



# Western NEWS

FEBRUARY 5, 2009  
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For and about WMU faculty and staff

## TIAA-CREF reps coming to campus

Representatives of TIAA-CREF will be on campus later this month as well as in March for one-on-one financial consultations with members of the WMU community. The consultations will take place in 207 Bernhard Center during selected times from Tuesday through Thursday, Feb. 17-19, and March 17-19.

Slots may fill up quickly, so those interested are urged to schedule their appointments soon by calling (800) 732-8353 or going to the TIAA-CREF Web site at [www.tiaa-cref.org](http://www.tiaa-cref.org) and clicking the "Meetings and Counseling" tab.

## Dunn to host open forum Feb. 18

WMU President John M. Dunn will appear in a public forum Wednesday, Feb. 18, in 157 Bernhard Center. The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. with opening remarks by the president. Following a formal question-and-answer session, there will be an opportunity for attendees to meet Dunn.

## Deadline for key awards shortened

The due date for nominations for the 2009-10 Distinguished Service, Distinguished Teaching and Emerging Scholar awards has been changed from this coming fall to 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 1. The change is due to the earlier-than-usual date for this year's Academic Convocation, which will be held Sept. 10. Go to [www.wmich.edu/provost/announcements](http://www.wmich.edu/provost/announcements) for criteria and nomination procedures for each award.

## FYE signing up faculty facilitators

Applications are being accepted through Friday, Feb. 13, for faculty facilitators to teach the 2009 First-Year Experience Seminar. Go to [www.wmich.edu/provost/announcements](http://www.wmich.edu/provost/announcements) to learn more or obtain the application form. Questions may be directed to Maleeka Love at [maleeka.love@wmich.edu](mailto:maleeka.love@wmich.edu) or 387-2167.

## New grant applications due April 15

Applications are being accepted through April 15 for the 2009-10 Faculty Assessment Grants Program. The program, which is open to full-time WMU faculty and staff, awards grants for research on assessment that advances the formal assessment of student learning outcomes and program quality.

The maximum level of each award is \$5,000, with up to a program total of \$30,000 awarded annually. For guidelines, go to [www.wmich.edu/poapa](http://www.wmich.edu/poapa) or call the Office of Institutional Effectiveness at 387-0399.

## Aviation dean to stay at University

David M. Powell, dean of the College of Aviation, has changed his plans to depart Michigan in favor of remaining at WMU. Powell had accepted an offer to become chief operating officer for Georgia-based Flight Training Services International, and was set to assume the post this month.

## Engineering dean candidates to visit campus

Four candidates for dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences will make public presentations during a series of campus visits that will begin Monday, Feb. 9.

In talks open to the entire community, each candidate will answer the same question—"Given the current economic and global context, how would you lead the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences in the areas of education and research?"

The names and titles of all four candidates follow, along with the times, days and dates of their presentations. All four events will take place at 3 p.m. in D-109 of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences Building on the Parkview Campus:

- Joseph Rencis, professor, department head and the 21st Century Leadership Chair in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Arkansas, Monday, Feb. 9;
- Anthony Vizzini, the Bill and Carolyn Cobb Chair and department head of Mississippi State University's Department of Aerospace Engineering, Wednesday, Feb. 11;
- David Finley, vice president for academic affairs and professor of chemical engineering at Trine University, Monday, Feb. 16; and
- Lizette Chevalier, professor of civil and environmental engineering at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, Wednesday, Feb. 18.

The four candidates were selected through a nationwide search to find a successor for Timothy Greene, who became WMU's provost and vice president for academic affairs last summer. Go to [www.wmich.edu/engineer/dean\\_search.htm](http://www.wmich.edu/engineer/dean_search.htm) for complete biographical information on all four candidates.

## WMU named one of state's first 'tree campuses'

The National Arbor Day Foundation has named WMU one of the first two Tree Campus USA institutions in Michigan and among the first such campuses in the nation.

The designation, which also was given to the University of Michigan, recognizes WMU for its dedication to campus forestry management and environmental stewardship. It is similar to the Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA program that has resulted in both Kalamazoo and Portage, Mich., being named among the nation's more than 3,300 Tree Cities.

Paul MacNellis, physical plant-landscape services, notes that WMU has celebrated Arbor Day for several years, but the day has always fallen during final exam week.



Three consecutive years of participating in Arbor Day observances helped WMU earn the new Campus Tree USA designation. Observance participants in 2008 included, from left, Beverly Houseman, gardener; Mayela Cameron, student grounds employee; Nancy Sluss, groundskeeper II; and Tammy Kiel, groundskeeper II. (Photo courtesy of landscape services)

"We're pushing it up to April 17 this year to involve more folks. The new Tree Campus USA status will help us launch a more publicized event than in the past. There are requirements that we will honor every year from now on to keep the status," MacNellis says.

"Our Tree/Arboretum Committee will be spearheading several planned initiatives over the next several years to assure continued progress in our tree program. We've always approached the landscapes of campus professionally and with success. The committee will broaden the base of involvement to more of the campus and local community."

The Arbor Day Foundation, supported by a grant from Toyota Motor North America, launched the Tree Campus initiative in fall 2008. WMU met the required five core standards of tree care and community engagement in order to receive Tree Campus status.

The standards WMU had to meet were establishing a campus tree advisory committee, providing evidence of having a campus tree-care plan and of dedicating annual expenditures to this plan, instituting a service-learning project aimed at engaging the student body, and being involved in an Arbor Day observance.

Go to [www.org/treecampussusa](http://www.org/treecampussusa) for more information about the Tree Campus program.

# Around Campus

## Illness inspires professor's art show

A multi-media art exhibit called "Art of Healing, Journey through Cancer," by Gay Walker, holistic health, opened Feb. 4 and continues through the spring semester in the College of Health and Human Services Building. The exhibit was inspired by Walker's healing from breast cancer. It is intended to be educational, exposing students, faculty, staff and community members to art therapy, a powerful form of healing.

## World-famous comedians to perform

WMU will welcome Dan Nainan and Dean Obeidallah to campus for the first International Comedy Night at 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, in the Bernhard Center's East Ballroom. Admission is free for WMU students, and faculty and staff members.

Nainan has performed on NBC's "Last Comic Standing" and "Saturday Night Live" as well as shared the stage with some of the top comedians in the country. Obeidallah has been featured on several national and international TV programs, including Comedy Central's "Axis of Evil" and "The Watch List," and CNN's "Inside the Middle East."

## Ailey troupe appearing at Miller

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a show at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 10,

in Miller Auditorium. The company is one of the most acclaimed international ambassadors of American culture, promoting the distinctiveness of the African-American cultural experience, and preserving and enriching modern American dance.

## Shiavo case part of ethics program

"Medical Ethics and the Wisdom of the Sages" will be addressed during the Emeriti Council's next Wednesdays II informal talk. The program will be presented by Shirley Bach, emerita in philosophy, beginning at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11, in Walwood Hall's Heinig Emeriti Lounge.

Bach will discuss lessons from the Terry Shiavo court case as well as other interesting personal health care decisions that have publicly played out in the news media.

## Radio program celebrates 25 years

WMUK, the University's public radio station, will present a special live edition of "The Jazz Scene" from 8 to 10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27. It will celebrate the 25th anniversary of "The Jazz Scene," one of the longest continuously running music programs in Southwest Michigan. Hosting the broadcast will be Dave Hager and Garrard Macleod, emeritus professor and former WMUK general manager.

## Chair elected president of alliance

Said Abubakr, chair of paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging, has been elected president of the Pulp and Paper Education and Research Alliance of universities. The organization fosters cooperation in education and research in support of the U.S. pulp, paper and printing industries.



Abubakr

Abubakr came to WMU in 2001 and specializes in paper recycling research. He has written more than 130 papers as well as authored one book and co-authored three others. Previously, he was a U.S. Forest Service research project leader and taught at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and Yarmulke University in Jordan.

## Staffer honored for service leadership

Tony Dennis, Graduate College, is a recipient of this year's Michigan Campus Compact Faculty/Staff Community Service-Learning



Dennis

Award, an honor that recognizes contributions to community service. The award will be presented at the compact's 2009 reception Thursday, Feb. 12 in Grand Rapids, Mich.

The organization annually presents awards to one person from each compact member campus who engages or influences students to be involved in community service or service-learning through modeling, influence or instruction.

Dennis, associate director of recruitment and retention for the Graduate College, came to WMU in 1993 as assistant director of undergraduate administration. He has worked at the Graduate College since 2005, and also has worked as director of recruitment and student services for the College of Aviation.

## Millions viewing professor on TV

Quentin Smith, philosophy, is becoming WMU's most visible face on the "small screen." Millions of TV viewers are seeing him share his thoughts about the cosmos on "Closer to Truth," a program that debuted last fall on the PBS World network.



Smith

The program is described as a global television quest exploring the fundamental issues of the universe, brain and mind, religion, meaning and purpose through intimate, candid conversations with leading scientists, theologians and creative thinkers of all kinds.

Smith, one of the world's most respected philosophers, came to WMU in 1993. He is widely known for his work on the philosophy of time, philosophy of religion, naturalism and atheism, and philosophy of big bang cosmology and quantum cosmology. Smith was featured in two "Truth" episodes this past fall, and will appear in six programs airing early this year as well as six additional shows to air in 2010. The show is being broadcast locally on WGVU and WGVK at 5:30 a.m. on Saturdays.



LET IT SNOW?—Landscape services staffers good-naturedly climbed a mountain of snow recently for a group photo. They've been clearing snow and ice from countless walks, ramps, steps and building entrances nearly non-stop this academic year. (Photo courtesy of landscape services)



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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. Fall Session publication dates are **Jan. 8 and 22, Feb. 5 and 19, March 12 and 26, and April 9.** Items may be submitted by mail, fax (387-8422) or e-mail [jeanne.baron@wmich.edu](mailto:jeanne.baron@wmich.edu).

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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

## Exchange

**For rent**—One-bedroom suite with kitchenette. Weekly rental on Lake Michigan. Sleeps two, fully furnished. \$899 per/week. Go to <http://kirkbundling.com/rental> or call (231) 480-4597 and ask for Barb.

**For sale**—Car for \$1,500. 1990 Grand Prix runs well and has new paint, two new tires and nice grey cloth interior. Washer for \$100. This appliance is like new. Call 998-1349.

## Jobs

Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources Web site at [www.wmich.edu/hr/careers-at-wmu.htm](http://www.wmich.edu/hr/careers-at-wmu.htm). Please note that applications must be submitted online by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included with each posting.

## Trustees approve five retirements, one sabbatical

The retirements of one faculty member and four staff members were included in the personnel report presented to the WMU Board of Trustees at its Feb. 4 meeting. Also noted were one sabbatical leave and the resignations of four faculty members.

The faculty member who is retiring is doing so with emerita status. Her name, position, years of continuous service and effective date of retirement is: **Susan Ponchillia**, professor of blindness and low vision studies, 28 years, effective Dec. 13.

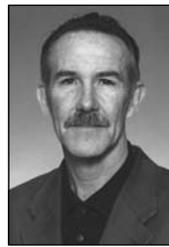
In related business, trustees were notified that **Steven C. Rhodes**, professor and director of communication, will not be retiring but will be stepping down from his administrative post and returning to the faculty Aug. 10. Rhodes also has been granted a sabbatical leave from Aug. 10-Dec. 13.

The staff members retiring are: **Sheila K. Johnson**, utility food worker in dining services-Bernhard Center, 17-1/2 years, effective April 30; **Gail L. MacNellis**, office coordinator in the College of Fine Arts, 36-1/2 years, effective March 31; **Thomas G. Waltz**, custodian in physical plant-building, custodial and support services, 34-1/2 years, effective April, 30; and **Hazel N. Williams**, office associate in dining services-Valley #2, 25-1/2 years, effective May 31.

The faculty members resigning are: Marie-Laure Bognol-Potter, management, effective Dec. 14, 2008; Jerry L. Emde, mathematics, effective Feb. 6; Eric J. Fox, psychology, effective Jan. 4; and Dean Darrell Johnson, Extended University Programs, effective Jan. 25.



Ponchillia



Rhodes



MacNellis



Waltz

## WMU again competing in organ registry challenge

WMU is competing with 14 other colleges and universities in Michigan in a contest to see which school can get the most people to sign up on the Michigan Organ Donor Registry by Feb. 25.

Signing up takes less than a minute, but offers a lifetime to those in need of an organ or tissue transplant.

Led by the Student Nurses Association, this is WMU's fifth year competing in the event. The University registered about 150 people in the past year's challenge.

Go to [www.giftoflifemichigan.org](http://www.giftoflifemichigan.org) to register. Select the "school/college" option when asked where you heard about organ donation, then choose "Western Michigan University" from the drop-down menu.



Those who register will have their donor information entered into the Gift of Life Organ, Tissue and Eye Donor Registry. The registry is a confidential electronic database that documents Michiganders' wishes regarding organ and tissue donations. Those who have registered as donors in the past may update their information.

Since its inception in 2004, the University Challenge has resulted in more than 19,500 Michigan residents adding their names to the Michigan Organ Donor Registry.

For more information, including current University Challenge standings and a link to the competition's Facebook group, visit [www.giftoflifemichigan.org](http://www.giftoflifemichigan.org), or contact Britany Bender at [b4bender@wmich.edu](mailto:b4bender@wmich.edu).

## Care package items needed

Food and snack items are being sought to stock another round of care packages for WMU's deployed military faculty, staff, students and alumni.

These items should be delivered to the Registrar's Office in care of Brenda Hamlyn by Wednesday, Feb. 18.

The care package project committee also requests help updating its mailing list and identifying additional volunteers.

To have members of the WMU community added to the care package mailing list, provide their addresses to Gerry Schma at [geraldine.schma@wmich.edu](mailto:geraldine.schma@wmich.edu) or 387-0742. To volunteer for the care package project, contact Schma or contact Paul MacNellis at [paul.macnellis@wmich.edu](mailto:paul.macnellis@wmich.edu) or 387-8559.

### Service

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

**35 Years**—Kanti S. Sandhu, information technology.

**30 Years**—Lunny D. Green, Registrar's Office, and Sharon L. Nicholson, information technology.

**25 Years**—Hazel N. Williams, dining services-Valley #2.

**20 Years**—Mary J. Lawrence, physical plant-landscape services.

**15 Years**—Teresa Ann Coburn, Sincdecuse Health Center, and Michael A. Matthews, physical plant-building, custodial and support services.

**10 Years**—Opal Alene Carr, physical plant-building, custodial and support services; Steven R. Cartwright, University Libraries; Elizabeth A. Dalzell, dining services-Bernhard Center; Dixie L. Edwards, Office of the Senior Vice President for Advancement and Legislative Affairs; Brien S. Leonard, Sincdecuse Health Center; Andrew J. McHugh, Development Office; Melanie Parish, dining services-cash operations; and RoseMarie Roberts, Office of the Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel.

**Five Years**—Donald W. Gribbin, accountancy, and Luann M. Harden, Extended University Programs.

## Obituaries

**Robert J. Hahn**, emeritus in history and a specialist in medical and modern European history, died Dec. 22, 2008. He was 81.

Hahn joined the faculty in 1961 and retired in 1993 at age 70 after 32 years of service. He was active in the Alliance Francaise and served as president of the organization's local chapter for more than 10 years. He also was a member of the American Historical Society and Phi Beta Kappa.

After retiring, Hahn edited the book "Progress in the Practice of Medicine, 1930-1990" and with his wife, traveled extensively in the United States and Europe.

Hahn's college studies were interrupted by World War II, and from 1943 to 1945, he served in the European theater as a member of the U.S. Army. Prior to coming to WMU, he taught at Ohio State from 1954 to 1956 and at Knox College from 1956 to 1961.



Hahn

**Howard A. Mowen**, emeritus in history and an accomplished scholar in Modern European and German history, died Jan. 18. He was 86.

Mowen joined the WMU faculty in 1949 and retired in 1982 after 32-1/2 years of service. He received WMU's Teaching Excellence Award in 1969.

An early advocate of internationalizing the curriculum, Mowen directed the Study in Britain program at Oxford University in fall 1967, co-directed the Oxford Social Studies seminars there for three summers and helped develop a student exchange program at the Padagogische Hochschule in Berlin.

He was a decorated veteran who fought in some of WWII's biggest operations. Attached to the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division and 325th Glider Infantry Regiment, he donated many rare Nazi German and Allies materials to WMU.



Mowen

**Olga M. Roekle**, budget officer emerita, died Jan. 16. She was 95.



Roekle

Roekle was affiliated with WMU for 43 years, and at the time of her retirement in 1973, was supervising preparation of the University's annual budget.

She arrived on campus in 1930 as a student and earned a bachelor's degree in 1937. During her undergraduate career, she worked as secretary to Paul V. Sangren when he was both director of the Bureau of Educational Measurements and Research and dean of administration.

Roekle took a secretarial post in the Psycho-Educational Clinic in 1936 and joined the faculty a year later when she was named assistant director of the clinic. In 1941, she took time off to raise a family. She returned in 1949 to work with the comptrollers office and remained a key part of WMU's financial staff until her retirement.

## On Campus with Lonnie Wesseling



**OUTGOING GUY**  
(Photo by Deanne Molinari)

From turf to tennis courts, Lonnie Wesseling, a recreation and sports specialist custodian, and his crew set up and maintain the fields, courts and arenas for WMU's intercollegiate and intramural sporting events and practices year round.

Wesseling started at the University 25 years ago in dining services and in just three months moved to a custodial position. He has held a variety of jobs in the department, including his post on special projects for athletics the past 11 years. As part of a crew of just six employees, Wesseling and a tight-knit group of co-workers assure athletic fields are properly watered, maintained and painted; set up mats, carpet and other equipment for gymnastic and track events; and repack the mounds on baseball and softball fields. He also is certified to use pesticides to ensure turf is healthy and free of fungus.

"We're a close group, and we work well together. Everyone has their jobs and we work in shifts, so it all gets done," Wesseling says of the other members of his crew.

The busiest time of the year is the spring, when "everybody wants to be outside," he adds. In mid-March, the crew readies the softball fields, then moves to the baseball fields, tennis courts and track. By the summer, soccer fields also are bustling with practices and games, and Wesseling and his group are looking to the fall with football, intramural softball and indoor soccer. The winter is occupied with basketball, gymnastics and several indoor sports practices. About the only slow time is right before winter break.

"There is always a lot to do, and there's a lot of variety," he says.

The father of a grown son and daughter, Wesseling lives in Lawrence on a 10-acre farm that primarily produces baled hay but also corn and soybeans—if there's room in any given year.

An avid bow hunter, Wesseling says archery is a great way to relieve stress.

"There's something about getting out in the woods. When you see the sun rise and the color of the trees, it's just beautiful," he says.

He also looks forward to his hunting and fishing trips in Colorado, and enjoys muzzle loading, a hunting sport using a primitive gun that takes loaded powder to shoot.

## Foreign affairs experts to present campus lectures

Timely international issues involving Afghanistan, the Arctic and Cuba will be addressed when three of 2009's Great Decisions Foreign Policy Lecture Series programs are staged this winter at WMU.

The lectures are being co-sponsored by WMU's Haenicke Institute, Davenport University and Kalamazoo College in partnership with the World Affairs Council of Western Michigan in Grand Rapids.

All three will be held on Tuesdays in the Fetzer Center's Kirsch Auditorium, with the final two including book signings. Admission is free for students and faculty members of the co-sponsoring schools, and \$10 for the general public.

Kicking off the trio of programs will be "Who Owns the Northwest Passage: Arctic Region Issues" at 6 p.m. Feb. 10. It will be presented by Mead Treadwell, chair of the U.S. Arctic Research Commission. His presentation will center on Russia's controversial symbolic gesture of planting a flag near the North Pole in 2007, which prompted calls for new ways to handle territorial claims outside of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Next up will be "Biography of a Cause: Cuba after Castro," set for 6 p.m. Feb. 17. The presenter will be Tom Gjeltten, author and national security issues reporter for National Public Radio. Gjeltten will share fresh perspectives on Cuba, discussing the current situation in the country as well as hints from the Obama administration of a soon-to-be changing Cuban policy.

The last lecture, "True Adventures in Afghanistan," is scheduled for 7 p.m. March 17. It will be presented by Paul Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Gould, reporters and documentary filmmakers who focus on Afghanistan. Fitzgerald and Gould, a husband and wife team, began their adventures in Afghanistan when they were the first American journalists to acquire permission to enter behind Soviet lines in 1981.

Go to <http://international.wmich.edu> for details about the Great Decisions lectures taking place at WMU and to [www.worldmichigan.org](http://www.worldmichigan.org) for those scheduled in Grand Rapids.



Treadwell



Gjeltten



Fitzgerald



Gould

## Summer program in Prague recommended to ASU students

The Piper Center for Creative Writing at Arizona State University is collaborating with WMU's Prague Summer Program to offer up to five full-tuition fellowships for creative writing students at ASU.

The awards will offset the cost of the students to participate in this summer's Prague program, which will take place July 4-July 31 at Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic. The 2009 theme is "Nature of Mother Nature: Women, Power and the Environment."

The Prague Summer Program is WMU's largest study abroad offering, annually attracting about 100 students from the United States and other countries to study creative writing as well as photography, and Czech literature and culture.

Go to [www.praguesummer.com](http://www.praguesummer.com) for more information.

## WMU Day proposals sought

Proposals for exhibits at the second annual WMU Day at the Capitol are being accepted through Friday, March 27.

Faculty, staff, students and alumni are encouraged to download an exhibit form from [www.wmich.edu/wmuday](http://www.wmich.edu/wmuday) and submit their proposals for the event, which has been scheduled for May 27 at the state Capitol.

Proposals will be reviewed, selected and confirmed early in April.