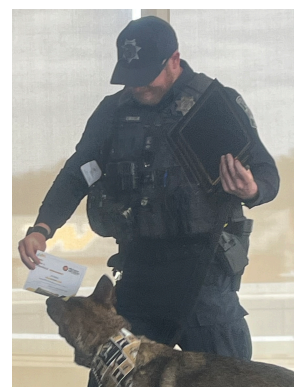
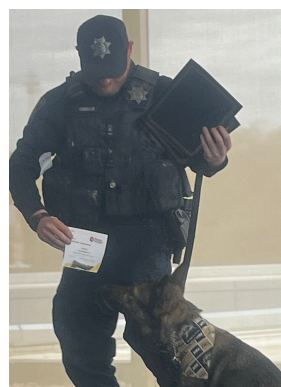


BUSINESS & FINANCE NOTES

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Did you know?

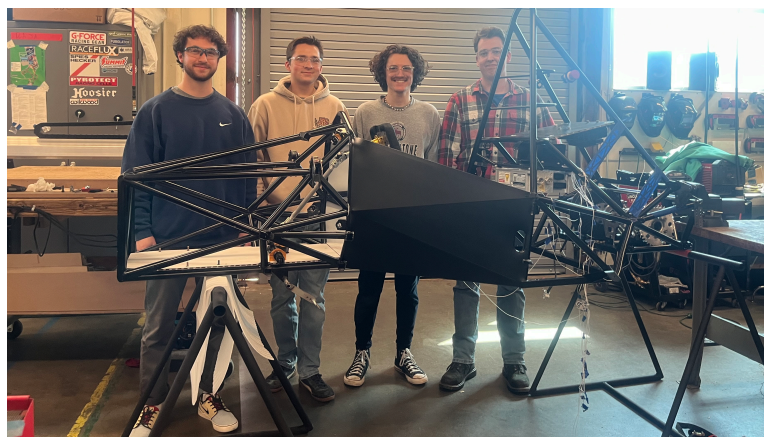
Brax and Mike Lininger earn spring Make a Difference Award. Happy retirement Brax!

WMU Engineering Students Build Race Cars.

The Daytona 500 and NASCAR are widely discussed topics this time of year, but have you heard about the WMU Formula SAE Race Team? Approximately 50 WMU engineering and business students are collaborating to build this year's competitive car. The students secure sponsors who donate parts, facilities, machine time, and more.

Students work through the design process during the fall semester. Manufacturing primarily takes place on campus at the engineering school from January through March, and the 2025 EV model was revealed at an exhibition on April 6 at Floyd Hall. Following an industry shift to sustainability beginning in 2010, WMU transitioned from internal combustion engines to electric powertrains in 2024. Each year, they aim to improve the design for better performance.

The vehicles are judged on multiple aspects, guided by a 150-page rulebook that the students must follow when designing the cars. The international competition begins in June at Michigan International Speedway with university teams from Europe, South America, and 100 U.S. college teams. The cars must pass technical inspection before entering dynamic events such as autocross and endurance races. Event scores are tallied to determine the final competition ranking. Thank you to Luke, Tyler, Nate, and Max for the tour and the wealth of information. For more, visit WMUbroncoracing.com.



And did you know?



WMU Seal Icon has Hidden Pictures.

The WMU seal sculpture in the circle drive at Sangren Mall is a well-known campus icon with hidden secrets. The icon was designed by artist Joshua Diedrich and created with local businesses such as Kingscott Architects, Kalleward Construction, and Alchemist Sculpture Foundry. The piece stands 23 feet tall and was crafted in bronze, concrete, and brown and gold granite. Gifts were used to finance a good portion of the cost. The bronze tree and seal components were all cast individually and assembled later. Look carefully for hidden pictures, including older campus architecture and university community members. All the people featured are representations of real people, except the football player. In a statement, the artist said some elements may never be seen due to the size and location. For more information on this campus icon, visit [WMU News](#).



There is Assistance for CMS.

Are you responsible for updating and maintaining your area's webpage? Do you struggle with CMS navigation? Want to learn to update your page and use some of the features you see on other pages? Help is out there. One resource is on MARCOM's Digital Strategy page, which includes a link to all things CMS. You can access the user guide, log in to CMS, and submit a support case. This page also details the Web Users Group (WUG) and how to become a member. WUG is a support network with a Teams group and resources to develop skills, ask questions, and network with other web-content managers from across campus. Need someone to help you get started? Reach out to Karmella for individualized training.

MEET YOUR COLLEAGUES!

Facilities Management - Custodial Services



Kelly Keech

Kelly has been with Western for a year and a half. She came to WMU after moving back to Michigan from Louisiana. The Western community makes her time here enjoyable, and she likes the “tiny city” feel. Kelly appreciates that she gets to clean at Spindler Hall. The tenants talk with her about their studies and concerns while cooking and preparing for their day. Kelly affectionately refers to them as her girls. Crafting and sports fill her free time. During the summers, she taps into her artistic side while people-watching between races at Galesburg Speedway.

Shaun has had his share of adventures. Before WMU, he was a chef and dietary manager. He served in the Army during the Persian Gulf wars and in Germany. He has spent six years at WMU, first as a manager and currently as a project specialist and custodial support in Facilities Management. Shaun holds multiple degrees, including an associate degree in liberal arts from Lake Michigan College and culinary arts from the Peter Sechia Institute at Grand Rapids Community College, a bachelor's in food service with a minor in occupational foods, and a master's in career technical education and in culinary arts from WMU. He also played basketball for Nazareth College. Shaun enjoys the atmosphere at Western, appreciating its beautiful campus, friendly community, and inspiring sunrises that set a positive tone for the day. In his free time, he travels the country to visit his children, play golf, and explore the beaches.



Shaun Robinson



Thomas Charleston

Formerly a cook, Thomas joined custodial services after his nieces recommended working for WMU. They shared that WMU is a great workplace and offers good benefits, taking care of the staff and students. Thomas enjoys working for WMU. He shares that it is fun and exciting, offering many opportunities and activities for students and staff. He is proud of his job, especially when he completes his daily tasks and looks out over his sparkling floors and areas. When his shift ends, he likes to hang out with friends, watch television, or play video games.

After 30 years in health care, Yolanda joined WMU's facilities management custodial services. Her mother, Patricia, had worked for WMU for 35 years. Yolanda doesn't expect to stay quite that long, but she has been here for almost four years. Yolanda states that “custodial service is almost like health care,” the difference is that she now takes care of buildings. Her emphasis is on the safety of students and staff through cleanliness.



Yolanda Jones

If you are interested in participating in this segment, please reach out to Karmella Todd. Otherwise, don't be surprised if she knocks on your door asking for participation.

Just a Thought

Have you attended any of the shows presented by the theatre students? In February, I attended All the Natalie Portmans. I hadn't been to the Gilmore Theater Complex before and had some difficulty locating the York Theatre. It's a small space that seats up to 115 but is fully equipped. "Interesting" was the term we initially used to describe our surroundings. By intermission, we found ourselves using the word "wow." What a unique venue these students had for such an up-close and personal show! I highly recommend attending a performance in that theatre.

On March 22, I attended another show presented by the theatre students. Unlike any show I have ever seen, The Great Gatsby was not performed in an auditorium but in Heritage Hall. Nearly 75 percent of the space was transformed to create this immersive experience. The Gatsby was set in the 1920s, and patrons were encouraged to dress in period attire. Men and women donned vests and fringe, creating a vibrant atmosphere. The show unfolded in multiple rooms simultaneously. Guests were invited to participate in tarot readings, shuffleboard, live music, and dancing. The story unfolded around us as we watched, fully engaged in awe. The moral of the story is that there is a world around us that you may not know. Step outside your space and discover something new.
--Karmella



Links of Interest

Digital Strategy/CMS -

<https://wmich.edu/web>

WMU News Campus Icon -

<https://wmich.edu/news/2015/04/23020>

WMU News The Great Gatsby -

<https://wmich.edu/news/news/2025/03/wmu-theatre-immersive-production-great-gatsby-heritage-hall>

WMU Formula Race Team -

<https://www.broncoracing.com/>

Upcoming Events

Apr. 25 - Fallen Broncos ceremony

Apr. 26 - Commencement

Apr. 29 - Riverdance 30 - The New Generation

May 5 - Holi Hai 2025

May 8 - International Congress on Medieval Studies

May 9 - 24 - The Book of Silence

May 20 - 23rd Annual Poker Walk

If you are interested in submitting information for the next Business and Finance Notes, please contact Karmella Todd at Karmella.Todd@wmich.edu.