Fall enrollment shows gains in significant areas

The annual fall census of enrolled students reflects a student body that is basically holding steady and a shift in enrollment patterns this year that includes a significant increase in the number of new transfer students and an increase in the student retention rate.

The total fall enrollment figure for the University is 24,433, just 1.6 percent smaller than the fall 2006 figure of 24,841. The final enrollment figure is actually higher than projections made earlier this year when WMU graduated the second largest senior class.

“I’m enormously pleased to see positive new patterns emerge that reflect our faculty and staff’s work on recruitment and retention. These new trends set the stage for future growth,” President John M. Dunn says. “Although we are still seeing the effect of pipeline issues, that’s a good ‘problem’ to have. It means we’re helping our students find success here, seeing them graduate in record numbers and watching them begin to make their own contributions to the state and its economy.”

This fall’s census shows enrollment growth in a number of categories: WMU has targeted over the past year. The increases include:

• an 8.5 percent jump in the number of undergraduate students transferring to WMU from other colleges and universities;
• a 1.2 percent increase in freshman-to-sophomore retention rates;
• a 2.9 percent increase in main-campus graduate enrollment; and
• an 8.4 percent hike in Extended University Programs enrollment, triggered by a 41 percent increase in the number of students taking online or distance education classes.

At 3,572, the number of beginning freshmen is essentially even with last year’s beginning. Continued on page 4

University’s Parkview Campus getting greener than ever

The Parkview Campus now houses the region’s first wind turbine and soon will have a “green” building, continuing the attention to environmental concerns that has been a focus of the campus since its development began in 1999.

A dedication was held Friday for the modern, direct-grid-connected, electricity-producing wind turbine installed in July on the College of Engineering and Applied Science’s portion of the Parkview Campus.

The wind turbine was installed by the engineering college, WMU’s Physical Plant and contractor Bauer Power. It generates two kilowatts of power—enough for a home without air conditioning.

Scheduled upgrades for the generator call for more than doubling that output to five kilowatts during the next few years. Also, fund raising for a 10-to-15 kilowatt generator and a 100-to-200 kilowatt generator is already under way.

Meanwhile, a groundbreaking — continued on page 4
Diane Rehm visit rescheduled
Diane Rehm, host of a popular National Public Radio talk show that attracts the world’s top newsmakers, will give a free public lecture at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 25, in the Bernhard Center’s East Ballroom. Rehm was originally scheduled to speak at WMU last spring but due to illness, her visit was postponed. Seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis. No tickets are required for the event.

Hettinger to give featured talk
Today is the deadline faculty and staff are asked to RSVP for an upcoming talk by James F. Hettinger, president and chief executive officer of Battle Creek Unlimited. Hettinger will discuss “Embracing Chaos—A New Course of Michigan’s Economy” at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 27, in Schneider Hall’s Brown Auditorium as part of the 2007-08 Haworth College of Business Distinguished Speaker Series. A question-and-answer period and reception for Hettinger will follow the presentation. RSVP by calling 387-5050.

Sichel series begins Sept. 26
A leading economist visits campus next week to talk about globalization as the first speaker in the 44th annual Werner Sichel Lecture-Seminar Series. Kenneth Reinert, associate professor of public policy at George Mason University, will speak on “Globalization for Development?” from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 26, in 3508 Knauss Hall.

Doctoral student named national Randolph peace scholar
Fodei Batty has been named the 2007-08 national Randolph Peace Scholar by the U.S. Institute of Peace.

Fodei, a doctoral student in political science and a national Randolph peace scholar was selected.

Batty is specializing in comparative political science. His research attempts to dispel the belief that ethnicity is the major instrument of political mobilization in Africa by using evidence from Liberia and Sierra Leone—two countries that have experienced two of the most brutal civil wars in recent history.

Speaker to discuss ‘Bio-lust’
The first non-Japanese ever to be awarded the Watsuji Tetsuro Culture Prize will talk on “Bio-Lust: Japanese Concerns about our Inhumane World” at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 27, in Schneider Hall’s Brown Auditorium.

Professors of National institutes win fellowship
Jon D. Holtzman, anthropology, is one of a select few U.S.-based scholars to receive a 2006-07 fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies, a private nonprofit federation of 69 national scholarly organizations.

Holtzman won a fellowship under an ACLS Program that funds postdoctoral research in the humanities and humanities-related social sciences. Nearly 1,100 people applied for the fellowship, and just 65 were selected to share the $2.8 million the program awarded. In Michigan, only Holtzman and a University of Michigan scholar were selected.

Holtzman will use his award to continue working on a project titled “Killing Your Neighbors: Friendship, Violence and Identity in Northern Kenya.” The project examines violence between neighboring ethnic groups and the role of collective memory plays in fostering this violence.

Playwright co-writes ‘first’ book

Johnston, a former longtime English department chairman, teamed with his wife, Percy, for the project. The book is a collection of 10-minute and 30-minute plays from both award-winning, well-known dramatists and exciting newcomers. It represents several firsts for WMU’s New Issues Press publishing house—the first anthology, first drama publication and first project of this scale and scope.

In the book, the editors introduce and discuss each piece, as well as provide commentary on the craft of playwriting. Several WMU students, alumni and faculty members contributed stories or were involved in the book’s editing and design.

Professor to head national group
Eric M. Sauer, counselor education and counseling psychology, has been elected president of the Association of Directors of Psychology Training Clinics. He will serve as president-elect for two years, then take office.

ADPTC, the national organization for directors of psychology training clinics, is composed of directors of clinics that are typically associated with predoctoral graduate training programs in professional psychology.

Sauer directs WMU’s Center for Counseling and Psychological Services in Grand Rapids and is co-training director for the University’s doctoral program in counseling psychology. He also is on the editorial board of the Counseling Psychologist.
Members of WMU Board of Trustees approve numerous faculty, staff retirements, resignations

The retirements of one faculty member and four staff members were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees at its Sept. 14 meeting. Trustees also accepted the resignations of 10 faculty members and 10 staff members.

The faculty member's name, position, years of continuous service and effective date of retirement is: John W. Benson, professor emeritus of Spanish, 36-1/2 years, effective Dec. 31, 2010.

The staff members retiring are: Ann M. Allen, office coordinator in the Sindecuse Health Center, 11-1/2 years, effective July 29; Thomas H. Flickinger, skilled trades helper in physical plant-maintenance services, 14-1/2 years, effective Sept. 30; Mary C. Ender, central supply technician in the Sindecuse Health Center, effective June 29; Alan M. Mielewski, who is studying geosciences. Duke was awarded $2,000 for work on his dissertation "Passport from Poverty: The Political Journey of Bilingual Education, 1964-1978." Mielewski was awarded $3,000 to continue his dissertation work on remote sensing techniques for assessment and development of renewable groundwater resources in and around alpine areas.

Frostic Fellowships awarded

This summer, the Graduate College announced the first recipients of the new Gwen Frostic Doctoral Fellowships. The competitive fellowships assist doctoral students in all fields with their educational expenses, including tuition and fees, materials and travel. Receiving the awards were Robert H. Duke, who is studying history, and Adam M. Mielewski, who is studying geosciences. Duke was awarded $2,000 for work on his dissertation "Passport from Poverty: The Political Journey of Bilingual Education, 1964-1978."

Mielewski was awarded $3,000 to continue his dissertation work on remote sensing techniques for assessment and development of renewable groundwater resources in and around alpine areas.

Service

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

35 Years—Jack H. Roach, physical plant-maintenance services.
30 Years—Patricia K. Campbell, physical plant-maintenance services; Gail Hellin-Puffer, physical plant-building, custodial and support services; William J. Merton, Mallinson Institute; Richard M. Oxhandler, counseling and testing center; and Patricia F. Vander Meir, University Libraries.
20 Years—Leser Baird, physical plant-maintenance services; Sean M. Bashaw, chemistry; John E. Campos, School of Music; Sandra L. Custer, Sindecuse Health Center; Elaine Gaudio, Office of the President; Julie M. Lenczycy, campus planning; Donna Marks, Office of the Vice President for Advancement and Legislative Affairs; Elaine L. Phillips, counseling and testing center; Nancy F. Pynn, Dining Services-Bernhard Center; and Jerry G. Spencer, business and Finance.
15 Years—Jean H. Coons, College of Aviation.
10 Years—John H. Coons, counseling and testing center; Kathleen Mary Keckler, Gwen Frostic School of Art; Colleen Lewis, internal audit; Janet G. Liebendorfer, electrical and computer engineering; Sally A. Sutkowski, Bronson School of Nursing; and Debbie L. Uldriks, Haeirncke Institute.
Five Years—Sara M. Anderson, Human Resources; Salmon Anwar, public safety; Brian P. Bauer, intercollegiate athletics; Cheryl Lynn Bauman-Bruey, theatre; Christina M. Dersch, registrar's office; Timothy S. Herrmann, intercollegiate athletics; Kathryn Lewis-Ginebaugh, University counseling and testing center; Brandon G. Meissner, University Libraries; Shannon M. Ruamer, computer science; Vladimir Nikolayevich Ruskikhin, College of Aviation; Elizabeth C. Teviotdale, Medieval Institute; Connie Volenski, Human Resources; and Michael Whang, University Libraries.

Annual Family Weekend scheduled

Parents and families of WMU students are invited to celebrate their campus involvement and share in the Bronco spirit by participating in the 40th annual Family Weekend from Friday through Sunday, Oct. 5-7. Family Weekend honors the year-round commitment families and parents show to the University, involves friends and families in college life, and offers a chance to experience Kalamazoo in the fall. Activities scheduled include campus tours and a tailgate. For more information and registration details, visit www.wmich.edu/parents/weekend or e-mail shari.glaser@wmich.edu or call 387-4820. Registrations must be postmarked by Sept. 24.

Faculty, staff encouraged to aid veterans by learning about PTSD

An event has been slated for faculty and staff members who want to know more about the symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder and what PTSD services are available for students returning from combat duty.

The event, a panel discussion, will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 5, in the Bernhard Center’s Brown and Gold Room. A question-and-answer session will follow. The panel will be composed of experts from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, including several from the VA's Battle Creek Medical Center. To register or obtain additional information, contact the Advocacy Office for Transfer Students and Military Affairs at advocacy-office@wmich.edu or 387-0740.

Obituaries

Jerry L. Bloemsmma, WMU Bookstore, died suddenly Sept. 15, in the University of Michigan Medical Center. He was 63. Bloemsmma came to WMU in 1964 and spent 49 years with the University. He was employed by the WMU Barber Shop for 25 years, and served for the past 18 as postmaster of the WMU Bookstore’s substation. Visitation is 6 to 8 p.m. Friday and 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday at the Langeland Family Funeral Homes, Portage Chapel, 411 E. Centre Ave. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday in the Portage Chapel.

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Enrollment continued from page 1

Thunderstorms and small mammals are all the same—potential trouble—to power plant utility specialist Edison Macadangdang.

Macadangdang, who worked in operations and maintenance for a local company before coming to WMU in 1998, knows that at any time, lightning could strike a power line or an agile animal could cause a short.

“That could go down,” he says. “Those things don’t happen every day, so you can’t prepare for them.”

But Macadangdang and his 14 AFSCME co-workers are ready for just about everything else. These skilled tradespeople are five years into a cross-training apprenticeship that teaches maintenance specialists how to operate the central power plant on Stadium Drive and operations specialists how to maintain it. In addition, although parts of the plant date back to 1928, WMU has upgraded it to a high-tech, fully automated facility since acquiring it from the Kalamazoo Psychiatric Hospital in 1994.

Most of Macadangdang’s work day involves operations-related duties, either in the control room or “on the floor.” These duties include taking hourly control readings, trekking out to the Parkview Campus power plant to make sure it’s running smoothly, testing for impurities and condensates in boiler water, checking and restocking equipment, and completing work orders as well as special projects.

“You’re not just sitting here looking at gauges,” he says. “You’re mind is always going. You’re always thinking about what’s going on and what should be happening next. It boils down to that,” he adds with a laugh.

“This is one of the best places to work,” Macadangdang continues. “We have our assignments, but we have flexibility and can use our own initiative.”

Off the job, the Comstock resident makes time for reading, traveling to visit friends, attending church, and doing yard work and household projects.

“Mostly I’m a family man,” he says. “I have a lovely wife, Emma, and two girls. But I miss out on some of the everyday activities because I work Wednesday through Sunday from 3:30 to 11:30 p.m. So I spend as much time with my family as I can.”

On Campus with Edison Macadangdang

Several events are taking place on campus and in the Kalamazoo community in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, a national observance that runs from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 and recognizes Hispanic culture and contributions to American society.

The observance began with an exhibit of paintings and sculptures by artist Eva Narcissa Martinez that is running through Sunday, Sept. 30, in two of the display cases on the first floor of the Bernhard Center.

The main event this year will be the Kalamazoo Hispanic-American Heritage Festival from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 29, at the Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds. The festival will feature Latin music, folkloric dances, food, crafts and contests as well as activities for families and kids.

WMU will wrap up the month with a presentation on “Teaching Diversity Through Music” from 12:30 to 2 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 11, in 210 Bernhard Center. Local musicians Rene Meave and Guillermo Martinez will perform and give a talk about the influence of Mexican-American music.

Program changes approved for 2008

WMU will offer a new concentration in stage management starting in fall 2008 to better prepare bachelor of arts theatre majors to enter the stage management profession or enter graduate-level training.

Also effective next fall, the bachelor’s degree in industrial design will be named the bachelor’s degree in industrial and entrepreneurial engineering. In addition, the program will have substantially new requirements and feature new course content.

Greening of Parkview continued from page 1

Fleis & VandenBrink Engineering’s new Kalamazoo facility, which will have Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification, LEED, is the recognized standard for measuring building sustainability and “green” building techniques. Fleis & VandenBrink is one of the area’s fastest growing civil engineering firms.