President search moving forward

The 22-member Presidential Search Ad
visory Committee has met twice and nearly
finished developing a leadership profile that
outlines the qualifications the next president
should have. A website at 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.

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/
BLET9cHBxD2.

Service-learning award winners named

The WMU recipients of 2015-16 Excel-
lence 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.

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, a volunteer to be a peer
reviewer or staff member, visit scholarwork,
wmich.edu/hilltopreview.

For more information about the Hilltop
Review or the Graduate Student Association,
visit 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 1,221 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.

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.

“Now WMU is 6-0 for the
Continued on page 4

Alliance with FSW formally announced in Florida

Officials from WMU and Florida
Southwestern State College gath-
ered Oct. 18 to formally announce
their new alliance that will allow
WMU to offer several high-profile
academic programs at FSW’s Char-
lotte 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 develop-
ment; and Bill Truex, chair of the
Charlotte County Board of Com-
missoners.

“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.”

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. A video of the
Florida event is available on Facebook at
fb.me/wmuregionalandonline.
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 Fitbit 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 and safety tips, health plan information, giveaways, it will feature health prevention prizes, healthy food samples and exhibitor is set for 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday Oct. 26, in the Bernhard Center. Robert White, music, will host a pre-performance discussion at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at millerauditorium.com or by calling (269) 387-2300.

Carruthers joins professor in reading

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 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 Material Institute, was elected a 2016 Fellow of the American Physical Society during the APS Council of Representatives’ September meeting on recommendation of the 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 on the 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 targeted 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 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.”
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 WMU-Kalamazoo Public Schools’ Teacher Education Program.

At its 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 Bloomsfield Hills, a WMU alumnus and trustee, initiated a $500,000 grant to the program.

That grant funds five $50,000 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 Advisa Foundation. Janet Veach from Advisa 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.

Several other students from the Kalamazoo Public Schools’ Teacher Education Program will receive $5,000 scholarships this year.

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 Machorlaff, communication; Amy Sath, University Recreation; and Earl Conner, building custodial and support services. For campaign details, visit 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 nominations 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 process—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.

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.

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.

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

5 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; Laurenetta E. Eisenbach, anthropology; Edward Kukl, information technology; Gracie K. Moe, 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.

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

15 Years—Lynnette K. Abbate, arts and sciences advising; Dennis L. Fonseca, maintenance services; Elunna Lopez-Oreiz, University Libraries; Holly D. Mathews, the 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. Lomos, Residence Life; Mallasia 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 Carnes, diversity and inclusion; Kelly J. Chownard, geosciences; Brianna Galli, chemistry; Michael O. Roe, enrollment management; Sheneeka K. Skinner, Sincerece Health Center; and Evelyn VanderRoest, Valley Dining Center.

Clayton
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 were made available starting at the beginning of this academic year. They are a group account, called the 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 address and Bronco NetID.

“In addition to the active campus community 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.

**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 about WMU football, visit wmubroncos.com.

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**On Campus with Tania Echavarria**

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.

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**Continued from page 1**

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.