



# Western News

OCTOBER 20, 2016  
Volume 43, Number 4

For and about WMU faculty and staff

## Presidential search moving forward

The 22-member Presidential Search Advisory Committee has met twice and nearly finished developing a leadership profile that outlines the qualities the next president should have. A website at [wmich.edu/presidentialsearch](http://wmich.edu/presidentialsearch) also has been launched and will be continuously updated as the process moves forward.

## Still time to attend an FLSA meeting

Informational training sessions on the Fair Labor Standards Act changes that go into effect Thursday, Dec. 1, will be held at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 24, and Thursday, Oct. 27, and at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 25. The sessions are open to the campus community and are targeted toward nonexempt employees as well as managers, supervisors and timekeepers. For more about the WMU FLSA Compliance Project, visit [wmich.edu/hr/flsacompliance](http://wmich.edu/hr/flsacompliance).

## Men's lacrosse team video goes viral

Rock, paper, scissors is how the WMU lacrosse team settled a recent match with the University of Dayton that was canceled by lightning. WMU took the best two out of three games.

A video of the two teams using the old children's game to decide the winner went viral, garnering some 463,000 views and the attention of nationwide media such as ESPN and other sports news organizations. To watch the video, visit [instagram.com/p/BLE79cHBxD2](https://www.instagram.com/p/BLE79cHBxD2).

## Service-learning award winners named

The WMU recipients of 2015-16 Excellence in Service Learning awards are Brian Gogan, English, and social work graduates Victoria Brooks, Erica Goble and Trista Schuman. The community partner honor went to Restore Ministries and was accepted by the group's executive director, Marcus Collins. For details about the awards, visit [wmich.edu/servicelearning/updates](http://wmich.edu/servicelearning/updates).

## Graduate journal extends deadline

The deadline to submit written materials as well as images for the fall 2016 issue of *The Hilltop Review: A Journal of Western Michigan University Graduate Research* has been extended to Friday, Oct. 21. For the upcoming issue, WMU graduate students may make submissions of research articles, book reviews, letters to the editor, artwork and digital photography from all disciplines.

The *Hilltop Review* awards small monetary prizes for the three top-ranked articles submitted and the top-ranked cover art. To make a submission or volunteer to be a peer reviewer or staff member, visit [scholarworks.wmich.edu/hilltopreview](http://scholarworks.wmich.edu/hilltopreview).

For more information about the *Hilltop Review* or the Graduate Student Association, visit [wmich.edu/gsa](http://wmich.edu/gsa).

## WMU has record-breaking homecoming day



Young and old from all walks of life participated in the wide range of activities taking place Oct. 8 on homecoming Saturday. **From left to right, clockwise:** Couples renewed their vows, many people "dressed up" for their vow renewal, fans cheered the Broncos to victory, and runners and walkers from across the country took part in the 18th Campus Classic. (Photos by Mike Lanka)

The University set two impressive records Oct. 8—homecoming day—with the help of thousands of supportive WMU community members and friends.

First, at least 1,201 married couples renewed their vows on the Grand Lawn near Heritage Hall, setting a new Guinness World Record for the most vow renewals in one place at one time.

Second, the football team won its gridiron contest against Northern Illinois University, propelling WMU to its first-ever national ranking in the Associated Press top-25 poll.

The vow renewal garnered international attention, with an AP story about the event being tracked as far away as the Philippines. As the old record of 1,087 couples—set in 2009 at Miami University—fell by the wayside, participants in the WMU event celebrated with champagne and cake. They

also watched and recorded videos, had their photos taken, and took selfies.

A collection of related photos and videos as well as links to media coverage has been posted at [mywmu.com/vows](http://mywmu.com/vows).

Later on homecoming day, the football team racked up another first.

The team had gone into its homecoming game with a 5-0 record following its 49-10 win against arch rival Central Michigan University the week before. This contest resulted in WMU being ranked in the USA Today Amway Coaches Poll for the first time in program history, debuting at No. 25.

The team extended its winning streak to 6-0 with its Oct. 8 win against NIU. The 45-30 victory set the stage for WMU to make its entry into the AP top-25 poll for the first time.

"No. 24 Western Michigan is 6-0 for the

*Continued on page 4*

## Alliance with FSW formally announced in Florida

Officials from WMU and Florida Southwestern State College gathered Oct. 18 to formally announce their new alliance that will allow WMU to offer several high-profile academic programs at FSW's Charlotte County, Florida, campus.

The event included remarks by John M. Dunn, WMU president; Jeff Allbritten, FSW president; Denis Wright, FSW regional vice president for economic development; and Bill Truex, chair of the Charlotte County Board of Commissioners.

"Florida is home to the highest number of WMU alumni outside of the Midwest and presents great opportunity for new research, development and partnerships," Dunn has said. "Our alumni and University supporters are thrilled that WMU is partnering with FSW to become an economic and cultural force in the area."



Dunn, left, and Allbritten congratulate each other on the two schools' new alliance after unveiling WMU signage at FSW's Punta Gorda campus. (Photo by Tim Greene)

WMU is known for providing academic programs in aviation, wellness, business and environmental studies, and for working with private companies to customize educational offerings and credentialing certifications.

For more affiliation details, visit [wmich.edu/news/2016/10/35812](http://wmich.edu/news/2016/10/35812). A video of the Florida event is available on Facebook at [fb.me/wmuregionalandonline](https://fb.me/wmuregionalandonline).

# Around campus and beyond

## Climate change, water is talk topic

Climate change and how it will affect water resources will be discussed by Romanian scholar Liliana Zaharia from the University of Bucharest at 3 p.m. Friday, Oct. 21, in 2119 Wood Hall. Her talk, "Climate Change's Impacts on Water Resources and Adaptation Strategies: Case Studies in Romania," is part of the Visiting Scholars and Artists Program.

## WMU choirs present fall showcase

Three acclaimed choral ensembles—the University Chorale, the Collegiate Singers and Cantus Femina—will present a free concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 23, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall.

## WMU represented at poetry reading

Humorous poems will be featured during a "Can Poetry Be Funny?" reading at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 25, in the Kalamazoo Public Library's Van Deusen Room. Among the special guest speakers will be Don Cooney, social work, and Garrard McLeod, retired WMUK general manager. Reading will be Bonnie Joe Campbell, Jennifer Clark, Elizabeth Kerlikowske, Kit Almy, Lynn Pattison, Janet Heller, Elizabeth Clem, Marion Boyer and Deborah Gang.

## Research night returns to Waldo

Waldo Library is staging "Night of the Research Paper" from 4 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 25, to help students succeed in their research assignments. For more information, visit [wmich.edu/library/researchnight](http://wmich.edu/library/researchnight).

## Surplus Sales slates grand opening

Surplus Sales will hold a grand opening from noon to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 26, at its new location, 635 W. Ransom St. in Kalamazoo.

## Sphinx Virtuosi to perform in Dalton

The Sphinx Virtuosi, 18 of the nation's top African-American and Latino classical soloists, will perform at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 26, in the Dalton Center. Robert White, music, will host a pre-performance discussion at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at [millerauditorium.com](http://millerauditorium.com) or by calling (269) 387-2300.

## Career-related events taking place

WMU will host the Broadcast Media Career and Networking Fair from noon to 4 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 27, in Brown Hall's first-floor lobby. A series of business-related career events strictly for WMU students begin Friday, Nov. 11. For details, visit [wmich.edu/news/2016/10/35635](http://wmich.edu/news/2016/10/35635).

## Scholar Scare benefits scholarships

The Lee Honors College invites runners and walkers to join in the Scholar Scare 5K Thursday, Oct. 27, at the Lee Honors College building. For details or to register, visit [runsignup.com/wmuscholar scare](http://runsignup.com/wmuscholar scare).

## Chicana author to give reading

Ana Castillo, a distinguished Chicana novelist, poet, essayist, playwright, translator and scholar, will read from her works at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 2, in 3512 Knauss Hall.

## Professor pens digital media book

Richard A. Gershon, communication, has penned a book that delves into how smart, creative companies have transformed the business of media and telecommunications



Gershon

by introducing unique and original products and services. Titled "Digital Media and Innovation: Management and Design Strategies in Communication," it was released by SAGE Publications Inc. in March.

His text introduces current and future media industry professionals to the people, companies and strategies that have proven to be real game changers by offering the marketplace a unique value proposition for the consumer.

Today's media managers are faced with the same basic question: What are the best methods for staying competitive over time? In one word, Gershon asserts, "innovation."

## Henderson elected fellow of APS

Charles R. Henderson, physics and Malinon Institute, was elected a 2016 Fellow of the American Physical Society during the APS Council of Representatives' September meeting on recommendation of the



Henderson

Topical Group on Physics Education Research. The prestigious honor is peer recognition of Henderson's outstanding contributions to physics.

He was cited for pioneering research in use of research-based instructional strategies in physics, for his leadership and service to the physics education research community; and for serving as an ambassador to science, technology, engineering and math education broadly.

Henderson researches physics education, change in higher education and discipline-based education research. His work has been supported by more than \$7 million in external grants.

## Political scientist tapped for D.C. post

Mark S. Hurwitz, political science, is helping to determine which grant proposals from U.S. scholars in the areas of law and social sciences will get National Science Foundation funding. The NSF tapped Hurwitz for a two-year post as a program director for the



Hurwitz

federal agency's Law and Social Sciences Program, which awards some \$5.5 million annually in grants to researchers.

"The types of proposals we usually get range from studies on how judges make decisions to issues of police-community interactions to legal mobilization and access to justice," says Hurwitz, who went on leave in August to take this assignment in Washington, D.C.

"We're dealing with critical issues—what's going on in our streets, communities and courthouses. Given everything we're hearing on the news, these are not trivial issues."

When he completes his term, he expects to return to the University with a new skillset, better equipped to enhance and promote the research and scholarly community at WMU.

## Annual Benefits and Wellness Expo scheduled for Oct. 26

This year's Benefits and Wellness Expo is set for 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday Oct. 26, in the Bernhard Center's East Ballroom.

In addition to drawings for Fitbits and other prizes, healthy food samples and exhibitor giveaways, it will feature health prevention and safety tips, health plan information, WMU Western Wellness assessments, chair massages, and even flu shots.

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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. Publication dates for the fall are **Sept. 8 and 22, Oct. 6 and 20, Nov. 3 and 17, and Dec. 1**. 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

## Exchange

**For rent**—Well-insulated, energy-efficient home in Westwood neighborhood available Nov. 1. Three floors and bedrooms, one bath, enclosed sun room, washer, and dryer. Price: \$1,275 per month, plus utilities and one month security deposit. Contact: (269) 381-0922.

## 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.

## Future teachers benefiting from scholarship

Six recent graduates of Kalamazoo high schools have just had an opportunity to meet those behind a new WMU scholarship they are the first to receive.

The WMU-Kalamazoo Public Schools Future Educators Program will help the students become educators and enhance the diversity of the Kalamazoo Public Schools' teaching staff.

At an Oct. 6 luncheon for the first six scholarship recipients, the previously anonymous benefactor for five of the scholarships revealed his identity and met and congratulated the students benefiting from the program.

William F. Pickard of Bloomfield Hills, a WMU alumnus and trustee, initiated a \$250,000 grant to the program announced in April. That grant funds five \$5,000 scholarships annually for five years for Kalamazoo Promise-eligible students who plan to become teachers. It was provided by the Pickard Family Fund of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan.

A sixth program scholarship was funded by the Advia Foundation. Janet Veach from Advia greeted students at the meeting as well. The six students awarded named scholarships through the program this year are all graduates of KPS high schools.



Pickard met with the scholarship winners during an Oct. 6 event. (Photo by Mike Lanka)



Clayton

## Clayton tapped to head military, veterans affairs

A WMU staff member who is a U.S. Army veteran with more than 20 years of military experience is the new head of the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs.

WMU has selected Billy L. Clayton, that office's military outreach and recruitment coordinator for the past two years and a retired first sergeant, to fill the post of military advocate, effective Oct. 17.

Clayton replaces Joyce M. Busch, who was serving as military advocate until leaving WMU in late July to take a teaching position in the Washington, D.C. area.

"Billy brings a wonderful combination of military and WMU service as well as an understanding of our students to this position," says Randy W. Ott, director of the Center for Academic Success Programs, where military and veterans affairs is housed. "The more than 700 veteran students at WMU will continue to be well taken care of under Billy's leadership."

Clayton served in the Army from 1993 to 2014. He first came to WMU in 2009, when he was assigned by the Army to serve as a senior military instructor in the University's ROTC program.

United Way and WMU are again striving to make gains in education, income, health and other basic needs for individuals and families in the region. Helping to promote this year's campaign, and prominently featured on the United Way-WMU billboard by Stadium Drive are, from left: Jennifer Machiorlatti, communication; Amy Seth, University Recreation; and Earl Conner, building custodial and support services. For campaign details, visit [wmich.edu/news/2016/10/35444](http://wmich.edu/news/2016/10/35444).



## Committee seeks nominations for review observation team

WMU's Learner Support Program Review and Planning Oversight Committee is soliciting nominees from senior leaders, deans, chairs and directors by Friday, Oct. 21, to serve on its Observation Team.

Nominations are being sought from the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and the divisions of Academic Affairs, Intercollegiate Athletics and Student Affairs.

WMU is well into the second cycle of its integrated program review and planning process. Called Learner Support Program Review and Planning, this review cycle is intended to collect and analyze meaningful data-driven information. Data will be used to inform strategic planning leading to campuswide continuous improvement in WMU's learner support programs portfolio.

Phase I of the cycle is continuing through Wednesday, Nov. 30. Actively completing their self-study reports are 126 learner support programs from the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and the divisions of Academic Affairs, Intercollegiate Athletics and Student Affairs.

They are responding to a set of questions developed for the Academic Program Review and Planning cycle—the first cycle in the integrated program review and planning process. But these questions have been modified for use with learner support programs.

Phase II of the current cycle, next- and division-level review, will begin Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2017, with a peer review conducted by the Learner Support Program Review and Planning Observation Team.

For more information about Learner Support Program Review and Planning or the integrated program review and planning process, visit [wmich.edu/effectiveness/review](http://wmich.edu/effectiveness/review).

## Trustees approve changes in campus, road names

Acting at their Oct. 11 meeting, WMU trustees approved a slate of name changes designed to make it easier to navigate the University campus.

The changes grew out of a yearlong effort to assess, simplify and make wayfinding on campus more intuitive. The effort includes new signage as well as other wayfinding tools.

The first major change involves recognizing the University's major physical presence in Kalamazoo as Main Campus for everything west of Stadium Drive, and East Campus for property east of Stadium Drive. In addition, the campus Ring Road, which includes

several stretches of named roadways that are remnants of a time when they were city streets, will now be known as North Ring Road and South Ring Road.

Four named streets around Lawson Ice Arena—Crane, Hussey, Roell and Warner—will be incorporated into a new, single Lawson Drive. The four names were selected in 1975 to honor faculty members.

Those names will instead become the names of individual intramural fields to preserve the recognition intended for the four, who were members of the Women's Physical Education Department.

### Service

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

**35 Years**—Virginia Denise Bryan, Graduate College; Thomas W. Sauber, landscape services; Kimberly L. Smith, admissions; and Patricia A. Wilcox, payroll and disbursements.

**30 Years**—Melanie L. Chapin-Lechner, landscape services; Laurretta R. Eisenbach, anthropology; Edward Kluk, information technology; Gracie K. Mae, Bernhard Center Dining Service; Leonard J. Peirce, information technology; Mark T. Robinson, Burnham Dining Service; and Linda J. Young-Woolf, landscape services.

**25 Years**—Christine J. Blum, building custodial and support services, and Derrick Williams, Burnham Dining Service.

**20 Years**—Jodi Houseman, building custodial and support services; Kay Lewis, catering; Chad Stec, student affairs-information services; Amy Sue Stonerock, admissions; Cinda Kaye Swinsick, Sindecuse Health

Center; and Anne M. Wagner, payroll and disbursements.

**15 Years**—Lynnette K. Abbate, arts and sciences advising; Dennis L. Forsythe, maintenance services; Eliana Lopez-Grez, University Libraries; Holly D. Mathews, physician assistant; Randy W. Ott, Center for Academic Success Programs; and Carol Reid, College of Education and Human Development.

**10 Years**—William Carlson, information technology; Karen L. Lamons, Residence Life; Mallisa R. Minnema, College of Arts and Sciences; Jessica L. Parker, Extended University Programs; and Mary Anne Sydlik, Mallinson Institute.

**Five Years**—Andres Ballines, West Hills Athletic Club; Lauren Carney, diversity and inclusion; Kyle J. Chouinard, geosciences; Brianna Galli, chemistry; Michael O. Roe, enrollment management; Sheneeka K. Skinner, Sindecuse Health Center; and Evelyn VanderRoest, Valley Dining Center.

## On Campus with Tania Echavarria



DEFINITELY COLLEGE MATERIAL  
(Photo by Deanne Puca)

About 20 years ago, Tania Echavarria was introduced to WMU through a recruiting initiative at the high school in her hometown of Weslaco, Texas. That experience helped fuel her longtime desire to go to college, and she ultimately landed at the University as a student in 1997.

She was hired as a work-study student in multicultural affairs two years later, then joined the professional staff. Since 2010, she's been assistant director for MI GEAR UP—Michigan's Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs. It is Michigan's largest college-access program, serving more than 11,000 students. WMU and Michigan's 14 other public universities partner with the program to create a college-going culture in the state by working with local school districts.

Echavarria says her favorite part of the job is interacting with students and seeing them grow and work toward success under the program.

"The data proves if you follow a specific group through middle school, high school and college, they are more successful," Echavarria says. "There is student interaction with college students, and we work with (college) students to prepare them to mentor youth. It's about building organizational skills, diversity awareness and how to problem solve. They can really take those skills anywhere. That's what businesses are looking for now—the ability to problem solve and critical thinking skills."

Echavarria says her personal experience growing up in a low-income family of migrant workers helps her relate to students in her current job. Born in Mexico, her family traveled to Michigan in the summers to find work.

"When I was growing up, I wanted to go to college. I wanted something more for myself," Echavarria says. "I didn't know about these programs to help students like myself, but knew I had to have good grades, and I was determined to go to college."

She earned a bachelor's degree in fine arts and plans to continue her education this spring working toward her master's degree in educational leadership. In her free time, she does freelance graphic design work and enjoys photography and gardening. Echavarria is married to Gustavo, who is coordinator of outreach/recruitment for the College Assistance Migrant Program at WMU. The couple have two children, daughter Sofia and son Diego, and live in Kalamazoo.

## WMU students, employees have complimentary access to *New York Times*

All WMU students, faculty and staff members now have complimentary access to the digital edition of the *New York Times* and select *New York Times* apps.

Two types of subscriptions to [nytimes.com](http://nytimes.com) were made available starting at the beginning of this academic year. They are a group account, called the [nytimes.com](http://nytimes.com) Pass, and The New York Times in Education account, which provides specialized tools for teachers.

Both types of subscriptions allow 24/7 access to digital content. As with an individual subscription, both can be used on a desktop computer, tablet and mobile device. The subscriptions are prepaid through WMU's University Libraries, so they require only a valid [wmich.edu](http://wmich.edu) address and Bronco NetID.

"In addition to the active campus commu-

nity getting great news, the exciting part about these subscriptions is that teachers can use a variety of *New York Times* resources in their classrooms,"

says Lou A. Morgan, senior marketing specialist in University Libraries. "At the same time, students can have their own accounts so they can use *Times* resources for other classes—and for as long as they're a student here."

The group pass allows users to review and receive news regardless of whether it is in email, video or virtual reality formats, as well as to download an elections



app, search the *New York Times* archives back to the 1880s, sign up for email newsletters and alerts, and more.

It includes the NYTimes smartphone and tablet apps, which are available

through the Apple and Android app stores.

Faculty members who set up a New York Times in Education account have access to lesson plans, based on subject areas, which center around *Times* articles and are updated weekly by faculty contributors.

In addition to those faculty-curated *New York Times* articles, subscribers receive custom news alerts, suggestions for co-curricular activities and weekly digests of news articles in such major subject areas as biology, business, criminal justice and economics.

For more information, visit [wmich.edu/news/2016/10/35560](http://wmich.edu/news/2016/10/35560).

### Apply for cultural funding

The University Cultural Events Committee is accepting applications for partial funding of cultural events to take place between now and spring 2017. The next deadline for funding consideration is Monday, Nov. 7. For more information, visit [wmich.edu/cec](http://wmich.edu/cec) or contact Julie Nemire at [julie.nemire@wmich.edu](mailto:julie.nemire@wmich.edu).

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### WMU has record-breaking homecoming day

first time since 1941 and is in position to contend for a spot in a New Year's Six bowl," said the AP in its narrative about the Oct. 10 rankings.

"The Broncos have already beaten two Big Ten teams and have continued a steady rise since P.J. Fleck, the second-youngest head coach in the FBS at 35, took over in 2013 and went 1-11."

WMU was 8-5 the past two seasons, reaching bowl games in consecutive seasons for the

first time in school history. Now ranked at No. 20 in the nation by the AP, as well as ranked at No. 20 by the USA Today Amway Coaches Poll, the Broncos are 7-0 and one of only 11 teams in the nation to be undefeated.

The Broncos are bowl-eligible and have a realistic chance of being among teams playing in New Year's bowl games.

For more information about WMU football, visit [wmubroncos.com](http://wmubroncos.com).

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