



Western Michigan University
Department of Geography
and



The IGU Commission on Local and Regional Development



IGU Commission on Local and Regional Development
Preconference Meeting
Western Michigan University-Main Campus
1903 West Michigan Avenue
W. E. Upjohn Center for the Study of Geographical Change
1100 Welborn Hall
Kalamazoo, Michigan, 49008, USA
August 1 – 4, 2018
Program

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2018

Arrival of Participants

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 2018

8:30 AM *Welcome to Kalamazoo and Western Michigan University*
Benjamin Ofori-Amoah, Department of Geography, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA.

Paper Session I Agriculture and Industry in Local and Regional Development

9:00 AM *Phases to the Transformation of Agriculture in Central Europe – Selected Processes and their Results*
Jerzy Banski, Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warszawa, Poland.

9:30 AM *Industry Relatedness, FDI Liberalization and the Indigenous Innovation Process in China*
Anthony Howell, Peking University, Beijing, China.

Paper Session II Disparities in Local and Regional Development

10:30 AM *Development Differences in Poland and their Factors in the Period of the Influence of Contemporary Socio-economic Megatrends.*
Pawel Churski, Institute of Socio-Economic Geography and Spatial Management, Adam Mickiewicz University Poznan, Poland.

11:00 AM *Territorial Disparities in the Socio-economic Development of Rural Areas in Romania Focus on the Social Disadvantaged Areas in Romania.*
Bianca Mitrică, Irena Mocanu, Ines Grigorescu, Nicoleta Damian, Paul Șerban, Monica Dumitrașcu, Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania.

12:00 Noon – 1:00 PM - Lunch

Paper Session III Socio-economic Changes in Local and Regional Development

1:30 PM *External Migration and Children Left Behind in Romania – A Consequence of the Post-Communist Socio-economic Changes: A Territorial Multi-Level Approach*
Ines Grigorescu, Irena Mocanu, Bianca Mitrica, and Monica Dumitrascu, Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania.

2:00 PM *Emerging Conflicts in the Rural Urban Fringe: An Israeli Case Study*
Michael Sofer, Bar Ilan University, Ramat-Gan, Israel.

Paper Session IV National Development Policy and Local and Regional Development

2:30 PM *Ghana's National Spatial Development Plan (2015-2035) – An Evaluation of the Local Economic Development Component*
Benjamin Ofori-Amoah, Department of Geography, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA.

3:00 PM *Advanced Geospatial Methodologies for Three-dimensional Characterization of Urban Areas*
Adam Mathews, Department of Geography, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, Amy Frazier, School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, and Son Nghiem, NASA et Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA

5:00 PM Conference Dinner, Fetzer Center, Western Michigan University

FRIDAY, AUGUST 3, 2018

8:00 AM Fieldtrip – Southwest Michigan

5:00 PM Dinner at the Cove Lakeside Bistro, 9110 Portage Rd, Portage, MI 49002

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4, 2018 8:00 AM Fieldtrip - Detroit

ABSTRACTS

Phases to the Transformation of Agriculture in Central Europe – Selected Processes and their Results

Jerzy Banski, Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warszawa, Poland.

The fall of the communist system in Central Europe was followed by dynamic social and economic change that also had its clear impact on the agricultural sector. It is possible to divide the 25-year period since into three phases of change. The first phase – of transformation – entailed asset restructuring and the change of ownership with the collapse of the nationalised sector and restitution of property to former owners. The second phase – of integration – coincided with the late 1990s and early years of the new millennium, and involved the countries of the region acting in preparation for EU membership, and then actually acceding to the Union. Assistance for the agricultural sector via direct payments and a variety of development programmes brought about an increase in efficiency of farm production, as well as structural changes. The phase we are dealing with today is in turn one of polarisation characterised by ever-growing disparities in levels of economic development of different kinds of farm. In extremis, large, specialised and fully commercially-viable farms can be set against those that hardly achieve economic viability at all, and are bound to fold in the not-too-distant future.

Industry Relatedness, FDI Liberalization and the Indigenous Innovation Process in China

Anthony Howell, Peking University, Beijing, China

This paper employs a structural innovation model to study the effects of relatedness on the process of indigenous innovation in China. Specifically, I rely on a measure of product relatedness to proxy for interconnections among co-located firms to study the effects of relatedness on firm's innovation investments, innovation output and productivity, respectively. The results show that relatedness helps to promote indigenous innovation in China, although the effects are heterogeneous across different types of firms and at different stages of the innovation process. An identification strategy is further developed to better identify the effects of relatedness by exploiting the arguably exogenous changes in China's ownership restrictions. The results reveal that FDI liberalization is more successful at promoting innovation, especially in areas that have higher pre-existing levels of relatedness. A key implication is that as industries are allowed to open up to outside investments, the benefits of new incoming foreign knowledge and expertise are more easily shared in areas with a denser network of related industries. Such benefits include, but are not limited to, helping firms to recombine knowledge from related industries to bring forth proprietary ideas, processes or concepts.

Development Differences in Poland and their Factors in the Period of the Influence of Contemporary Socio-economic Megatrends.

Pawel Churski, Institute of Socio-Economic Geography and Spatial Management Adam Mickiewicz University Poznan, Poland

The analysis aims to identify the regional development factors in Poland and to determine the spatial differences both at a regional level and in intraregional patterns (poviats). The research involves three stages. The first stage presents the results of the arrangements organizing the direction and range of the influence of contemporary megatrends in socio-economic development on the changes in regional development factors. The second stage involves an analysis and typology of the level and dynamics of the development of Polish regions taking into account their intraregional differences in the pattern of poviats. The third stage of the analysis concerns the identification of differences in the factors of regional development in the set of all the investigated units and in their sub-set representing the development types identified. This research also includes the organization of the obtained pattern of development factors in the three categories of cohesion: economic, social and territorial. This analysis seeks to identify the factors which significantly shape changes and the present state of regional and intraregional socio-economic differences in Poland and their specific features for less-developed areas. The study in question is implemented under the research project FORSED (<http://www.forsed.amu.edu.pl>) financed by the National Science Centre as part of the competition OPUS 10 - 2015/19/B/HS5/00012: New challenges of regional policy in shaping socio-economic development factors the less-developed regions.

Territorial Disparities in the Socio-economic Development of Rural Areas in Romania Focus on the Social Disadvantaged Areas in Romania.

Bianca Mitrică, Irena Mocanu, Ines Grigorescu, Nicoleta Damian, Paul Șerban, Monica Dumitrașcu. Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania

Currently, Romania's rural area is undergoing a restructuring process (demographic, economic, social) acquiring new dimensions and characteristics. In current presentation we focus on the social characteristics of the rural area of Romania, as consequences of economic restructuring. Its aim is to identify the current patterns of social development and their territorial inequalities at a micro-scale level by assessing the levels of social development based on a Social Disadvantage Index (SDI). The indicators used for SDI include unemployment, employment in agriculture, dwellings quality, education, health. Deeply social disadvantaged rural areas are located in north-eastern, south-eastern, south and south-western parts of Romania. The territorial continuity of these areas is interrupted by the presence of some metropolitan areas (Iași, Galați-Brăila, Constanța, Bucharest, Pitești, Ploiești, Craiova). The rural settlements located in the central and western parts of Romania register some of the lowest SDI values being concentrated in counties well known for the very low degree of socio-economic development: Vaslui, Dolj, Olt and Teleorman. The research is in line with Romania's Territorial Development Strategy which has in view to ensure an integrated strategic planning to guide the

national territorial development processes (Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration).

External Migration and Children Left Behind in Romania – A Consequence of the Post-Communist Socio-economic Changes: A Territorial Multi-Level Approach

Ines Grigorescu, Irena Mocanu, Bianca Mitrica, and Monica Dumitrascu, Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania

In Romania, the fundamental political transformations of the post-communist period had led to complex and long-term socio-economic changes; industry and agriculture were the main branches to be negatively affected, resulting in economic decline, unemployment, poverty, economic and social instability. Consequently, in order to cope with the arisen social challenges, external labour migration has become an extended phenomenon in Romania. However, apart from the economic implications, the social consequences of this phenomenon (parental external migration and left-behind children) are not sufficiently explored in Romania. The current study addresses this theme through a territorial multi-level and multi-actor approach to better understand the complexity of its implications. The authors used statistical records for all territorial levels of assessment, while the local level analysis was completed by questionnaire surveys applied to families experiencing parental migration in two schools and two kindergartens in a rural area (Vulcana-Băi, Dâmbovița County). The research have shown the role of local level approach in revealing key socio-economic aspects regularly hidden by the upper territorial scales: e.g. the new economics of labour migration, the role of remittances in supporting local development; the variety of relationships between left-behind children/ migrating parents/family caregivers; the effects of parental external migration on the schooling progress.

Emerging Conflicts in the Rural Urban Fringe: An Israeli Case Study

Michael Sofer, Bar Ilan University, Ramat-Gan, Israel.

In the last three decades the rural-urban fringe in Israel has been rapidly transforming. The changes have been emphasized by an increase in the intensity of production, the decline of agricultural employment, the evolution of non-agricultural activities, and the sub-urbanization of the countryside. The outcome are changes in the agricultural and built up land uses and landscapes and the derived potential conflicts. The methodology is based on geostatistical analysis of historical sequences of land use maps, household surveys and local observations. The results show a shift towards specialize intensive farming based on large plots; the emergence of on-farm non-agricultural activities; the expansion of the built up area; and changes in the pattern and form of residential buildings and farm premises.

The RUF shifted into a more diversified social-economic base suggesting newly shaped interrelationships between the rural settlements and the urban space. New agricultural and residential patterns and landscapes have evolved which have rejuvenated rural settlements and attracted urbanised people including gentrifiers. The RUF becomes a more heterogeneous rural space – physically, economically and socially – than ever

before. Embedded in all these interactions there are potential conflicts over resources and the preferred pattern of development.

Ghana's National Spatial Development Plan (2015-2035) – An Evaluation of the Local Economic Development Component

Benjamin Ofori-Amoah, Department of Geography, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA

Local economic development has been a difficult task for Ghana as a country since it became a politically independent country. For several reasons, the early postcolonial development process bypassed rural areas creating wide regional development imbalances between the few urban centers and the large rural areas. Efforts to correct this through rural development policies during the 1970s failed due to improper planning, lack of commitment, political instability, and the rise of radical discourse that discredited the validity and feasibility of the central approaches of the policies. After more than three decades, Ghana has gone full circle and in 2015 launched a new regional development policy for the next 20 years called Ghana National Spatial Development Plan (2015-2035). This plan is a mirror image of the previous plan so the question now is how different is this going to be from the previous plan. The paper examines the local economic development component, with respect to rural areas, and provides some recommendations that will avoid the demise of the previous plan.

Advanced geospatial methodologies for three-dimensional characterization of urban areas

Adam Mathews, Department of Geography, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, Amy Frazier, School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, and Son Nghiem, NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA

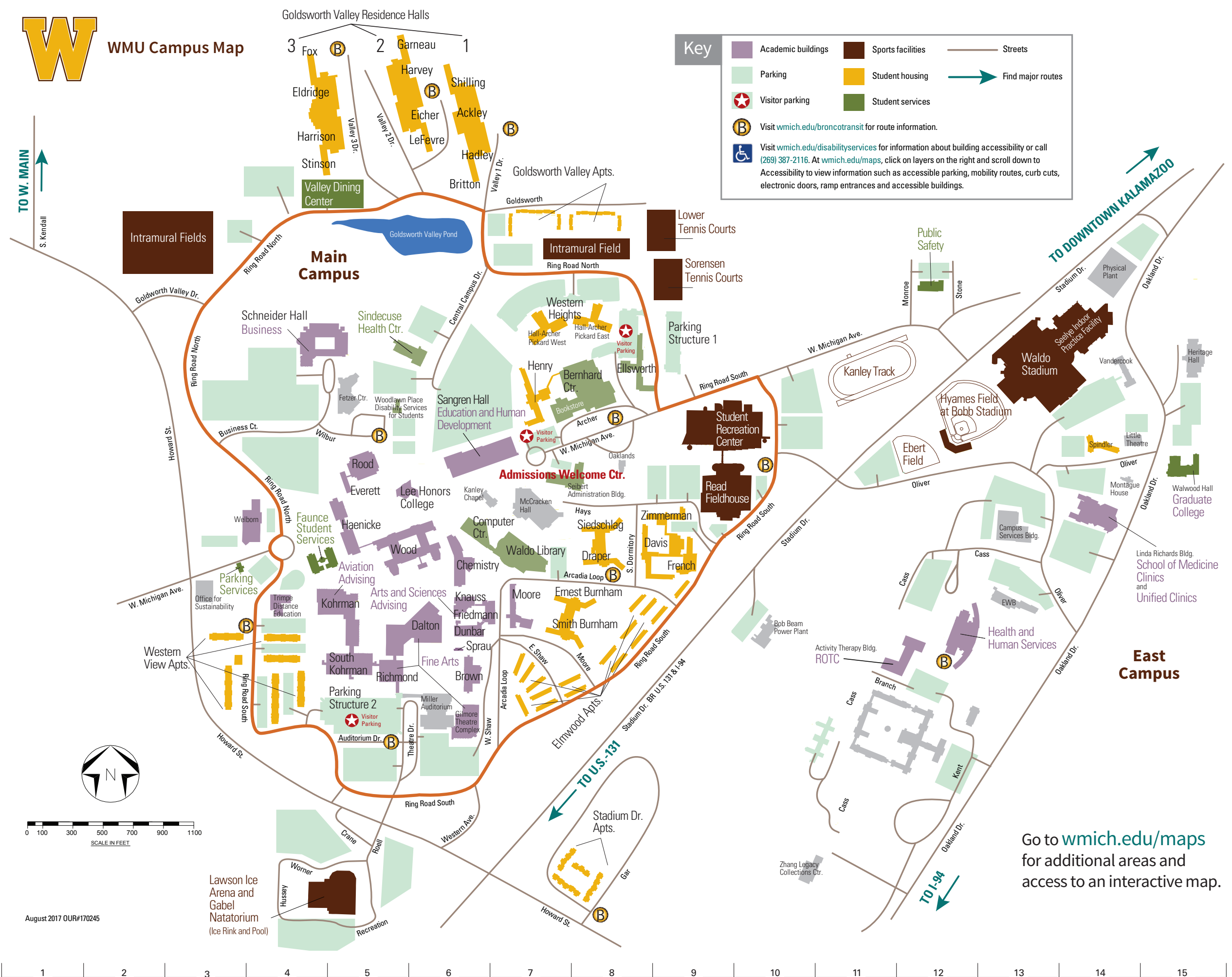
Comprehensive mapping of urban area is of significant interest to researchers, planners, and government officials to adequately address environmental, social, and economic problems. Traditional geospatial approaches to characterize urban areas utilize remotely sensed imagery to quantify the extent of urban area and its change over time as well as categorize land cover types within the urban extent (e.g., land cover/land use change—LCLUC—studies). This approach, however, neglects the vertical dimension that is vitally important in built-up urban environments. While light detection and ranging (lidar) data provide the required height information to address this issue, lidar data on the whole continue to be difficult to obtain. The Dense Sampling Method (DSM) developed by the NASA JPL (Nghiem et al., 2009) utilizes spaceborne radar data to estimate urban extent at a moderate spatial resolution. Other studies using the DSM have suggested that the method can be used to estimate urban volume (or built-up volume), which would provide a breakthrough method by which to comprehensively assess the urban environment inexpensively and for larger areas. This paper provides an overview of ongoing collaborative research developing geospatial methodologies to characterize urban

environments (e.g., extent, built-up volume, population, etc.) focusing on several United States cities.

TO W. MAIN
S. Kendall

Key

	Academic buildings		Sports facilities		Streets
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	Visit wmich.edu/broncotransit for route information.				
	Visit wmich.edu/disabilityservices for information about building accessibility or call (269) 387-2116. At wmich.edu/maps , click on layers on the right and scroll down to Accessibility to view information such as accessible parking, mobility routes, curb cuts, electronic doors, ramp entrances and accessible buildings.				



Building index

A	Ackley Hall (Goldsworth Valley 1) A-6	Admissions (Seibert Administration Bldg.) ... F-7	P	Parking Structure 1 D-9	Parking Structure 2 I-5	Parking Services G-3	Physical Plant C-15	Public Safety (Police Station) .. D-12	Power Plant (Bob Beam) H-10
B	Bernhard Ctr. E-7	Bob Beam Power Plant H-10	R	Read Fieldhouse (University Arena) F-9	Richmond Ctr. H-5	Road Hall F-5	ROTC H-11		
C	Brown Hall H-6	Burnhams (Ernest and Smith) ... H-7	S	Sangren Hall F-6	Schneider Hall D-4	School of Medicine Clinics (Linda Richards Bldg.) G-14	Seelye Facility (Indoor Practice) D-14	Seibert Administration Bldg. (Admissions) F-7	Shaw Theatre (Gilmore Theatre Complex) I-6
D	Shilling Hall (Goldsworth Valley 1) A-6	Siedschlag Hall G-8	T	Trimpe H-4	Unified Clinics G-14	Valley Dining Center B-4	Vandercook Hall E-14		
E	Waldo Stadium E-13	Walwood Hall F-14	U	Walvoort Natatorium (Lawson Ice Arena) K-4	Walvoort Natatorium (Lawson Ice Arena) K-4	Walvoort Natatorium (Lawson Ice Arena) K-4	Walvoort Natatorium (Lawson Ice Arena) K-4		
F	Walvoort Natatorium (Lawson Ice Arena) K-4	Walvoort Natatorium (Lawson Ice Arena) K-4	V	Valley Dining Center B-4	Vandercook Hall E-14				
G	Walvoort Natatorium (Lawson Ice Arena) K-4	Walvoort Natatorium (Lawson Ice Arena) K-4	W	Waldo Library G-7	Waldo Stadium E-13	Walwood Hall F-14	Walvoort Natatorium (Lawson Ice Arena) K-4		
H	Walvoort Natatorium (Lawson Ice Arena) K-4	Walvoort Natatorium (Lawson Ice Arena) K-4							
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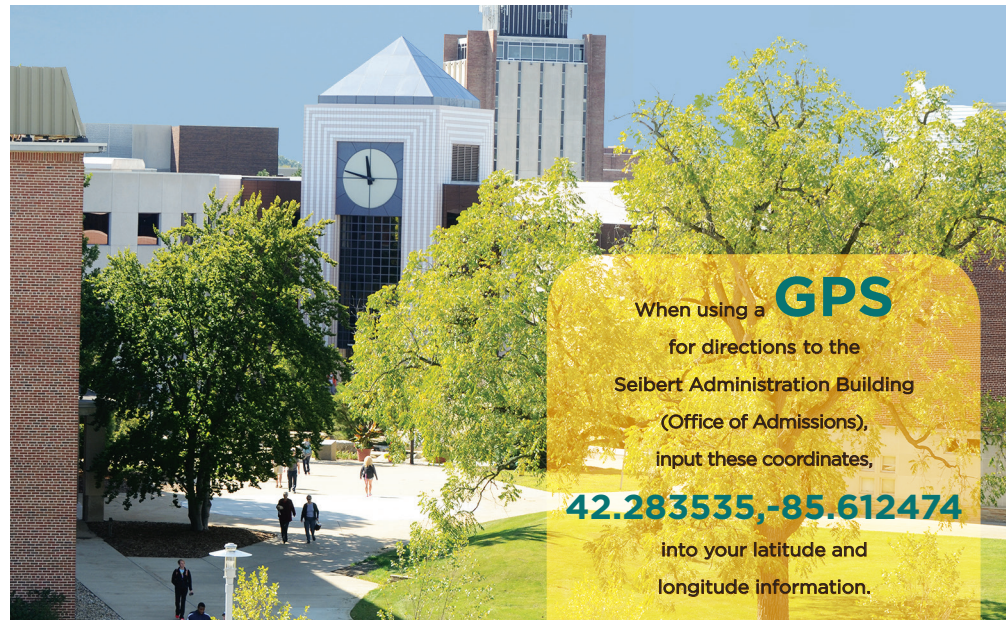
Go to wmich.edu/maps for additional areas and access to an interactive map.

Go to Campus

From I-94: Take exit 74B onto northbound U.S. 131 and drive 2.8 miles. Take exit 36 eastbound onto Stadium Drive and follow the subsequent directions to your destination.

From U.S. 131: Take exit 36 eastbound onto Stadium Drive and follow the subsequent directions to your destination.

- **To the Bernhard Center, Ellsworth Hall and Seibert Administration Building (Office of Admissions):** Take Stadium Drive east 2.8 miles. Turn left at the light onto Oliver Street and cross the railroad tracks. Turn right at the stop sign onto Ring Road South. Turn left at the light onto West Michigan Avenue. Ellsworth Hall is situated on the right, just west of parking structure 1. The Bernhard Center is situated on the right just west of Ellsworth



Hall. The Seibert Administration Building (Office of Admissions) is situated on the left across from the Bernhard Center. Metered parking lots are located on the west side of the Bernhard Center and northwest side of Ellsworth Hall.

- **To the Fetzer Center:** Take Stadium Drive east 2.2 miles. Turn left at the light onto Howard Street. Turn right at the light onto West Michigan Avenue and get in the right-hand lane. Proceed to the roundabout and exit at the third connecting road (Ring Road North). Turn right at the stop sign onto Business Court, then enter the large parking lot on the left. Turn right at the guard shack into Lot 72F.
- **To Miller Auditorium and Parking Structure 2:** Take Stadium Drive east 2.2 miles. Turn left at the light onto Howard Street. In .02 miles, turn right onto the Ring Road South access road (second connecting road on right). Immediately turn right at the yield sign onto Ring Road South. Turn left at the stop sign and proceed to the parking structure.



Visit the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences at the Parkview Campus

From WMU Main Campus: On Stadium Drive at the corner of Howard Street, drive west to Drake Road. Turn left onto Drake Road. Continue south through the next light (Parkview Avenue) into the WMU Parkview Campus. The road will now be named Campus Drive.

From I-94: Take exit 74B onto northbound U.S. 131 and drive 2.8 miles. Follow the subsequent directions for U.S. 131.

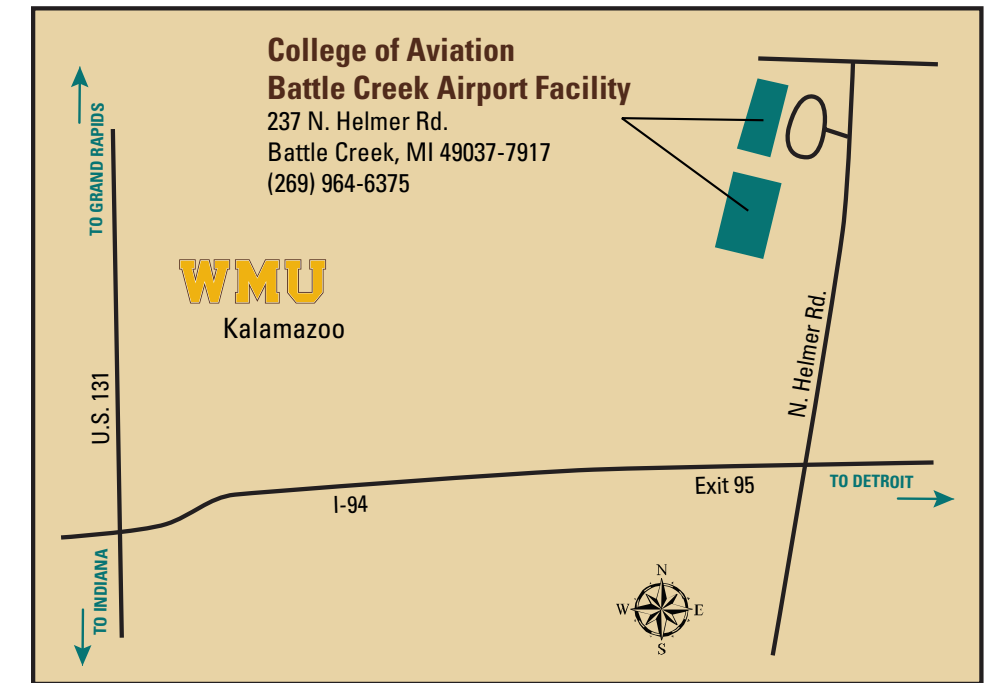
From U.S. 131: Take exit 36 eastbound onto Stadium Drive. Turn right at first light onto Drake Road. Continue south through the next light (Parkview Avenue) into the WMU Parkview Campus. The road will now be named Campus Drive.



Visit the College of Aviation located in Battle Creek

From U.S. 131: Take exit 34A onto eastbound I-94 (toward Detroit) and follow the subsequent directions for I-94.

From I-94: Take Helmer Road northbound (exit 95) and pass through three lights. The College of Aviation is situated on the left, just past the cemetery that is on the right. Those reaching a "T" in the road have gone too far.



Visit downtown Kalamazoo

