

Librarians are "Key" People

The *Western Herald* issue of October 13, 1997 proclaimed the news that had rapidly spread across the WMU campus: "National academic honors society gives WMU charter." The article noted that Phi Beta Kappa, the oldest national honor society in the country, had approved Western Michigan University for a chapter. For 28 years, the University had pursued the elusive goal of being selected to join the exclusive number of universities and colleges in the United States who could offer membership to outstanding students from the liberal arts and sciences curricula.

The applause did not abate during the following months when plans for a formal installation of Theta Chapter of Michigan were underway. In the December 1997 Report of the President, astutely titled *Ascending*, president Diether H. Haenicke placed emphasis on the acceptance of the chapter by stating:

"The latest evidence of the growing recognition of the quality of WMU scholarship is our recent election to Phi Beta Kappa. We are now one of only 91 public universities in the nation—there are just three others in Michigan—to be recognized by this oldest and most prestigious of academic honor societies".

Possibly unknown to those outside of the application process is the fact that a major criterion for selection to Phi Beta Kappa is an outstanding library with widely accessible services directed to the entire student body, undergraduate and graduate, as well as the University's faculty and staff. Such a collection and array of services, however, is useless without an equally qualified library staff. At WMU, of the 69 faculty, staff, emeriti, and retired Phi Beta Kappa members who became charter members on Monday, February 23, 1998, eight are found actively working in the University Libraries—the largest percentage—almost 12%—of any department at the University. Necia Musser, retired Assistant Dean of Technical Services, and Marjorie Vivian, retired Original Cataloger, bring the total to 10 key holders—a resounding 14.5% of the the charter members.

Phi Beta Kappa members of the University Libraries are:

*Judith M. Arnold, Instructional Services Librarian, Waldo Library, B.A., University of Florida.

*Mary P. Bullock, Processing Assistant,

Education Library, B.A., University of Colorado.

*Jacqueline Driscoll, Weekend College Librarian, Waldo Library, B.A., Douglass- Rutgers.

*J. Gregory Fitzgerald, Music and Dance Librarian, Maybee Music Library, B.A., Wake Forest University.

*Laurel A. Grotzinger, Professor and Reference Librarian, Waldo Library, B.A., Carleton College.

*David K. Isaacson, Professor and Humanities Reference Librarian, B.A., Indiana University.

*Maria Perez-Stable, Professor and Head, Central Reference, Waldo Library, B.A., Miami University.

*Beatrice B. Sichel, Professor and Head, Circulation/Reserves, Waldo Library, B.A., City College of New York.

Library Friends

By Mary Ann Bowman

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the University Libraries was held in the Meader Rare Book Room on Tuesday, March 17. A slate of new officers and Board members, proposed by the Nominating Committee of Richard Brewer and Robert Hahn, was elected for the 1998-99 year.

*President (one year term): Bettina Meyer

*Vice-President (one year term): Marilyn Gosling

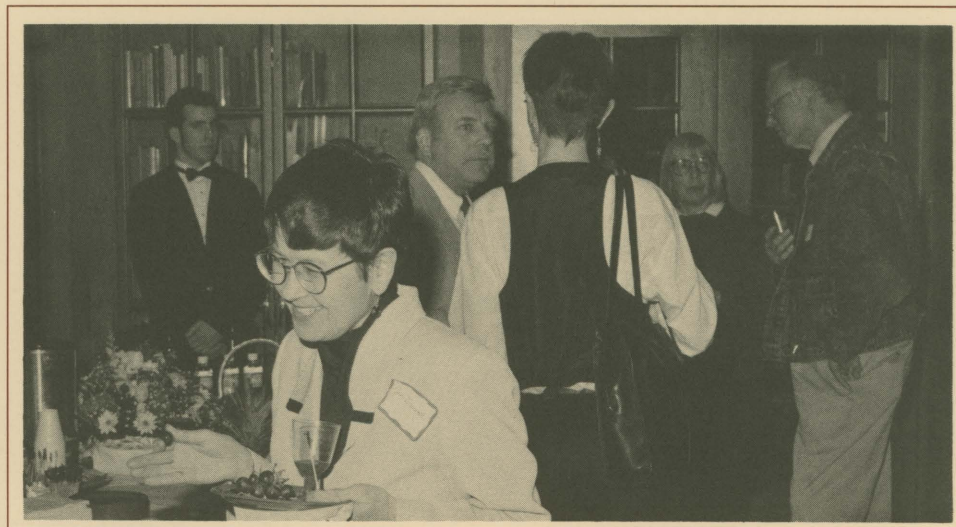
*Secretary (two year term): Mary Ann Bowman

*Treasurer (two year term): David McKee

*Board of Directors
Richard Brewer, 1996-1999
Robert Hahn, 1998-2000
Jan Dommer, 1998-2001
William Combs, 1998-2002

President Bowman and Dr. Nisula

Following the business meeting. Dr. Dasha Nisula, Associate Professor, Foreign Languages & Literatures, discussed her experiences as editor and publisher of a collection of poems by authors from around the world. Dr. Nisula has been teaching Russian language, literature, and culture at WMU since 1988. Her first translations were done when she was studying in the graduate school at the University of Southern California, and have appeared in the *Pennsylvania Review*, the *International Quarterly*, the *Colorado Review*, and other journals. She delighted her audience by reading a selection of poems from her book, including some in Russian. Dr. Nisula also presented a copy of the book, which provides English translations along with each poem in its original language, to the University Libraries.



Receptive Friends