Today is United Way drawing deadline. Employees need to return their envelopes today for the campus United Way campaign to be eligible for the grand prize drawing. For more information about the campaign, including prices, visit wmich.edu/news/2015/10/27530.

Prizes available for survey respondents. Take a Dining Services survey online through Monday, Nov. 23, for a chance to win prizes that include a GoPro camera, RCA 10” tablet with Bluetooth keyboard or a Dining Dollars gift card. To take the survey or learn more, visit wmich.edu/dining/survey.

Holiday gathering planned for staffers on Nov. 30. The University’s leadership is looking for input to help WMU transition efforts. The Bernhard Osher Foundation has awarded WMU a $1 million endowment gift to support the University’s lifelong learning efforts.

WMU’s lifelong learning entity opened in 2011 after two years of planning by emeriti faculty members. It has been part of the Osher Foundation's famed national network of OLLIs since 2014. The San Francisco-based organization’s Green Revolving Investment Tracking System—known as GRITS—helps WMU to support the University’s lifelong learning entity gets $1 million endowment

WMU one of nation’s leading green colleges

The Sustainable Endowments Institute has named WMU one of the country’s six top-performing colleges for energy savings and cutting greenhouse gas emissions. In an announcement Nov. 10, the organization that manages the nation’s Billion Dollar Green Challenge lauded WMU as one of the colleges and universities that have captured the top performance slot in the organization’s Green Revolving Investment Tracking System—known as GRITS.

The institute’s Best of GRITS awards recognized WMU as the large institution with the most carbon emissions saved to date. The other five award winners are: Denison University, small institution with the most carbon emissions saved; the University of New England, mid-sized school with the most carbon emissions saved; Edgewood College, small college with the highest average annual energy savings from a single project; Southern Connecticut State University, mid-sized institution with the highest average annual energy savings from a single project, and the University of Michigan, institution with the most projects completed. The GRITS program is tracking more than 1,300 completed projects that have saved more than $138 million and 18 million MMBTU of energy. Together, the projects

University garners 6th consecutive ‘Best for Vets’ honor

WMU has been named one of the nation’s best institutions for military veterans pursuing higher education, making the top-100 list for the sixth consecutive year. In a Nov. 9 pre-Veterans Day release of its latest assessment, Military Times placed WMU on its 2016 “Best for Vets” list of colleges and universities. With a ranking of No. 76 this year, WMU is the only Michigan school to have appeared on all six years of the publication’s annual list of the top colleges in the United States considered “the best fit for service members, military veterans and their families.”

Two other Michigan universities are among the top 100 schools on the 2016 list: Saginaw Valley State University and the University of Michigan. The rankings are published in full in the issues of Army Times, Navy Times, Air Force Times and Marine Corps Times on newsstands this week and online at militarytimes.com. The rankings can also be found on each magazine’s website.

According to the publication, more than 600 colleges and universities from across the country completed a detailed survey that, along with data factored in from several national databases and federal departments, determined their standing. This is the second such accolade WMU has received this month. On Nov. 5, both WMU and the WMU Thomas M. Cooley

Continued on page 4
Ten staffers to be honored for outstanding service

Ten staff members will be honored as outstanding employees during a reception at 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3, in 157 Bernhard Center.

The University community is invited to attend the event, which recognizes the fall 2015 recipients of the semiannual Make a Difference Award. The recipients will each receive $100, before taxes, and a commemorative certificate.

This fall’s award winners are Sheila Ather- ton, accounts receivable; Jayne P. Fraley-Perk, Evaluation Center; Teri Schrimpf, information technology; Johnny Keth Minshall, international; Joaquin Rodrigo and Dana Wilson. For more information, visit wmich.edu/music or call (269) 387-4667.

Annual Innovation Day slated

A Friday, Dec. 4, Innovation Day celebra- tion at the Parkview Campus will allow the public to review new product innovations by students from grades K-12 through graduate school. The event will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the atrium of the engineering college.

Now in its eighth year, the free event will include a keynote speech at 10:30 a.m. by Jia Jiang, who is the founder of FearBuster and author of the book “Rejec- tion Proof: How I Beat Fear and Became Invincible, One Rejection at a Time.” For more information, visit wmich.edu/engineer/innovationday.

Anthropologist pens book of proverbs

Erika Friedl Loeffler, emerita Meader Professor of Anthropology, has written a new book titled “Warm Hearts and Sharp Tongues: Life in 555 Proverbs from the Zagros Mountains of Iran.” The book was published by New Academic Press this past spring.

The collection and annotation of this large body of proverbs provides an insightful ethnogra- phy of the philosophy of life of a Lur tribe in the Zagros Mountains, a fascinating Persian people.

Friedl Loeffler collected the sayings over the past 40 years during many visits and observed the local way of life as it changed from “the old times” to modernity.

Researcher receives group’s top award

Margaret Joyce, chemical and paper engineering, has received the WMU Paper Technology Foundation’s Honor Award for her outstanding contributions to the paper engineering program.

The honor, the founda- tion’s highest award, was presented during the organization’s annual banquet in October.

Joyce, a pioneering researcher in the area of flexible printed electronics, was recognized for her contributions to the pulp, paper and allied industries and her interest in the foundation, which has enhanced the reputation of WMU’s Depart- ment of Chemical and Paper Engineering. She also has demonstrated exemplary perfor- mance in training young men and women to enter the pulp, paper and allied industries.

MAC honors head coaches

Head coaches Nate Norman, women’s soccer, and Chad Wiseman, men’s soccer, each were voted Mid-American Confer- ence Coach of the Year this month by their fellow coaches in their respective sports.

Norman, who just fin- ished his fourth season, is the first head coach in the women’s program history to be so honored. This year, he guided the Bron- cos to a second-place regular season showing and their second MAC Tournament champion- ship title in the past three years. The team fell 1-0 to No. 2 seeded Univer- sity of Florida in the first round of the NCAA Women’s College Cup.

It ended the season at 14-4-4.

Wiseman, who became head coach of the Bronco men’s program in 2013, led this year’s team to an 11-3-4 overall, 3-1-1 MAC record. The No. 2 seeded Broncos fell to No. 3 seed University of Buffalo in overtime in the MAC Tournament semi- finals. WMU cracked the TopDrawerSoccer national top 25 poll this year for the first time in school history. The Broncos were ranked No. 24 on Sept. 14 and moved up to No. 18 on Sept. 21.
Campus community to make its marks on new dining facility

A topping-out ceremony will be held at 3:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20, to mark a milestone in the new Valley Dining Center construction project.

WMU students and employees as well as members of the community are welcome to attend the event, which will be held at the construction site near Goldsworth Valley Pond. Attendees are invited to sign the final steel construction beam between 3:30 and 4 p.m. The ceremony will conclude with a beam-raising at 4 p.m., when the signed support beam will be lifted by crane and placed on the main floor of the Valley Dining Center.

Making brief remarks at the event will be Diane Anderson, vice president for student affairs, and a representative of the construction firm the Christman Co. A traditional topping-out ceremony is held when the last piece of steel is raised into place, often adorned with an evergreen tree for good luck as well as other symbols important to the building’s owner.

The Valley Dining Center is a nearly 67,000-square-foot building. It is scheduled to be completed in August 2016 and will primarily serve the campus’ Valley Neighborhood.

The new facility will replace the three existing dining locations in the Valley residence halls, which will be re-deployed to enhance the residential experience in each of the three Valley complexes. Student feedback will be a key driver in determining the added amenities and services.

There will be nine distinct venues in the new facility, providing a restaurant-like atmosphere where fresh food is prepared in front of guests. Café 1903, a retail cash operation and convenience store, will be open for extended late-night hours.

Participatory presentation, tour set for Valley pond-area project

The WMU community is invited to attend a walking tour and participatory presentation at 4 p.m. Monday, Nov. 23, at Goldsworth Valley Pond.

The landscape architecture firm of O’Boyle Cowell Blalock will present the proposed schematic design concept for improvements to the area around the pond that are taking place in conjunction with construction of the new Valley Dining Center. Attendee input is welcome.

Plans call for pond-area improvements to start in spring 2016 and the project to be completed in summer 2016. Improvements will include new gathering spaces and walking paths along the water’s edge as well as native and wetland landscape plantings and bio-swales to provide storm water and wildlife buffers.

Farm is living, learning laboratory modeling sustainability in everyday life

A seven-layer perennial “food forest” on the west side of WMU’s Gibbs House property is a complex ecosystem, though still in its infancy.

Much of the fledgling forest was last year the unpaved driveway to a soccer field, and thus largely barren, stony, and nearly two-acre property anchored by the 160-year-old Gibbs farmhouse on the edge of the Parkview Campus.

This area of knee- and shoulder-high trees along with other plantings is part of the nearly two-acre property anchored by the 160-year-old Gibbs farmhouse on the edge of the Parkview Campus.

The landscape architecture firm of O’Boyle Cowell Blalock will present the proposed schematic design concept for improvements to the area around the pond that are taking place in conjunction with construction of the new Valley Dining Center. Attendee input is welcome.

In addition to working the land to grow food using methods that harmonize with the natural environment, students also provide a restaurant-like atmosphere where fresh food is prepared in front of guests. Café 1903, a retail cash operation and convenience store, will be open for extended late-night hours.

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Farm is living, learning laboratory modeling sustainability in everyday life

A seven-layer perennial “food forest” on the west side of WMU’s Gibbs House property is a complex ecosystem, though still in its infancy.

Much of the fledgling forest was last year the unpaved driveway to a soccer field, and thus largely barren, stony, and not very fertile.

But the land and the students working it are resilient, demonstrating that careful planning and planting will over time return vitality to what was once barren.

“It’s all nut- and fruit-producing plants that mimic the interactions between species that you see in a normal forest,” says Josh Shultz, the property’s permaculture program coordinator. “We have all seven different trophic levels.”

This area of knee- and shoulder-high trees along with other plantings is part of the nearly two-acre property anchored by the 160-year-old Gibbs farmhouse on the edge of the Parkview Campus.

East of the food forest are the annual vegetable gardens that produced 63 different crops this summer. Near the gardens are plots crowded with beds of native wildflowers adjacent to compost mounds. Two large student-built hoop houses hosted tomato plants, Swiss chard, loofa squash, leeks and other crops this summer. And the hoop houses will help extend the growing season to Thanksgiving and beyond.

Obituaries

Philo G. “Glen” Bishop, WMUK and instructional communications, died Nov. 7. He was 84. He retired in 1995 after 41 years of service. Gifts may be made to the Unbewildered Warrior Project or Hospice Care of Southwest Michigan. For more, visit langelands.com.

Frederick Z. Sitkins, emeritus in engineering design, manufacturing and management systems, died Nov. 7 after a short illness. He was 78. Sitkins retired in August after 36 years of service. Gifts may be made to the WMU Foundation in Sitkins’ memory.

For more, visit mlive.com/obituaries/kalamazoo or langelands.com.

Bishop

Sitkins

Vuicich

George Vuicich, emeritus in geography, died Nov. 2. He was 89. Vuicich joined the faculty in 1968 and retired in 1993 after 25 years of service. Services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 19, in Kanley Chapel, followed by a luncheon in the Fetzer Center.

Gifts can be made to the George Vuicich Memorial Scholarship Fund. For more, visit avinkcremation.com.

Gifts may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project Memorial Scholarship Fund. For more, visit avinkcremation.com.

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Collaboration, teamwork help push up grant total

An increase in collaboration and multidisciplinary teamwork has led to a sharp rise in grants to WMU.

Externally funded awards, much of them for research, pushed the grant total for the 2014-15 fiscal year past $35 million, an increase of nearly $8 million over the previous year. The grant total in June, the last month of the University fiscal year, came in at $3.7 million.

The year-end grant total—$35,166,490—was announced at the WMU Board of Trustees October meeting in Grand Rapids. It is roughly $8 million above the $27,179,910 for the 2013-14 fiscal year past $5 million over the previous year. Trustees also learned that over $5 million in externally funded awards were received during July and August, the first two months of this fiscal year.

“Our office has been encouraging and facilitating large collaborative, multidisciplinary, multi-institutional and multi-national partnerships to successfully receive large grants and to create and support research centers,” says Daniel Litynski, vice president for research. “WMU’s outstanding faculty can and do compete and collaborate with the best institutions and experts in the nation in our areas of expertise.”

Continued from page 1

WMU one of nation’s leading green colleges

WMU was singled out by the Sustainable Endowments Institute in 2011 as home to the nation’s oldest green revolving fund. Such funds are tools that allow institutions to invest in sustainability projects and then harvest the savings from those projects to invest in new energy projects. Considered a new campus tool by most schools in the early part of this century, WMU’s semi-revolving fund was established in 1980 and has financed more than 100 campus projects with an average annual return on investment of 47 percent. WMU also is a founding member of SEI’s Billion Dollar Green Challenge, the goal of which is to invest a cumulative total of $1 billion in self-managed green revolving funds that finance energy efficiency upgrades on campus.

“This new honor from SEI is an acknowledgement of WMU’s long-term, innovative approach to cost-saving energy conservation,” says Harold Glasser, sustainability office and environmental, and sustainability studies program.

“Through this approach helped create a firm foundation for WMU’s more recent, broader efforts to build a culture of sustainability on campus and beyond.”

Leading up to the Western Herald’s 100th anniversary, mywmu.com is seeking stories and memories from past staff members and readers of the student newspaper. Along with sharing memories, mywmu.com and the Western Herald will regularly post flashback stories, starting from 1916 and leading up to more current times. In addition, mywmu.com also will share special features about the Herald, and how it has covered major events over the past 100 years.

The Western Herald is the oldest student organization on campus, and is completely staffed by students.

To share memories of the Herald in celebration of its centennial milestone, send an email storyteller@mywmu.com with “Herald 100 Memories” in the subject line. For more information, visit bit.ly/1L5M61.

University garners awards

Law School were lauded as 2016 Military Friendly Schools by Victory Media, the publisher of G.I. Jobs magazine. WMU’s Office of Military and Veterans Affairs serves more than 600 veteran students, the greatest number of veterans enrolled at a public university in Michigan. The office was established in 2009 to support veterans, service members and the family members of veterans. Details are at wmich.edu/military.