



# Western NEWS

OCTOBER 13, 2005  
volume 32, number 4

For and about WMU faculty and staff

## WMU is second nationally in campus wireless capability

Western Michigan University ranks second in the nation in the use of wireless computing technology on campus, according to results of Intel's second annual survey of campus computing released Oct. 11.

Intel released its 2005 list of the 100 "Most Unwired College Campuses" based on several factors, including percentage of the campus covered by wireless technology, number of undergraduate students, number of computers and the campus computer-to-student ratio.

WMU moved up from eighth place in the 2004 survey, knocking Purdue University out of the number two slot. Ball State University nabbed the top spot, while the University of Akron, Dartmouth College and Carnegie Mellon University filled out the remainder of the top-five slots in that order. WMU is the only Michigan university in the list's top 10 and one of only three Michigan schools in the top 50.

## Commercialization series begins

The first of a planned campus seminar series on translating "Research to Commercialization" will be held Wednesday, Oct. 19, and will feature a faculty member from the University of Michigan.

The event is set for 3:30 p.m. in 1010 Fetzer and will focus on the "Development of the Bioartificial Kidney," with speaker David Humes, professor of internal medicine at the U of M.

Open to all students, engineers and scientists, the seminar will explore how to translate basic or applied research to commercialization. Each session in the series will also include a networking session intended to link research faculty to scientists, engineers or industrial partners interested in undertaking collaborative efforts that could lead to the commercialization of research.

## Campus Classic registration set for runners, walkers, volunteers

The annual Homecoming Campus Classic 5K race and walk and 1K fun run and walk is set for Homecoming Saturday morning, Oct. 29, with the 1K race and walk beginning at 8:15 a.m. and the 5K starting at 9 a.m.

Both courses are all new this year. To register to take part in either race, to become a volunteer or to download maps of the new courses as PDF files, visit the Campus Classic Web site at [www.wmich.edu/race](http://www.wmich.edu/race).

## Campus United Way drive nears two-thirds of \$210,000 goal

More than 65 percent of WMU's \$210,000 goal for the United Way was received in the first three weeks of the campus campaign. As of Tuesday, Oct. 11, a total of \$138,015 had been received in gifts and pledges from 928 WMU donors.

## Unique research center established with \$4 million gift from Kalamazoo's Meaders

A multimillion-dollar private gift from a Kalamazoo couple has resulted in the creation of a one-of-a-kind center for the study of geographical change at WMU.

Edwin E. and Mary U. Meader contributed \$4 million to establish the W.E. Upjohn Center for the Study of Geographical Change, named to honor Mary Meader's grandfather, a pharmaceutical pioneer who began his company in Kalamazoo more than a century ago. The new center, which was formally opened with an Oct. 10 ceremony, is housed in Welborn Hall.



ON THE MAP—Donors Edwin and Mary Meader, front, were joined after the ribbon cutting by President Judith I. Bailey and David Dickason, chairperson of geography and the principal researcher with the center.

The Upjohn Center will make WMU a central resource for preserving the work of past explorers and scientists and for combining their discoveries with the technical capabilities of today's researchers. The facility, the only one of its kind in the world, will use the latest technology to preserve and create enhanced digital versions of maps and aerial photography.

"Ed and Mary are among this University's most generous benefactors, and with this gift, the impact of their generosity will be extended and felt in locations around the nation," said President Judith I. Bailey at the dedication ceremony. "In cartographic terms, the Upjohn Center will put Western Michigan University 'on the map' as a major national and international resource for vital scholarly research."

Using the latest technology available, the new center will preserve and enhance in digital version maps and aerial photography from around the nation, providing an infrastructure for research on geographical change. In many cases, the original paper and photographic versions of these documents are deteriorating and might be lost if not preserved in electronic form, according to Chairperson David Dickason, geography, who is spearheading the project.

"With the benefits of modern technology," says Dickason, "specifically the Worldwide Web, WMU will be able to make these documents available to literally anyone who wants them—from those conducting scholarly research to private citizens, who are simply interested in family or community history."

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## Online research journal will focus on graduate work

The University's Graduate Student Advisory Committee will unveil the inaugural issue of its online research journal during a public reception at 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 14, in the President's Dining Room of the Bernhard Center.



The inaugural issue of *The Hilltop Review: a Journal of Western Michigan University*

*Graduate Research* features peer-reviewed articles from WMU doctoral and master's-level students in the disciplines of philosophy; paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging; educational studies; communication; and mechanical and aeronautical engineering.

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## Gift to fund residencies for visiting artists in dance

The nation's top dancers, choreographers and others highly skilled in the field of modern dance will be coming to WMU in the coming years, thanks to the generosity of a Mendon businessman.

The Elaine Hamilton Haas Distinguished Modern Dance Artist-Scholar Residency is being established through a gift from Carroll J. Haas Sr. in honor of his wife, Elaine, a former dancer and teacher. Funding from the endowment will be used to support short-term residencies, bringing outstanding leaders in the field of modern dance to WMU and Kalamazoo. The artist-scholars will include renowned choreographers, artistic directors, modern dance performers, dance authors and critics.

"The Department of Dance is so fortunate to be the recipient of Carroll Haas' very generous gift," says Chairperson Nina Nelson, dance. "The creation of the Elaine Hamilton Haas Distinguished Modern

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# Around Campus

## German constitution is topic

A German expert on that country's constitutional law will visit campus on Wednesday, Oct. 19, to discuss Germany's current constitutional woes.

Herbert Bethge professor of law at the University of Passau, Germany, will speak on "Current Constitutional Problems in Germany" from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in 3301 Friedmann. His presentation is sponsored by the Department of Political Science's Institute of Government and Politics.

Bethge holds a law degree from the Free University of Berlin and a Ph.D. from the University of Cologne. He served on a Regional Appeals Court in Berlin and taught at the University of Cologne before becoming professor and chair of public law, administrative law and media law at Passau in 1978.

He has appeared as legal counsel and in numerous representations before the German Federal Constitutional Court as well as State Constitutional courts.

## Safe on Campus ally training scheduled in coming weeks

Three Safe on Campus training sessions will take place this fall to teach the basics about being supportive and visible to WMU's lesbian, bisexual, gay and transgender students.

Two sessions of a general program are being offered for those wishing to be allies for LBGST students. Also being offered is one session of an advanced program that focuses on training allies for transgender students. All sessions will be held in the Bernhard Center.

The LBGST ally training will take place from noon to 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 14, in the Presidents Dining Room and from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 2, in Room 210. The advanced transgender ally training will take place from 10 a.m. to noon Friday, Nov. 4, in the Faculty Dining Room (enter from inside cafeteria dining room).

For more information or to register, call 7-2123 or e-mail [lbgt-coordinator@wmich.edu](mailto:lbgt-coordinator@wmich.edu).

## Next Frostic readings set

Two nationally known literary figures will read from their work at WMU in the coming week.

Playwright Charles Smith will give a reading tonight, Oct. 13, and poet Michael Ryan will read from his work Thursday, Oct. 20.

Both events are set for 8 p.m. in the Little Theatre and are free and open to the public.

Smith was born and raised on the Southside of Chicago. His plays explore issues surrounding the perceptions of race and politics from an African-American point-of-view. His work has been produced off-Broadway and at regional theatres around the country.

Poet Ryan's most recent collection is "New and Selected Poems," published last year. In reviewing the volume, the *Washington Post* called him "a scrupulously observant poet with a gift for going for the jugular." He is a National Book Award finalist, and he won the Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize in 1990.

## Phi Beta Kappa speaker will focus on Christian monasticism

A noted religious scholar will present the University's annual Phi Beta Kappa lecture at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 20, in the Meader Rare Book Room of Waldo Library.

Bernard McGinn, the Naomi Shentstone Donnelly Professor Emeritus at the University of Chicago Divinity School, will speak on "Why Monasticism Matters." His visit is being sponsored by WMU's branch of Phi Beta Kappa and Department of Comparative Religion.

McGinn is widely regarded as the preeminent scholar of mysticism in the Western Christian tradition. His lecture will focus on monasticism, which is a form of virtuous religious life characterized by asceticism, separation from the world and contemplation of God.

*These and many other campus events are described in greater detail on the WMU News Web site at [www.wmich.edu/wmu/news](http://www.wmich.edu/wmu/news).*

## WMUK begins on-air fund-raiser

WMU public radio station WMUK 102.1 FM will launch its fall on-air fund drive at 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 15.

The station has set a goal of \$210,000, the same amount as the past two fall drives. Both of those drives were successful.

"We will go until we reach the goal," says Vickie Langkam, director of development. "So the end of the drive is up to the listeners."

The station offers a number of methods to contribute. In addition to pledging by phone, donors can make contributions via the station's Web site at [www.wmuk.org](http://www.wmuk.org). People can pay by check, credit card, payroll deduction or electronic funds transfer.

A "fund drive ticker" on the Web site also will post the drive's up-to-date results. Close to \$60,000 had already been raised as of Oct. 7 through online and other contributions.

## Murali lauded at Lansing event

Viji Murali, vice president for information technology and chief information officer at WMU, was recognized Oct. 12 with a Visionary Award presented at the Michigan Digital Government Summit in Lansing.



Murali

The Visionary Award, one of a series of Michigan Excellence in Technology Awards announced at the summit, is intended for a manager or official "who has demonstrated vision, leadership and support of technology initiatives." Nominees for the award needed a "clear record of driving the use of technology, a demonstrated ability to identify future needs and a passion for serving the public."

The annual summit is an executive event designed as a leadership forum for information technology professionals.

Murali has led WMU's information technology functions since 1999, and has been instrumental in leading such campus initiatives as Wireless Western and the new Student Information System.

## Ramptown research draws focus of international media outlets

The work of WMU's Archaeology Field School and the school's director, Michael Nassaney, has drawn international attention over the past two weeks.



Nassaney

Associated Press reporter James Prichard of the AP's Grand Rapids bureau did a story on Ramptown, a 19th-century community of freed slaves on the Underground Railroad near Vandalia.

The story was triggered by Nassaney's final report to the Michigan Historical Center, which detailed the 2002 field school work of faculty and students who set out to document the existence of the community, which disappeared many years ago.

The AP story was picked up by dozens of papers around the world, including the *Guardian* in London and the *Washington Post* and *Newsday* in the United States.

## Baas joins journal board

Jane Baas, dance, has been named to the editorial board of the *Journal of Dance Medicine and Science*.



Baas

Baas' appointment to the 20-member, international board was effective June 2005. The quarterly, peer-reviewed journal has an international editorial board and is the official publication of the International Association for Dance, Medicine and Science.

Baas, a faculty member since 1981, has served on the boards of the Michigan Dance Association and the American College Dance Festival Association. She also serves as a site visitor for the National Association of Schools of Dance.



volume 32  
number 4

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WESTERN NEWS (USPS 362-210) is published by the Office of University Relations, Walwood Hall, Western Michigan University, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5433, every other week during the fall and spring semesters and Summer I session. Periodicals postage paid at Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5165.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Western News*, Office of University Relations, Western Michigan University, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5433.

DEADLINE: Items to be considered for publication should be submitted to the Office of University Relations by 5 p.m. Friday the week preceding publication. Fall publication dates are Sept. 1, Sept. 15, Sept. 29, Oct. 13, Oct. 27, Nov. 10 and Dec. 1. Items may be submitted by mail, fax (387-8422) or e-mail ([cheryl.roland@wmich.edu](mailto:cheryl.roland@wmich.edu)).

WMU is an equal opportunity/employer/affirmative action institution.



## Obituaries

**Diane J. East** of Plainwell died Oct. 3. She was 56.

A lifelong resident of the Kalamazoo area, she retired in 2004 after being an employee in WMU's custodial services for more than 17 years.

East, a life member of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary, was buried at Ft. Custer National Cemetery.

**Jimmie Louise Morton** of Richland died Oct. 2 in Kalamazoo. She was 74.

Morton retired from WMU in 1986 after nearly 25 years of service to the University. She retired as an administrative assistant in the College of Education.

Morton was a graduate of Kalamazoo Central High School and spent most of her life in the Kalamazoo area.

## Human Resources

### Open enrollment begins Oct. 17

Open enrollment for health insurance begins Oct. 17 and continues until 5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 31, for AAUP faculty, non-bargaining, AFSCME and MSEA employees, and WMU retirees. During open enrollment employees and retirees have the option of adding eligible dependents to their health insurance.

Faculty, staff and retirees currently enrolled in the indemnity plan will have their contracts converted to the Community Blue PPO, effective Jan. 1, as this will be the University's only health plan as of that date. No re-enrollment in health insurance is required for any employees or retirees.

Detailed open enrollment information has been mailed to employees' and retirees' home addresses. This information is also available at [www.wmich.edu/hr](http://www.wmich.edu/hr).

### Set Flex Spending Accounts now

Employees who wish to participate in a Flexible Spending Account in 2006 must enroll or re-enroll during open enrollment, Oct. 17 through Oct. 31. Flexible Spending Accounts offer an opportunity to use tax-free dollars to pay for qualified medical expenses not covered by insurance, or for dependent care expenses.

New participants and current participants who wish to continue their plans in 2006 must submit an enrollment form to Human Resources by 5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 31. This form is part of the "Guide to BASIC Flex," available at [www.wmich.edu/hr](http://www.wmich.edu/hr) or at Human Resources offices, 1300 Seibert.

## WMU procurement card applications due Oct. 19

Applications for the new JP Morgan Chase Procurement Card must be turned in by Wednesday, Oct. 19 to the Purchasing Department, mail stop 5342. Applications can be found at [www.obf.wmich.edu/logistical-services/purchasing.html](http://www.obf.wmich.edu/logistical-services/purchasing.html). Contact Michelle Hastings, procurement card administrator, at 7-8043 with any questions, comments or concerns.

## Jobs

The following vacancy is posted through the Job Opportunity Program by human resources. Interested benefits-eligible employees should submit a job opportunity transfer application during the posting period, and may contact a human resource services staff member for assistance.

Employees may call the Applicant Information Service at 7-3669 to hear the weekly job postings 24 hours a day, seven days a week from any TouchTone phone.

Those interested in faculty positions should submit a letter of application to the appropriate dean or chairperson.

**(R) Human Resource Coordinator, 14,** Human Resources, 05/06-4957, 10/10-10/17/05

R= Replacement

WMU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

## Exchange

**FOR SALE**—Used black faculty cap, gown and master's degree hood. Size 40/42. \$25 Worn by retired faculty member, Keith Bailey. Call (269) 353-9418.

**FOR SALE**—Beautiful four-bedroom, four-bath home, seven minutes from campus; three-bedroom, one-bath lake cottage in Delton area; Viking pop-up camper; huge moving sale 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 21 and Oct. 22, 84 Echo Hills, Kalamazoo. Call (269) 353-1184.

**FOR SALE**—House in Milwood's Golden Triangle. Cape cod on a double lot overlooking Milham Park Golf Course. More than 1,700 square feet, three to four bedrooms, two full baths, two fireplaces, large living room with built-in bookcases. Hardwood floors in formal dining room, kitchen and den/bedroom. Large partially finished basement with lots of storage. Three season porch, three-car garage with storage above. Lots of updates, move in condition, impeccably maintained. \$189,000 call (269) 381-3451.

**FOR SALE**—Pontiac Grand Prix GT1 2004. Very sharp! Excellent condition. White exterior with black/tan interior. only 19,000 miles. Still under factory warranty. V6 automatic trans., keyless entry, CD player, all power. \$14,200. Call 337-0408 or 381-3451 for more details.

**FOR SALE**—Cherry Knoll condominium. Quiet, convenient Westnedge Hill location. Ground-level end unit w/ patio and private entrance. Garage w/ opener. One bedroom. Wood floors. Washer & dryer included. \$62,907. Call 269-226-9750 for more info.

## Staff award nominations due

Nominations for the fall round of WMU's semiannual Make a Difference awards are due by Monday, Oct. 31.

Make a Difference is a campuswide peer-to-peer program that recognizes WMU staff members for their accomplishments and daily investment of energy and creativity. It features semiannual and annual awards that go to non-faculty employees who provide exceptional services to the University.

Every fall and spring, semiannual awards are presented to a maximum of 15 people. Those selected receive a certificate and a \$250 prize and are recognized at a special reception. They may win the award more than once, but are limited to one award per academic year.

Annual Make a Difference awards, which include a \$1,000 prize, go to each year's four most outstanding semiannual award winners.

More information and nomination forms are available online year round at [www.wmich.edu/makeadifference](http://www.wmich.edu/makeadifference). Nominations may be submitted through campus mail to Mail Stop Code 5216 or by e-mail to [Make-A-Difference@wmich.edu](mailto:Make-A-Difference@wmich.edu).

## Deadline near for Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner response

The Western Michigan University Alumni Association will present its 2005 Distinguished Alumni Award to Roz Abrams, co-anchor for WCBS-TV in New York City, and Jack Clifford, a semi-retired media consultant and mass communications pioneer from Scottsdale, Ariz.

Abrams earned a bachelor of science degree from WMU in 1970. She has been a reporter and anchor for almost 30 years and has taken part in award-winning coverage of some of the biggest stories of our time. In April 2004, she was named co-anchor for New York City's WCBS-TV, the flagship station of the CBS Television Network.

Clifford earned a bachelor of arts degree from WMU in 1956 and helped found the University's two radio stations: student-run WIDR and public radio's WMUK. During his 47-year career, he has been a pioneer in developing television programming and in the cable-TV, cellular-phone, paging, broadcast-cable and satellite-network industries.

The duo will be honored during an on-campus dinner at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 28, in the Bernhard Center. The deadline for reservations is Friday, Oct. 21. To make a reservation, call 7-8777.

## Distinguished Faculty Scholar nominations due in January

The Distinguished Faculty Scholar Committee is seeking nominations for the 2005-06 Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award.

The deadline for nominations is Friday, Jan. 20. Up to three awards may be made each year. Those selected during this cycle will be honored at a ceremony in late 2005 or early 2006. Each winner will receive a \$2,000 honorarium that becomes part of the recipient's base salary, a plaque and an opportunity to present a lecture, exhibition or performance for the University community.

All current, continuing board-appointed persons with faculty rank are eligible, but they must have at least seven academic years of service to WMU. The awards are based on outstanding professional achievements. The accomplishments may be artistic, historical, literary, philosophical, scientific or technical. Wide recognition beyond WMU is essential.

Guidelines and nomination forms are being distributed on campus. For more information, contact Ernst A. Breisach, history, at 7-4590 or [ebreisach@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ebreisach@sbcglobal.net).

# On Campus with Marcia Thompson



TRADING PLACES  
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

Earlier in her career, Marcia Thompson was involved in stock trading at what had been First of America Bank. In 1997, she landed a data clerk post in WMU's Office of Admissions and Orientation and just this April, she traded that job of eight years for a similar one in the human resources department.

"I was looking for a job at WMU," she says. "It was nice at First of America, but you need a little change every now and then and to meet new people. I've really enjoyed working with the student employees here—they tend to keep you pretty young."

In her new post, Thompson processes benefits-related paperwork using PeopleSoft software instead of admissions applications using Banner software. She says what she likes best about the switch is that it's a different challenge and all of her activities are now devoted to helping her fellow employees set up their insurance, retirement and other benefits packages.

"I work with everybody, and no two situations are alike," she notes. "Things like age, beneficiaries and dependents affect what people need. There's a lot to keep track of, and everything must be correct."

The daughter of a missionary doctor, Thompson grew up in Nigeria but went to high school in the United States. "Can you say culture shock?" she asks. These days, she primarily focuses on family and when not in the office, likes to read, do crafts and go on trips with her husband.

The couple lives near Mattawan and often plans their travels around visits to see their four children and six grandchildren, who are spread out in Iowa, Utah and Arizona. Together, they make a strong WMU family, with Thompson working at the University and her husband and children being proud alumni.

## Upjohn Center

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Dickason says the center already has attracted the interest of researchers at the University of Texas-Austin and the University of Wisconsin, and he expects to work in partnership with both institutions. He also has been in contact with the U.S. Library of Congress, which is the world's largest repository of maps.



THEN AND NOW—At 21, Mary Meader flew over Africa. Today, the photos she took there are a focal point of the new Upjohn Center.

The center contains what Dickason calls "world class" GIS scanning equipment from Lumiere Technology and a state-of-the-art archival area.

The center will also include an e-store, which will offer high-resolution copies of aerial photographs and maps, as well as reference books at a nominal cost. It also will be physically open to the public with a lobby-museum area that features multi-media programs and displays, including some of Mary Meader's landmark aerial photography of South America and Africa.

In 1937, Mary Meader, just 21 at the time, embarked with her then-husband, Richard U. Light, on an

unprecedented fly-over of Africa. During the journey, Meader took many of the first-ever aerial photographs of the continent. The historic significance of the flight has been recognized by, among others, the National Air and Space Museum of the Smithsonian Institution.

Mary Meader's work as an explorer was recognized at the Oct. 10 ceremony. Larry G. Sommers, councillor of the American Geographical Society, attended the event and announced Mary Meader's induction as an honorary fellow of the AGS. He also announced that the AGS Fliers' and Explorers' Globe will travel to Kalamazoo so that she may add her signature to those of 70 "early heroes of exploration and aviation." Other signers include Charles Lindbergh, Amelia Earhart, Sir Edmond Hillary and the Apollo 13 astronauts.

Both Meaders are longtime supporters of WMU, and Edwin E. Meader is a former adjunct professor of geography at the University.

## Online research journal

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"This is a great opportunity to highlight the outstanding research and work that fellow graduate students are doing during their time here as well as highlight WMU's status as a research institution," says Todd Ide, chairperson of the GSAC.

According to *Hilltop Review* Editor Toni

Strutz, the journal provides students with valuable experience, allows them to share their work with a global audience and gives them a published article they can then list on their resume.

Submissions for the next issue of the journal, to be published in April of 2006,

## Dance residencies

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Dance Artist-Scholar Residency Endowment will allow us to consistently bring outstanding modern dance artists and scholars to campus so that our students and the community can benefit from their talents."

Elaine Hamilton Haas herself was an accomplished dancer while attending the University of Michigan, appearing frequently in collegiate productions before obtaining her degree. Born in Plymouth, Mich., in 1914, dancing was always a big part of her life, says her husband, Carroll.

Hamilton graduated from U of M in 1939 with a degree in elementary education. She met her husband—not surprisingly—at a dance. They settled in his hometown, Mendon, where they raised six children.

Carroll Haas, an entrepreneurial manufacturer of injection-molded plastics and fittings, started and sold several manufacturing plants in Michigan, Florida, California, Kentucky, Ohio and Georgia. He says he is happy to start yet another enterprise that will pay dividends for many years: a dance endowment in his wife's honor. Now 91 and battling Alzheimer's disease, Elaine Haas has set aside her dancing shoes, but her passion for dance will live on.

"She liked dancing so much and did it so well," her husband says. "I thought it would be nice to do something in her honor along those lines."