



Western News

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For and about WMU faculty and staff

WMUK listeners get to know new WMU president through interview

Edward B. Montgomery, who will become WMU's ninth president Aug. 1, was featured in a lengthy interview segment on WMUK's award-winning public affairs program WestSouthwest. The May 17 broadcast is available online at bit.ly/2pUPThG.

The WMU Board of Trustees announced at a special meeting in April that Montgomery would succeed John Dunn, who is retiring after 10 years as WMU's president. Montgomery joined WMUK's Gordon Evans to discuss his background and thoughts on the job ahead.

As WMUK noted in its introduction to the WestSouthwest program, the Montgomery family has a number of connections to the University and Kalamazoo.

The new first lady, Kari, is from Michigan and the Montgomerys' son, newly minted alumnus E.J., was attending WMU when Montgomery was contacted about being named president. In addition, the incoming president is a professor of economics who worked previously with researchers at Kalamazoo's Upjohn Institute.

WMU job descriptions published

The first of the new staff compensation system job descriptions have been published on the Human Resources website at wmich.edu/hr/employees/staff/jobdescriptions.

The new descriptions are of a broad, summary nature and are designed to be used by departments and Human Resources in tandem with the more specific job content tools completed for individual positions. Additional job descriptions will be published as they are completed.

LHC seeking items for back-to-school backpacks as part of service project

The Lee Honors College is seeking donations for their Day of Service project, which involves preparing back-to-school backpacks for elementary students served by Kalamazoo's Communities In Schools programs.

Four hundred of each of the following items are needed: two-pocket folders, pencils, erasers, pencil boxes/pouches, crayons, washable markers and glue sticks. Items can be dropped at the LHC office through Aug. 11. Direct questions to Renee Allen at renee.allen@wmich.edu.

Financial planning representatives from TIAA to be on campus in June

TIAA representatives will be on campus June 13, 20 and 27. To schedule a private consultation for investment or retirement planning, visit tiaa.org and click Consultations and Seminars under Support. If unable to register online, call the scheduling group at (800) 732-8353.

Medical school scholarship honors Dunn

With his retirement looming, WMU President John M. Dunn's vision and student focus will live on in perpetuity at the WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine through a newly endowed scholarship.

The John M. Dunn Endowed Scholarship was revealed to Dunn and the local community during the medical school's second annual Imagine Gala held May 20. The scholarship fund is endowed with \$2.2 million in

financial contributions. Each year, the award will cover more than \$100,000 in tuition for eligible WMU graduates who are admitted to the school's M.D. degree program.

Dunn and his wife, Linda, were the hosts for this year's Imagine Gala, an event that raises money for the medical school's student pipeline programs.

The pipeline programs are designed to champion the biomedical science and health care career aspirations of under-represented and disadvantaged youth in southwest Michigan, including elementary and high school students.

"I was just blown away," President Dunn said soon after the scholarship announcement. "I was seriously stunned and probably a little bit numb. I'm very proud and pleased to know that our name has connection with a scholarship of that magnitude."



John and Linda Dunn at the Imagine Gala (Photo by Rex Hall)

The endowment came from key community leaders, members of the WMU Board of Trustees, Borgess Health and Bronson Healthcare. The initial funding target of \$1.2 million was exceeded due to generous community support.

"This scholarship fund in honor of Dr. John M. Dunn recognizes the key role he has played in developing Kalamazoo's medical school and, perhaps more importantly, it benefits our WMU graduates who are moving on to attend the medical school," WMU Trustee Ken V. Miller said in announcing the fund's creation. "Students have always been, and will continue to be, what is most important to President Dunn."

During his first year as president, Dunn sparked community interest in the creation of a medical school that would build upon

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Delta partners with WMU for maintenance training

The College of Aviation has been chosen by Delta Air Lines to be part of a select network of schools around the nation able to train aircraft maintenance technicians, known as AMTs, to fill a high demand the airline is expected to face for the next several years.

The role of an AMT is to keep aircraft in safe flying condition by servicing, repairing and overhauling aircraft and aircraft components while following detailed regulations set forth by the Federal Aviation Administration.



The Delta pact creates more options for students. (Photo by Mike Lanka)

Delta has named a group of 38 partner colleges, universities and aviation schools around the nation that have been evaluated by airline personnel and found to meet both the FAA training standards and Delta's requirements that exceed industry standards.

"This is a terrific new acknowledgement by Delta of the strength of our programs," says aviation Dean Dave Powell. "Over the years, we've enjoyed some significant partnerships with the company, and we were very pleased to have its representatives come, assess our aviation maintenance technology program and tell us we meet or exceed the high standards the company has set for itself."

Schools selected for the Delta partnership benefit by having access to Delta's resources for continuous improvement of the AMT program along with Delta's assistance in marketing the program to potential students.

WMU's nationally known College of Aviation offers the only comprehensive aviation program at a Michigan public university. Delta Air Lines Inc., along with its subsidiaries and regional affiliates, operates more than 5,400 flights daily and serves an extensive domestic and international network that includes 319 destinations in 54 countries.

Around campus and beyond

Opioid crisis subject of summit

“Addressing the Michigan Opioid Crisis: A Public Health Summit” will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, June 6, at WMU-Grand Rapids, Beltline. The free event will feature several speakers and presentations, and lunch will be provided.

Register by emailing mary.ogle@wmich.edu or by calling (616) 742-5058. For more information, visit the Western Regional Area Health Education Center at WMU website at wmich.edu/ahec/programs/connection.

Annual golf outings scheduled

Two of the University’s annual golf outings are coming up.

The College of Aviation will hold its seventh annual outing Friday, June 9, at the Bedford Valley Golf Course, 23161 Waubascon Road, in Battle Creek. Check-in begins at 7:30 a.m. and the shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. The cost is \$75 per golfer and \$85 after Friday, May 26. Proceeds support aviation student organizations like the Sky Broncos, who just placed fourth in the nation. Register at mywmu.com/aviationgolf.

Registration is open for the 11th annual Women’s Basketball Golf Outing, set for Sunday, Aug. 6. Registration begins at 9 a.m. with a shotgun start at 10 a.m. Various price packages are available, and advance registration with payment is due by Friday, July 21. For event details, visit wbasketball.wmuevents.com.

Don’t forget Tigers Night is June 28

The second annual WMU Night at Comerica Park is Wednesday, June 28, when the Detroit Tigers will take on the Kansas City Royals at 7:10 p.m. at home. Ticket and game package details are available at mywmu.com/tigers.

Many summer camps available

A wide range of summer camps for youths are taking place at WMU this summer as the following sampling shows. A complete event list is available at wmich.edu/admissions/camps.

- “Beyond the Lemonade Stand: An Entrepreneurship and Innovation Experience” is a summer camp for students who have completed grades 9-12. Students will meet entrepreneurs and engineers, learn from experts, take local field trips and pitch business ideas. The camp will run June 19-22.

- Students in grades 9-12 can experience the thrill of flight, wonders of technical operations and sophistication of aviation operations during summer camps hosted by WMU’s College of Aviation. Camps run June 25-30 and July 9-14.

- More than 10 different topics will be covered in financial literacy summer camps being offered by the Haworth College of Business. Registration is open for the camps, which run June 26-30 for students who have completed grades 7-9, and July 17-21 for students who have completed grades 10-12.

Anthropologist named to state group

Michael S. Nassaney, anthropology, has been renamed by Gov. Rick Snyder to the Michigan Freedom Trail Commission. He



Nassaney

will serve a four-year term expiring Feb. 1, 2021. He had been serving a four-year term that was scheduled to end this February.

Established in 1998, the commission preserves and promotes the legacy of the Underground Railroad’s Freedom Trail in Michigan.

Nassaney, a faculty member since 1992, researches political economy, ethnohistory, colonialism, and archaeological theory and method, among other topics.

He is principal investigator for the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project in Niles, Michigan, and has directed WMU’s archaeological field school since 1994. He also edits the Center for French Colonial Studies’ quarterly publication and is a past officer of the Society for Historical Archaeology.

Poet writes new collection on Russia

Judith Rypma, English, has written a new collection of poems that feature Russia. Titled “Worshipping at Lenin’s Mausoleum,”



Rypma

it was released by Future-Cycle Press in December to coincide with the centenary of the Soviet Revolution and the fall of the Romanovs in 1917.

In poems that provide a lyrical witness to a Russia in flux, from Glasnost to the embattled 1990s to 21st century pride, Rypma offers not only touching and often humorous observations, but portrays a deep love for a country Sir Winston Churchill once called “a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma.”

Whether exploring Stalin’s bunker, the logistics of Lenin’s preserved corpse, or the witch Baba Yaga, the poems provide delightful and keen glimpses into a place often seen as the Big Bad Wolf on the world stage.

Geographer wins two national awards

Joseph P. Stoltman, geography, has received two prestigious awards that recognize him as being among the best and brightest in geography education.



Stoltman

The National Council for Geographic Education awarded Stoltman both the Distinguished Mentor Award and the Higher Education Distinguished Teaching Award.

The mentor award is presented to college and university professors whose guidance and influence is significant for students becoming geographers or classroom teachers. Only two professors were presented the award this year.

The teaching award recognizes and celebrates excellence in higher education geography teaching and leadership. A total of five educators were singled out for this award.

The council aims to strengthen the quality and effectiveness of geography teaching and learning. Its awards will be presented at a special ceremony during the National Conference on Geography Education July 27-30.

Faculty, staff retirements

Editor’s note: Retirements will be reported again, but the names and units of prior 2016-17 retirees are being published first.

September 2016—Faculty retirements: Barbara Barton, social work; Joel Boyd Jr., Center for English Language and Culture for International Students; Michael McDonnell, University Libraries; Gerald Pillsbury, teaching, learning and educational studies;

Roger Tang, accountancy; and Andrew Targowski, business information systems. Staff retirements: Mark Cummins, chemical and paper engineering; Cynthia DeRyke, teacher certification; Gary Somerville, human resources; and Vicki Thompson, admissions.

October 2016—Faculty retirements: Ben Atchison, occupational therapy. Staff retirements: Carolyn Noack, sustainability, and Jeffrey Winkle, landscape services.

December 2016—Faculty retirements: Joseph Reish, University Libraries. Staff retirements: Joyce Alexander, payroll and disbursements; Diane Briggs, Valley Dining Center; Imtiaz Chaudhary, information technology; Gloria Culp, Registrar’s Office; Luann Harden, WMU-Southwest; Amy Mack, Children’s Trauma Assessment Center; Susan Nap, College of Arts and Sciences; Brenda Pietrzykowski, Burnham Dining Service; Linda Poquette, vice president for business and finance’s office; Elizabeth Richardson, multicultural affairs; Ann Trevino, Dining Services; Mary Warren, custodial and building support services; and Derrick Williams, Burnham Dining Service.

Jobs

Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources website at 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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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Strike Gold TV spot lauded



A 30-second television commercial that is part of WMU's Strike Gold advertising campaign has earned its creators a Silver Communicator Award from the Academy of Interactive Visual Arts, or AIVA.

The spot, which can be viewed at bit.ly/2qL6DL4, was filmed and edited by Kalamazoo-based Rhino Media and produced for university relations.

It features a montage of WMU video images and a custom-made music bed before closing with an animated W and "Strike Gold" tagline.

AIVA's panel of judges named the spot among the top in its school/colleges/universities category. The competition annually receives more than 6,000 entries from a broad range of industries showcasing their best communication work through a variety of campaigns and communication methods.

Faculty Senate acts on new gen ed design

Acting at its final meeting for the 2016-17 academic year, the WMU Faculty Senate approved a memorandum of action May 11, adopting a model to use in revising the University's general education curriculum.

By a four-to-one margin, senators approved a model for the new curriculum, setting the stage for implementation of the first significant change to WMU's general education offerings in 33 years. The new curriculum, named WMU Essential Studies at an earlier Senate meeting, is scheduled for use in the classroom for fall 2018.

Approval of the MOA OKs the design plan for the new curriculum, completing the second of three steps in the Senate process that already reflects four years of work. That work began with assessment of the current general education curriculum and the decision to revise it.

The next step was to design a model to guide the revision. With that second step

now complete, the third step—implementation—will begin immediately.

Over the summer, a Senate Logistics Committee will begin the work of determining key elements requiring faculty, staff and administration consideration.

This work will enable the development of a timeline and implementation plan to be presented to senators for approval as a recommendation for administrative approval and resourcing by the end of the 2017-18 academic year.

"This was a definitive action on the design document that has been under development since September," said Senate President Suzan F. Ayers in announcing the vote outcome. "This is essentially a blueprint for moving forward with a new curriculum."

The model approved, according to the MOA background, provides "a learner-centered approach to general education that balances acquisition of essential skills and content with prioritizing student-learning outcomes that prepare WMU students to succeed in an ever-changing world."

The design model features a "scaffolding of skills throughout the curriculum" and will strengthen writing across the curriculum. All of the areas taught in WMU's existing general education curriculum can be encompassed, and new skills and content areas will be added.

Five areas that will be built into the new curriculum are: diversity and inclusion, global awareness, critical thinking, sustainability, and real-world problem solving.

The WMU Essential Studies' design calls for students to take one course in each of 12 categories, and is focused on supporting student retention and success as well as greater flexibility in teaching approaches and learner experiences.

Industrial engineer named national fellow—Steven E. Butt, chair of industrial and manufacturing engineering as well as engineering design, manufacturing and management systems, has been made a fellow of the Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers. The honor was bestowed during the institute's 2017 annual conference May 20-23 in Pittsburgh. The award recognizes outstanding leaders of the profession who have made significant, nationally recognized contributions to industrial engineering. A fellow is the highest classification of membership in IISE. WMU now has four IISE Fellows which, as a percentage of the total faculty in industrial engineering, is one of the highest percentages at any institution. The four are, from left:



Butt, Tycho K. Fredericks, Timothy J. Greene and Kailash M. Bafna. IISE is an international nonprofit association that provides leadership for the application, education, training, research and development of industrial and systems engineering. (Photo courtesy of Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering)

Physician-author to discuss how racism, income inequality impact health care

A physician, advocate and author will connect racism and income inequality to health and well-being during a free, public talk at 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 6, in downtown Kalamazoo.

The talk will be given by David A. Ansell, senior vice president of community health equity and associate provost for clinical affairs at the Rush University Medical Center

in Chicago. It will be held in the auditorium of the WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine. Free parking will be available in the adjacent Bronson Methodist Hospital lot at Portage and Lovell streets.

Ansell will discuss the often unseen root causes of unequal life chances in the U.S. and advocate for sweeping changes in policy and practices to create a health care system and

society that are more just.

He has written two books that call attention to structural violence, with his newest one, "The Death Gap: How Inequality Kills," being released this spring. The book contends that structural disparities are the reason the average life expectancy in the U.S. is only 79, despite America being the world's leader in high-tech medicine.

He argues that certain differences in life expectancy reflect differential exposure to social determinants of health related to racism and economic insecurity—what Ansell calls structural violence.



Ansell

Jazz students earn multiple awards in DownBeat contest

The University's jazz studies students and their instructors are upbeat after again earning multiple wins in *DownBeat* magazine's 40th annual Student Music Awards.

In what is regarded as the most comprehensive competition for collegiate jazz programs, WMU students won four awards, coming in fourth in the international music competition.

The *DownBeat* awards continue to be the most thorough and publicized metric for jazz programs across the globe, with the competition going international over 10 years ago, says Tom Knific, music. This year's awards were given to programs in six countries and reflect the University's continued high level of performance.



This year's WMU honorees, along with the category of their award and professor, are:

- Gold Company; Large Vocal Jazz Ensemble, Graduate College Outstanding Performances; James Richardson, Outstanding Soloist; Gregory Jasperse, professor.
- Lushh; Blues/Pop/Rock Group, Undergraduate College Winner; Keith Hall, professor.
- WMU Graduate Ensemble; Small Jazz Combo, Graduate College Outstanding Performance; Scott Cowan, professor.
- WMU Jazz Orchestra; Large Jazz Ensemble, Graduate College Outstanding Performances; Scott Cowan, professor.

Knific says it's important also to note the importance of WMU alumni in awards won by other institutions. But most importantly, he says, two alumni who now are faculty had student wins for WMU.

Obituaries—wmich.edu/news/obituaries

Mildred K. "Millie" Hedrick, a former WMU librarian for 14 years, died May 1. She was 94.

Ruth H. Peterson, a retired staff member, died April 20. She was 81. Peterson had worked in student financial aid and scholarships as well as paper science and printing engineering.

Sandra Lou Roellchen (Elzey), a former part-time occupational therapy instructor, died April 26. She was 82.

On Campus with Marcel Alkemade



CAREER REBOOT
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

Henricus Marcus “Marcel” Alkemade, a native of the Netherlands, found his way to WMU and the Office of Information Technology because of love. The former co-owner of an IT consulting firm was on vacation in Spain in 2000 when he met Stephanie, a Michigan native born in Holland and teaching at Bangor Public Schools who also was vacationing in Spain.

The two hit it off and carried on a long-distance relationship until the commute to Kalamazoo, where Stephanie was living, became untenable. So in 2006, Alkemade married his sweetheart—a WMU alumna. He began making arrangements to leave his business and was finally able to move to town in 2008.

A year later, Alkemade’s background landed him a job at the University as a portal application developer, a job that has evolved into his current post as an applications programmer analyst.

Much of his time is spent customizing and updating the University’s GoWMU intranet portal and the Central Authentication Service. Both GoWMU and CAS provide single sign-on access to Elearning, W-Exchange, Banner, Peoplesoft and several other web applications. Alkemade also maintains several smaller applications, periodically works on special-project teams, and helps integrate and troubleshoot services when needed.

“We’re at the frontline with our single sign-on services,” he notes, “so if the portal or CAS aren’t available, people start calling the Help Desk and the Help Desk will call us to fix the problem.”

Alkemade says a lot of the applications he works with are customized for WMU, which means they need to be modified regularly to keep up with software upgrades as well with the hardware and browsers employed by end users.

“We also have to provide a secure environment and make sure things show up well on desktop computers, phones, tablets—everything. Web design has to be responsive because our customers often have multiple devices and we want them to have a good web experience regardless the device,” he says. “We want students, faculty and staff to be happy with what they get. Customer satisfaction is very important.”

When Alkemade isn’t dealing with those types of challenges, he enjoys spending time with Stephanie and their 5-year-old son, traveling and following his favorite professional soccer team—Amsterdam-based Ajax. He trains for half marathons and as a member of the Kalamazoo Area Runners, finished in the last six editions of the local Borgess Run.

Medieval unit launches new short-form book series

The University’s Medieval Institute Publications has launched Past Imperfect, a new series of short-form books that are garnering broad acclaim.

Over 40 volumes have been commissioned from scholars across North and South America, Europe and Australasia.

The first three volumes were published in January 2017 and cover the history of the discipline of medieval studies, scholasticism and the history and impact today of medieval university structures. Three more are soon to be published on Alfred the Great, the Kingdom of Rus’ and medieval demons.

Simon N. Forde, Medieval Institute Publications, says short-form publications meet an increasing scholarly need: to publish concise summaries of research—35,000 words and 100 printed pages—aimed at more broadly engaging with the public as well as serving

undergraduates, classes, graduate students and fellow scholars who need an introduction to a specific topic.

He notes that “Medievalism: A Manifesto” by Richard Utz is the first book in the series to be reviewed. The review appeared in *The Public Medievalist* and shows how these small volumes should have wide impact within and beyond the walls of academe,” Forde says. Many of the series’ future volumes focus on Islamic and Middle Eastern history, non-Western subjects and the social impact of medieval studies today, including a volume on medieval Twitter.

Printed volumes can be purchased for \$14.95, and e-books are available on Amazon in equivalent currencies worldwide.



Scholarship offered with one version of revamped program

A totally redesigned master’s program in organizational change leadership is being offered on WMU’s main campus as well as its regional locations in Grand Rapids and Metro Detroit.

The 33-hour Master of Arts in Organizational Change Leadership has been renamed and redesigned to emphasize that cross-cultural understanding and the ability to lead effective change are among the most critical and sought-after competencies for a wide range of today’s organizations.

A traditional format is being offered in Kalamazoo and WMU-Grand Rapids, Beltline while an accelerated format is being offered in WMU-MetroDetroit, Auburn Hills. There is a Saturday, July 1, application deadline for the accelerated program, and those who are admitted to this version for fall 2017 will receive a \$500 scholarship.

The revamped program’s courses are designed for full-time working professionals and are a hybrid of one or two face-to-face class meetings per month with the remaining coursework completed online.

The program is housed in educational leadership, research and technology and being led by two faculty in this department. Dae Seok Chai teaches and advises students and David B. Szabla serves as program director.

For more information, visit wmich.edu/extended/academics and click Organizational Change Leadership.

Continued from page 1

Medical school scholarship honors Dunn

Kalamazoo’s rich history in education, health care, research and life science exploration. He championed the endeavor and garnered broad support, enthusiasm and engagement. Then in 2011, the medical school became a reality.

Dunn said he was overwhelmed as well as humbled by news of the scholarship fund and thankful for the community philanthropy and collaboration that brought a medical school in Kalamazoo to fruition.

In addition to the scholarship fund, the

May 20 gala also served as the venue for honoring Dunn with a glass panel that includes his likeness and recounts his first Convocation and State of the University address that gave root to the school.

It is the third such panel installed at the Upjohn Campus. The two other panels honor Homer Stryker and W.E. Upjohn.

For more about the scholarship, read the stories at bit.ly/2qhfGjJ and wmich.edu/news/2017/05/40050.

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