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Western Michigan University Newsletter, March 1969

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A report from the office of Roger Pulliam, assistant to the WMU vice president for academic affairs, paints a much more glowing picture of the academic accomplishments of the 76 Western students under the Martin Luther King Fund program, than had been anticipated. First semester performances in the classroom of these black students is a shining beacon in Western's academic panorama.

As a group, they earned B-minus grades (2.69 on a 4.0 scale) during the fall semester. Seventy-four of the 76 King Fund students earned at least a C grade average (2.0), while at the same time, 29 of WMU's 30 Upward Bound students also had at least a C grade average.

Pulliam, who heads WMU's Martin Luther King Fund program says it "is a special support program for students who are notably deficient in cultural and academic strengths, at least insofar as 'normal' college entrance levels are concerned."

He points out that many of these students, for various reasons, lack the depth of background, outlook, initial grounding, and readiness to advance that a student usually finds is absolutely necessary to survive the competition for good grades in college. Pulliam uses such terms as "disadvantaged, culturally deprived, or economically impoverished" in describing these students.

Nelson Jackson, a former WMU football star as was Pulliam, is aiding in the program while taking graduate work at WMU.

WMU President James W. Miller has expressed pleasure with the positive results from the first semester of the King Fund program. When the fund was established last May with $35,000 Dr. Miller said its aim would be to meet the needs of black students who would not otherwise be able to continue their education beyond high school.

Pulliam said WMU's general admissions standards do not necessarily apply to King Fund students.

"Normally accepted or expected criteria are not given the usual weight in reaching an admissions decision," said Pulliam. "Rather than predictive data, such as grade point average, or standardized test data, such items as promising school recommendations are given weight."

When they reach WMU the King Fund and Upward Bound students receive special assistance designed to smooth their transition from a possibly deprived home life to the stimulating social and academic life they encounter at college. This assistance includes course planning, counseling, tutoring in academic and social areas, group meetings with other students and with program administrators, and a special study center in Waldo Library in which emphasis is placed on study as an aid to earning good grades.

Pulliam said he and his staff "want to help each King Fund student develop a good self-image, self-realization, human relationship awareness, and economic efficiency." He notes that in addition to their fine academic accomplishments during the first semester at WMU, many King Fund students have become involved in extra-curricular activities which aid the development of a well-rounded education. These include such activities as participation with the "Varsity Vagabonds" musical group (one), in a WMU Theatre production of "Raisin in the Sun" (five), the "Broncettes" dance group which performs at sports events (two), frosh football (three) and frosh basketball (two).

Pulliam points out that classroom attendance by King Fund students is no problem. "I guess everything about college life is so interesting to our students that they don't want to miss a class."

So enthused are they about the accelerated learning process so evident around them at WMU that up to 15 King Fund students are serving as tutors of elementary and high school students in the Kalamazoo Tutorial Project, while in turn sometimes being tutored themselves by WMU Honors College students as part of their King Fund program, according to Pulliam.

Attendance in the Waldo Library study center for King Fund students is required twice a week, or once weekly if the student spends one night in the special remedial English class of the King Fund program. Pulliam noted that most of the students spend more time than required in the study center.

(Continued on Page 2)
For the first time, a black WMU coed was selected as Western's 1969 Snow Queen in late January. Queen Chere Glass, center, a Lansing sophomore, is flanked by her court, left to right: Dianne Steinberg, a Detroit sophomore; Ann Roseberg, Rockford, Ill., sophomore; Betsy Wolfe, Bloomfield Hills sophomore; and Nancy Stout, Grand Ledge junior.

Queen Chere won out over 52 contestants, with the judges' selection based on poise, beauty and speaking ability. A week-long thaw melted away virtually all of the traditional snow sculptures and severely hampered other outdoor events during Snow Carnival Week at WMU.

In one session he deplored the existing general "laissez-faire" attitude toward the approach to black studies at most schools which have begun them. These studies must have a definite purpose, structure, and goal concerning study efforts and research, he said.

Professor John Cartwright, a sociologist with the Afro-American Coordinating Center at Boston University, prefaced "Negro History Week" at WMU with a late January visit to WMU for numerous meetings with faculty and students to discuss programs and materials related to black culture and history.

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"Negro History Week," Feb. 9-15, was observed at WMU in several ways, including a large display of photos and books on the theme: "Tracing Black History," here being erected by Roy Ingersoll, a student employee in Waldo Library, under the direction of Mrs. Linda Rolls, a new member of the professional staff of WMU libraries. When properly placed, the lettering on the section held by Mrs. Rolls completed the theme: "Tracing Black History," above "Negro History Week."

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King Fund Students cont'd

Dr. Miller, while elated at the success of the King Fund program, says further expansion to include more black students depends on the availability of obtaining needed funds. Pulliam says the first priority is to secure enough funds to continue the present program in the 1969-70 school year for those students already enrolled.

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WMU President James W. Miller, seated on the left, was introduced by the Rev. John Mangrum '43, standing, outgoing president of the Florida Alumni Club, during a late February meeting in Tampa at which Dr. Miller spoke on "The State of the University."

Dr. Paul Griffeth, standing, WMU vice president for student services, spoke to a Feb. 21 meeting of the Michiana WMU Alumni Club at Niles, Mich., on "The Role of the Student at the University." Also at the head table were outgoing club officers: president Dan Telfer, secretary Joellyn Telfer, treasurer Harold Green and vice president Paul Pozil.

A good turnout of New York area alums was on hand to renew acquaintances and then hear Alumni Relations Director John S. Lore '63 give an illustrated presentation on WMU's dynamic growth.

At another late February WMU alumni gathering, in New York city, Dan Pellegrom '66, chairman of the program, right, talked with Elizabeth (Maher) Bryan '16 during The Biltmore Hotel function.

At that same Florida Alumni Club meeting, Dr. Miller, center, watched as Rev. Mangrum turned over the Florida club presidency to Art Eversole '60, right, former Bronco track star.

A loan fund at Western honoring Mr. and Mrs. Freeburn W. James of Bay City, shown in the photo, has reached the $1,000 mark and has now assisted 25 WMU students in the brief span of its existence. The loan fund, begun by former students of James, a retired school teacher, has grown rapidly in the past two years. Mr. and Mrs. James also contributed to it when they learned of its existence. A short term loan fund for deserving students, it has helped many WMU students out of a financial pinch in its short life.

WMU Alumni Enable '68 Annual Fund Drive To Exceed Its Goal

WMU alums came through in great style to send the '68 Annual Fund Drive over its dollar and participation goals. At the conclusion of the drive, $215,751 had been contributed by 5,052 alumni, 105 business firms, 21 corporations, five banks and five trust funds and estates.

Initial goals were $200,000 and 5,000 alumni participants under the direction of drive chairman Robert J. Bradshaw '54 of Ypsilanti, who has termed the results as quite pleasing. Other interesting facts of the '68 drive were:

- First-time givers totaled 1,450.
- Contributions of $100 or more came from 137 individuals and 112 firms.
- Scholarships to WMU were given by 17 Alpha Beta Epsilon alumnae sorority chapters.
- Gifts from alumni, friends, and firms were designated for 102 different uses.

An Annual Fund "task force" of alumni scattered around the country saw each task force member phone at least five alumni in their geographic area to suggest that alum contribute, as the alumni participation base was broader than ever before.

Alumni Invited to 13th Annual William R. Brown Lecture on May 7

The 13th annual William R. Brown Lecture on Literature will be given Wed., May 7, 8 p.m. in room 2304 Sangren Hall by Professor John L. Styan of the University of Michigan faculty. His topic will be "The Dark Comedy," the title of his book published in 1962 and updated in 1968. It should not be confused with the current literary interest in Negro comedy or with so-called "black (Continued on Page 4)
BASKETBALL
Post-basketball season honors continued to roll in for WMU’s Gene Ford, who was elected honorary captain and most valuable player by his teammates for the past season as well as garnering the H. W. “Buck” Read Award from the Bronco Downtown Coaches Club at the winter sports banquet.

Ford was a unanimous first team choice of Mid-American Conference coaches, as he was in his junior year. And no wonder when you look at some of his season statistics. His 620 points this season (second only to Manny Newsome’s 653 in 1964) averaged out to 25.8 a game.

Eight times he scored 30 or more points while shooting field goals at a .476 clip. In addition he pulled down 230 rebounds while providing valuable leadership which enabled WMU to tie for 3rd place in the conference at 6-6.

In WMU’s 115-92 win over Loyola, Gene scored 46 points to break Newberry’s old mark (3:19.2) at home.

Some fine WMU performances highlighted the indoor track season through the end of February. As more than 500 individual athletes and 19 teams competed in the WMU Relays in February, WMU took six firsts to lead all competitors.

Sophomore Rod Mack’s :06.7 in the 60 yard low hurdles and Tom Randolph’s :30.2 in the 300 yard dash were new WMU marks. Randolph also set a new Michigan State University Relays and Jenison Field House mark of :30.6 in the 300 yard dash in February.

Randolph, incidentally, holds the marks for the fastest indoor times ever posted by an MAC trackman—29.9 in the 300 yard dash and 48.0 in the 440 yard dash.

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Sports Reflections

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WMU varsity swimmers continued their assault on records this season.

Dave Pohlonski dropped the WMU 1,000 yard freestyle mark to 10:34.1 after lowering it earlier in the season and also breaking Ball State and Kent State pool marks in that event.

Mike Murray set a new WMU 200 yard freestyle mark (1:50.2) while finishing second at Kent State. Earlier he broke the Ball State pool mark in that event.

The 400 yard freestyle team (Cole, Smith, Pohlonski, Toth) set a new WMU mark (3:19.2) at home.

Ron Marcilki’s new WMU 200 yard breaststroke mark (2:19.9) was set at Michigan State’s pool.

Larry Toth set a new WMU 100 yard freestyle mark of 48.8 while finishing 2nd at Kent State after tying the old mark earlier at MSU.

Dave Petersen set a new WMU mark (57.2) in the 100 breaststroke against the Air Force Academy at WMU.

Indoor Track

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Wrestling

WMU’s big wrestling upset of Miami in February (24-9) was its first win over the Redskins in seven years.

Gymnastics

WMU’s gymnastic team won its final meet of the year, over Central Michigan as part of a double dual meet, including overall winner Stout State of Wisconsin. Coach Fred Orlofsky’s squad was plagued with injuries all season to post a 1-12 mark.

Alumni Athletes

W-Club achievement awards went to former Bronco sports figures, who are now high school coaches, during the annual fall sports banquet: Scotty Wilson (Kalamazoo Central basketball), Bill Powell (Battle Creek Lakeview swimming), and Carl Latora (Portage Northern wrestling).

Western Michigan University Newsletter and Alumni Events

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