past WMU-hosted events have included a luncheon for veterans. (Photo by Mike Lanka)

Nov. 11. A summary of major events honoring members of the military and veterans from all countries as well as their families follows. Visit [wmich.edu/military](http://wmich.edu/military) and click the Events link for a comprehensive listing along with event details.

### Saturday, Oct. 31

- Service project—Cleaning of nearly 4,000 headstones by business students, 10 a.m. to noon, Fort Custer National Cemetery, Augusta.

### Friday, Nov. 6

- Career Conversations for Veterans—Roundtable discussions, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.,

Schneider Hall, Dean's Conference Room. Preparatory event for the Boots to Suits Career Fair Tuesday, Nov. 10. Lunch provided.

### Monday, Nov. 9

- Panel discussion—"Military Family Life: Families, Service Members and Veterans," noon to 1:30 p.m., 157-159 Bernhard Center.

### Tuesday, Nov. 10

- Blood drive—Noon to 5:45 p.m., indoor tennis courts, Student Recreation Center. Walk-in donors are welcome. To schedule an appointment, contact Cris Obreiter at (269) 387-8120.

- Stories from the Barracks to the Front—Readings by student and guest military veterans, noon to 1:30 p.m., Multicultural Center, Trimpe Building. Submissions are being accepted from WMU students who have served or are currently serving in their country's military. Submissions are due Friday, Oct. 28, via email to [wmu-international@wmich.edu](mailto:wmu-international@wmich.edu). For details, visit [bit.ly/1GRWhro](http://bit.ly/1GRWhro).

- Boots to Suits Career Fair—4 to 7 p.m., 208-209 Bernhard Center. Military-focused career fair open to all student and local military members and veterans as well as their dependents.

### Wednesday, Nov. 11

- Talk—"Homefront Debriefings: The Lives of Veterans in the First Civilian Division," by

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# Around campus and beyond

## Healthy Living Campus is talk topic

Marilyn Schlack, president of Kalamazoo Valley Community College, will discuss “The Bronson Healthy Living Campus” at 8 a.m. Friday, Oct. 30, in 2150 of Schneider Hall. Her talk is part of the Mercantile Bank of Michigan Breakfast Speaker Series. Reservations are required for the free event and can be made at [wmich.edu/business/mercantile-rsvp](http://wmich.edu/business/mercantile-rsvp) or by calling (269) 387-6059.

## Scholar Scare 5K fun run, walk set

The annual Scholar Scare Halloween-themed run and walk are set for Thursday, Oct. 29, in front of the Lee Honors College building. The 1K fun run begins at 5:30 p.m. and the run and walk at 6 p.m. Online registration is at <https://runsignup.com/wmuscholarscare>. Strollers and leashed dogs are welcome.

## Biennial ICHITA event scheduled

A senior advisor for innovation and advanced analytics at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine headlines the speakers at this year's In-

ternational Conference on Healthcare Information Technology Advancement. The biennial conference is set for Friday and Saturday, Oct. 30 and 31, at the WMU Stryker School of Medicine in downtown Kalamazoo. Register at [wmich.edu/ichita](http://wmich.edu/ichita).

## Speaker to focus on race relations

Ta-Nehisi Coates, a national correspondent for *The Atlantic*, famous blogger and author of two critically acclaimed books, will deliver a message on race relations in America at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 3, in Miller Auditorium. The event is free, but registration is required at [kalfound.org](http://kalfound.org) or (269) 381-4416.

## Chinese films to be screened

Three Chinese movies will be screened for free during the Made in China Film Festival: “Farewell My Concubine,” 6 to 9 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 5, in 1260 Chemistry Building; “The Grandmaster,” 6 to 9 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 12, in 1260 Chemistry Building; and “Confucius,” 3 to 5 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 17, in 2452 Knauss Hall.

## Professor's second book published

Marlene Breu, emerita in family and consumer sciences, has co-authored a second volume studying sacred historical artifacts.



Breu

The book, “Treasures of Faith: Sacred Relics and Artifacts from the Armenian Churches of Istanbul,” is a study Breu conducted in collaboration with Ronald Marchese from the University of Minnesota at

Duluth.

It represents years of investigation into objects that have not been written about before. The duo's first volume, “Splendor & Pageantry: Textile Treasures From the Armenian Orthodox Churches of Istanbul,” was published in 2011 and won the prestigious R.L. Shep Book Award from the Textile Society of America in 2012.

Both books are excellent references for art, religious and textile historians, as well as Armenian scholars and those interested in minority populations during the Ottoman Empire.

## Chef brings home the bacon

Tom Giles, Dining Services, won a silver medal at the American Culinary



Giles

Competition hosted by the Michigan Restaurant Association Oct. 13 in Novi. The show was sanctioned by the American Culinary Federation and Michigan's Chef's De cuisine.

Giles prepared a colorful cold food display for the event. He is a member of the Great Lakes Regional Culinary Olympic Team and is preparing to compete in the Culinary Olympics in Erfurt, Germany, in fall 2016.

Giles came to WMU in August and has worked at Bronson Healthcare Group, Meijer Corp., Premiere Food service, and the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee. He was a member of the culinary team that represented Michigan at the 2014 Culinary World Cup in Luxembourg, and he has won numerous awards.

## Physicist elected APS Fellow

Thomas Gorczyca, physics, has been elected a Fellow of the American Physical Society. Gorczyca was nominated for “advancing our fundamental understanding in the photoionization, spectra, and opacities of atomic ions in astrophysical plasmas.”



Gorczyca

He was nominated by APS' Division of Atomic, Molecular & Optical Physics.

Fellowship is a distinct honor signifying recognition by one's professional peers. The criterion for election is exceptional contributions to the physics enterprise, such as outstanding physics research, important applications of physics, leadership in or service to physics, or significant contributions to physics education.

Gorczyca is a professor with expertise in atomic and molecular physics.

## Fall programs highlight tuition-related employee benefits

Informational sessions being held this semester will help WMU employees and their eligible children take advantage of the University's tuition-related benefits, which include a new benefit launching this fall.

Brown-bag sessions for employees who are considering enrolling at WMU are set for noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 29; Wednesday, Nov. 11; and Wednesday, Dec. 9; in the President's Dining Room of the Bernhard Center.

They will include presentations by Human Resources, the Office of Admissions, the Graduate College, Extended University Programs, the Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships, the Center for Academic Support Programs, and the University Studies degree-completion program.

Sessions for employees' children who are considering enrolling are set for 8:30 a.m. Friday, Nov. 13 and Dec. 4, in the President's Dining Room of the Bernhard Center. Students and parents are welcome to attend these sessions, which are being held just before regularly scheduled admissions office open houses.

The prospective students and their parents who attend will be able to obtain information about the tuition-related benefits open to employees as well as about getting admitted to the University. Immediately afterward, they will be able to attend the admissions open house. For details about the open houses, visit [wmich.edu/admissions/openhouse](http://wmich.edu/admissions/openhouse).

Future dates for both types of programs have also been set and can be found, along with more information about tuition-related benefits for employees, at [wmich.edu/admissions/guest/employees](http://wmich.edu/admissions/guest/employees). WMU departments that would like this information presented to their staff directly should contact Scott Hennessy at [scott.hennessy@wmich.edu](mailto:scott.hennessy@wmich.edu) or (269) 387-2011.

## Retirement reception

Paula Armstrong, speech pathology and audiology, will be honored for 30 years of service to the University during a retirement reception from 1 to 3 p.m. today in 4010 Health and Human Services Building.

## Jobs

Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources website at [wmich.edu/hr/jobs](http://wmich.edu/hr/jobs). Please note that applications must be submitted online by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included with each posting.

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Volume 42 Number 4

EDITOR: Jeanne Baron. CONTRIBUTORS: Cara Barnes, Paula M. Davis, Deanne Puca, Cheryl P. Roland and Mark E. Schwerin. DISTRIBUTION AND MAILING: Teresa Ventimiglia.

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. Publication dates for the fall semester are **Sept. 10 and 24, Oct. 8 and 22, Nov. 5 and 19, and Dec. 3**. Items may be submitted to Jeanne Baron via: email, [jeanne.baron@wmich.edu](mailto:jeanne.baron@wmich.edu); mail, Campus Mail Stop 5433; phone, (269) 387-8433; or fax, (269) 387-8422.

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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

# University getting ready to adopt next generation email system

The verdict is in: Microsoft Office 365 for Education—O365—will be WMU's next email system.

The version of O365 for educational institutions is a suite of email and other applications available free of charge that will replace WMU's current Webmail Plus email and collaboration system.

The tentative plan is to do test migrations for @wmich.edu email users in December and January. The remaining users will be migrated in February and March, with everyone expected to be switched over by the first week of April.

Edward Kluk, NextGen Email Project manager, says by adopting the O365 suite, WMU will be able to provide new and improved services. Many of the popular features from Webmail Plus are included, and lifelong email accounts, address books and a calendar have been added for all WMU alumni who want to remain engaged with the University.

"Email is only a part of the overall expectation people have of electronic communication," Kluk says. "When we looked at the pros and cons of Google Apps for Education and Microsoft O365 for Education, we found significant strengths in both. We found that O365 allows sharing of email folders and had other compelling features that swayed the decision."

He adds that WMU will see numerous benefits from adopting a single suite rather than a hybrid system that incorporates a combination of features from different packages. Notably, a non-hybrid solution helps ensure a smooth transition for both PCs

and Macs as well as most tablets and cell phones.

Many of the collaboration tools found in Webmail Plus are available in O365, both on the Web and as stand-alone applications. Webmail Plus' email, Calendar, Address Book, Tasks and Briefcase will be replaced in O365 by Outlook Mail, Outlook Calendar, Outlook People, Outlook Tasks and OneDrive for Business, respectively.

Under the new system, each user will be able to store 50 gigabytes of email data, archive an unlimited amount of email data and have 1 terabyte of OneDrive cloud storage. In addition, information technology will be supporting rule-based forwarding and rule-based redirection.

"Rule-based forwarding will forward email, with the 'from field' showing the



account that the email was forwarded from," Kluk explains. "Rule-based redirect keeps the original sender's email address in the 'From' field."

The O365 suite includes on-the-Web versions of Word, Excel, PowerPoint Access and OneNote and OneDrive. It also includes Microsoft Office apps for mobile devices (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote, OneDrive); Microsoft Office desktop versions for installation on work and home personal computers (five installations per individual); and Skype for Business (Instant Messaging and video chat).

Kluk says when the actual migration date gets near, documentation will be available regarding how to use O365, and the information technology Help Desk will be available if employees have questions. For more information, visit [wmich.edu/nextgenemail](http://wmich.edu/nextgenemail).

## Longtime student affairs official new dean of students

Suzie Nagel, associate dean of students, was named dean of students, effective Aug 4.

Nagel replaces Diane Anderson, who remains WMU's vice president for student services.

"Since 2010, Dr. Nagel has served as associate vice president for student affairs and has been a tireless ad-



Nagel

vocate for students," says Anderson. "She has extraordinary insight and compassion and addresses each student concern with the utmost care and professionalism. We are so pleased she now carries the title most closely aligned with the work she has been doing for many years."

She earned a bachelor's degree from Valparaiso University, a master's degree from Miami University and a doctoral degree in higher education leadership from WMU.

## Robotic 'temp worker' will soon be roaming corridors in Waldo Library

A telepresence robot is putting in an appearance at Waldo Library for a few hours every weekend, but soon will be roaming the facility's corridors during weekdays.

The robot is being tested for its potential use as a way for library patrons and staff members to communicate with one another when they are not in close physical proximity. Patrons can learn more about the robot and even take it for a test drive from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturdays and 4 to 6 p.m. Sundays through Nov. 29.

On loan from WMU's Communication and Social Robotics Lab, it is part of a collaborative project between University Libraries and CSRL, which is overseen by the School of Communication. During the course of the project, library staff will test how telepresence robots could enhance service while CSRL researchers will study how people interact with the bots.

"Telepresence robots are beginning to show up in organizational and educational settings. These robots can help facilitate social interaction when there is physical distance between people," says Dr. Autumn Edwards, communication, who leads CSRL. "Libraries are large, intricate and sometimes intimidating spaces in which having easy access to assistance may really benefit users. We'll be watching

how our 'roaming librarians' and users of the library are able to navigate their interactions with one another."

At some point this fall, the robot will begin "working" on weekdays so library officials and staff members can explore its potential uses. Librarians will use a video-capable computer to project their image and voice to the bot. Patrons, in turn, will project their image and voice to the librarians via the bot.

"We're still researching and want see how our users react and engage with the robot," says May Chang, University Libraries. "Some students have already reported that they find the robot a fun way to interact and particularly helpful when they just have simple questions."



A student examines the telepresence robot. (Photo by May Chang)



**WMU pays tribute**—The life and accomplishments of the late Elson S. Floyd, WMU's sixth president, were celebrated at two Oct. 16 events. The building housing the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences was formally dedicated as Elson S. Floyd Hall. After the ceremony, WMU President John M. Dunn and former WMU first lady Carmento Floyd posed by the portrait of Floyd that was unveiled in the building's main lobby. A community Voices video shown at a later public event is posted online at <http://bit.ly/1jRvk1X>. (Photo by Mike Lanka)

## Obituary



Sheppard

**John D. Sheppard**, emeritus in accountancy, died Oct. 15. He was 83. Sheppard retired in 1992 after 27 years of service.

There is visitation from 5 to 8 p.m. today and a memorial service at 11 a.m. Friday, Oct. 23,

in the Langeland Family Funeral Homes, Portage Chapel, 411 East Centre Ave. Visit [langelands.com](http://langelands.com) for more details.

## On Campus with Lu DeBoef



**STRONG SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY**  
(Photo by Deanne Puca)

As an environmental specialist at WMU, Lu DeBoef has the opportunity to work with just about everyone on campus, assuring facilities, grounds and construction projects comply with federal and state environmental guidelines.

"We're a pretty tight-knit group and get along extremely well," DeBoef says of the five-person staff in the Office of Environmental Health and Safety. "We help each other. Someone will jump in if a colleague needs it. We care about the University, and we are all here to help."

Her job supporting environmental compliance at WMU covers a wide net, including submitting required reports, training staff members and students, and managing project compliance.

"We make sure the University is following the rules handling biomedical waste, hazardous waste and universal waste," DeBoef says. "In the end, it's still Western's waste. We are still responsible for it even if [a contractor] dumps it somewhere."

Another large part of her responsibilities involves erosion and storm water management, areas in which the University is seen as on the forefront. Public and private companies and organizations visit WMU regularly to tour projects related to storm water management practices, and soil and erosion control measures. Some have even used WMU as a training ground.

"The key is keeping Western's [environmental] footprint the same or better when planning projects. Sometimes, I have to make decisions that are unpopular," DeBoef says. "It might set back the project a bit, but it's protecting the University. My job is to make sure we stay in compliance, we preserve what we can environmentally, and we make it better than it was."

While training the campus community, she makes the connection that everyone is responsible for handling waste that can affect the environment, from a large construction project to disposing of chemicals and everyday items at home.

DeBoef joined WMU in 2010 in her current position after working at Pfizer Inc. She started her career with the Illinois EPA and has been in the environmental compliance profession for over 30 years, working in the areas of air, hazardous waste and water compliance. Originally from Muskegon, she and her husband, Mik, live in Kalamazoo and have five children, one of whom is a senior at WMU. DeBoef enjoys spending time with her children, especially impromptu family dinners when schedules spontaneously align. She keeps active biking, standup paddle boarding, swimming and walking her chocolate-colored Labrador Retriever.

### Benefits open enrollment underway for health benefits, FSAs

The open enrollment period for 2016 health care benefits and flexible spending accounts, or FSAs, begins Monday, Oct. 26, and continues through 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20.

Open enrollment for health care benefits is available for WMU benefits-eligible non-bargaining employees, retirees and employees who are members of the American Association of University Professors; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; Michigan State Employees Association; and Police Officers Association.

During open enrollment, employees and retirees have the option of adding eligible dependents to their health care coverage. Elections made now are effective Jan. 1.

If no action is taken, benefit elections rollover to 2016, except for FSAs. Employees who choose to contribute to an FSA in 2016 must enroll or re-enroll.

Those who complete WMU's wellness program requirements by the end of 2015 receive the wellness incentive for all of 2016. Visit [wmich.edu/hr/openenrollment](http://wmich.edu/hr/openenrollment) to review materials sent to employees and retirees or access the necessary enrollment forms.

### WMUK launches fall fund drive

WMU's public radio station WMUK kicked off its annual fall campaign Oct. 17, and hopes to cut on-air pledging in half.

WMUK will again feature a shortened pledge drive format designed to raise all of the dollars needed in half the live on-air pledge hours.

Membership contributions and additional gifts directly support local program production and to purchase national programs. WMUK encourages members to support the programs they value by sending in their gifts, contributing online at [wmuk.org](http://wmuk.org) or calling in a pledge during the live portion of the pledge campaign.

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### Heritage Hall grand opening details set

include locations where event attendees can obtain information on life in 1905, pose for commemorative photos, learn about the building's design and construction process, ask questions of personnel from the University Archives and Regional History Collections, and find out how to locate the bricks and pavers they purchased for the east patio that overlooks downtown Kalamazoo.

The Friday grand opening and two succeeding days of tours are expected to attract thousands of area residents eager to be among the first to tour the facility. A special com-

memorative pin will be distributed to the first 3,000 people in attendance.

After opening weekend, the building will be closed to the public for three weeks to allow for project completion and staff move-in.

Details about the three days of grand opening events can be found at <http://bit.ly/1OpYWiH>. A story about Heritage Hall's history and original construction as well as the renovation challenges overcome to make it a modern, environmentally sound and efficient facility are posted at [wmich.edu/news/2015/10/27780](http://wmich.edu/news/2015/10/27780).

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### Numerous events scheduled

former U.S. Marine Benjamin Busch, noon to 1:30 p.m., Putney Auditorium, Fetzer Center. Many know Busch for his roles on HBO's "The Wire" and "Generation Kill."

- Military Appreciation Night—Bronco football game, 8 p.m., Waldo Stadium.

#### Thursday, Nov. 12

- Listen to the Vets—Panel discussion, noon to 1:30 p.m., 157-159 Bernhard Center.

- ROTC luncheon—For all veterans, on and off campus, 2 to 4 p.m., 1310 Activity Therapy Building.