Fall enrollment nears 30,000

An increase in the number of graduate students helped push the University's fall enrollment total to an all-time record of 29,729, up 2.8 percent over the previous record set last year at 28,931. The number of full-time graduate students increased to 3,166, up 6 percent over last year’s figures, while the number of part-time graduate students was up 4.8 percent to 4,153. Total enrollment increase came in the number of doctoral students, which increased from 623 to last fall's figure of 542, an increase of nearly 15 percent.

"The growth in our graduate enrollment, especially the 15 percent increase in the number of doctoral students, reflects the increasing national prominence of our graduate college and the growth in our graduate programming," said WMU President Elson S. Floyd. "It is a reflection of the strategic changes that we have made and the reputation that we are gaining across the nation."

Undergraduate enrollment reached 23,643, an increase of 2.1 percent over the 2001 total of 23,156. In fact, this year, 4,543 were beginning freshmen, a decline of 2.7 percent when compared with last fall's figure of 4,669. This past spring, the university established a waiting list for freshmen for the first time in its history in an effort to keep the freshman class at an optimum size. The previous three years, the University closed admission to the freshman class in the spring for the same reason.

Parkview Campus to see first engineering opening Oct. 11

The Paper Coating Pilot Plant, the first element of the University's new engineering complex on the Parkview Campus, will open during a Friday, Oct. 11, ceremony.

University President Elson S. Floyd will join Kalamazoo Mayor Robert Jones and college and paper industry professionals for the dedication ceremony set for 11 a.m. inside the pilot plant. A brief ceremony will be followed by a public open house that will feature building tours, student poster presentations and vendor trade exhibits designed to showcase companies whose products are part of the new facility. The plant will remain open until 2:30 p.m.

The Paper Coating Pilot Plant, located just east of the new home of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, houses a modern, high-speed paper coater that will be the only such equipment in North America that is not affiliated with a private company. The plant will offer industry clients a place to conduct research and also will provide hands-on learning experiences for WMU students as well as research opportunites for both faculty and students.

World Food Day event shown

The annual World Food Day teleconference was held recently via the WMU EduCABLE channel 49, October 16, from noon to 3 p.m.

The teleconference will emanate from George Washington University, with PBS political correspondent Ray Suarez acting as host to guest Michael Lipton, an internationally known authority on rural poverty in developing countries.

NIH grant to boost HHS research capacity

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, has approved a $1.2 million grant to help pay for several research laboratories as part of a new building for the College of Health and Human Services. The grant, announced during the Sept. 20 Board of Trustees meeting, recognizes the University's growing national reputation as a leading research institution. NIH grant proposal reviewers cited WMU's "strong institutional commitment, benefits to investigator's professional development, substantial number of public health services, sponsored research projects, and an environment conducive to current and future integrated and collaborative research activities," as well as detailed construction plans for the building.

"We are excited to see the progress of this project," said Dean Albert Marzec, WMU College of Health and Human Services Director. "This project will enable us to provide our students with state-of-the-art facilities, which will allow them to be competitive in the national marketplace."

"This grant will allow the college to complete research laboratories and office space totaling nearly 20,000 square feet in the college's new building on Oakland Drive. The 195,000-square-foot building will house all of the college's academic programs in one central location at a projected total cost of $48.2 million. The state has agreed to pay 75 percent of the project's cost, while the University is paying 25 percent of the total cost.

The peer-reviewed grant award recognized the University and college's commitment to research and carrying out the college's academic mission in the health sciences. "The faculty is committed to excellence in research, training future generations of biomedical and allied health scholars, and providing a scientifically competent biomedical work force to serve the health care and rehabilitation needs of Kalamazoo, Mich., and the rural areas of Southwest Michigan," the award summary states.

The grant will be used to complete the building's fourth floor, which will house research initiatives and research training in sensory, motor and communication sciences.

Research will be aimed at improving the quality of life and increasing equitable access to healthy futures for area residents, including those with disabilities. The labs will replace the majority of the existing research spaces and greatly enhance scholarly interaction, productivity and collaboration.

The research will be conducted by faculty primarily in speech pathology and audiology and blindness and low vision studies. The award summary recognized that the "need for new facilities is well justified. The current space available for faculty members is highly inadequate and lack of sound-proof structures causes significant hindrance in the ongoing research projects."

"The $1.2 million grant will pay 25 percent of the laboratories' total $4.8 million projected cost and play a significant role in helping the University secure its share of the building funding. This takes us a step closer to our new building," Piasanski says.

"We're making every effort to assure our dream comes true, and with the outstanding support we've received from President Floyd and our faculty, staff, alumni and friends, we realize that our momentum is unstoppable."

Illinois-based engineering firm NASCO is newest BTR Park partner

An advanced engineering firm that specializes in consulting, training and sales for the products of an internationally known virtual manufacturing software company will be the newest resident partner at the University's Business Technology and Research Park.

NASCO Technologies Corp., which is based in Gurnee, Ill., will open a West Michigan office at the WMU park, where the firm also will operate a certified PTC Training Center. NASCO, which does engineering consulting and training in the fields of rapid prototyping, design optimization and virtual manufacturing, markets and provides service for products from PTC, the world's largest producer of computer-aided design software used for product development.

The new NASCO office will employ a minimum of five employees and will be located in the Pro Line Tech Building, which was completed earlier this year. The multi-tenant facility already is home to the engineering firm Fishbys, Thomas, Carr & Huber Inc. NASCO's commitment to the BTR Park brings to 11 the number of firms that will reside in the new park. All are involved in one of the park's three focus areas—advanced engineering, life sciences or information technology.

NASCO President Victor Nassar, a former PTC employee, launched the firm in 1999 with a focus on training, consulting and providing service to PTC customers. The firm now employs 14 people. In November 2001, he added PTC sales to his company's mission.

Dean Michael Atkins, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, says NASCO's consulting and training initiatives dovetail perfectly with work being done in the college's engineering graphics program as well as with the design optimization focus of several engineering disciplines.

United Way goal will 'give community a lift'

The University's annual fund-raising drive for the Greater Kalamazoo United Way got under way Oct. 1, as campus volunteers launched a drive to "Give Our Community a Lift" by raising $250,000 for area human service agencies.

The WMU goal is a 6.5 percent increase over last year's campaign total of $202,596. WMU is the area's fourth largest contributor to the community-wide effort, for which a 2002 campaign goal of $97.4 million has been set. For the next four weeks, campus walls, display cases and mailboxes will be filled with promotional materials encouraging WMU community members to join in the effort. Approximately 120 campus and community fund-raisers will act as hosts to departmental campaign meetings to help campus community members determine how they want to participate.

The University campaign will run through Oct. 31, and the campus victory celebration is scheduled for Nov. 1, according to campus campaign co-chairpersons Don Vander Ploug, auxiliary services, and Charles DeVries, legislative af

News Bulletins

WMU News will provide text and graphics for delivery to students at their dorms via the University’s new WMUTV satellite system.

The university has purchased a satellite TV dish and related equipment at a cost of $10,700 to the University. The service will include the Digital Entertainment Cable Channel (EDC) and the University’s own WMU TV channel.

The channel is designed to serve students on campus as part of the university’s expanded communications services.

The WMU News will provide news briefs for the students via EDC.

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From left: area resident Sonny Evans, staff member Neil Rankin, and WMU President Elson S. Floyd practice the campaign theme by "giving a lift" to WMU campus co-chairperson Don Vander Ploug at the United Way campaign kick-off Oct. 1. Photo by Neil Rankin.

For more information about the campaign, contact Vander Ploug at 7-3360 or DeVries at 7-3600.
There will be a little something for everyone Oct. 6 through Oct. 13 when WMU celebrates Homecoming 2002, "A Blast from the Past, WMU Through the Decades."

Among the many activities open to the public will be a 5K run/walk; the William E. Marcellus Festival of the Arts; a celebration of arts, shows, concerts and athletic competitions.

In addition, WMU's student-run radio station WIDR-FM 89.1 will be adding to the nostalgic atmosphere of this year's festivities, commemorating its 50th anniversary. WIDR, which helped launch the careers of such media heavyweights as Al Franken, is distributed without charge to faculty and staff of the university. 

Postmarked to: Western News, Office of University Relations, Western Michigan University, 1903 W. Michigan, Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5165.

For more information about any of these or other campus events, visit the WMU News Online at <www.wmich.edu/wmu/news>.
Jobs

The following vacancies are currently being posted through the Job Opportunity Program by the Human Resource Services Department. Interested applicants eligible should submit a job-opportunity transfer application during the posting period, and may contact a human resource services staff member for assistance in securing these positions.

Employers may call the Applicant Information Service at 7-3699 to hear the weekly Job Opportunity Program postings, seven days a week, 24 hours a day. A transcript of the conversation including links to any Web sites visited.

Please call the Applicant Information Service for up-to-date information on the Job Opportunity Program and vacancies available to external applicants.

(N) Custodian (express, 1st shift), M1, M2, West Hills Athletic Club, 01/02-27588, 9/30-5/7/02

(R) Office Coordinator, 14, Business Information Systems, 02/03-3134, 9/30-10/7/02

(R) Professor (tenure track, academic year), 110, School of Social Work, 02/03-3134, 9/30-10/7/02

(N) Executive Assistant, 16, Legislative Affairs, 02/03-3134, 9/30-10/7/02

(R) Construction Administrator, 17, Plant-Administrative Services/Remodeling Services, 02/03-3139, 9/30-10/7/02

N= New
R= Replacement
WMU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Exchange


FOR SALE—Craftsman air compressor, six HP, 33 gallon, 220 volt, $200 OBO. Chicago Pneumatics Impact 1/2” w/sockets, asking $75. Call 724-656-6477 for further information.

FOR SALE—Dinette, contemporary formica table plus six chairs. Excellent condition. $125. Call 342-9953.

FOR SALE—Beautiful diamond solitaire 5.8 carat engagement ring white gold wedding band, asking $1,000. Call 7-37960 or 624-6577.

Libraries

Even with you had a librarian sitting next to your home while you’re in the throes of research! How often are you looking up information online at the library when you need help and you need some help, but you’re hesitant to leave your terminal lest someone snatch it away?

WMU librarians are now available live online to answer all manner of questions from cyber patrons. A pilot project called the real-time reference service, which gives you the librarian and patron to explore the Web and search databases together, while communicating by chat. When the session is finished, the user can opt to print or receive a Web link to the conversation, including links to any Web sites visited.

For those who questions can’t be quickly answered, the librarian will follow-up with an e-mail or phone call.

“We’ve had e-mail reference for some time, which meant people could e-mail us questions and we’d respond within a day or two,” says reference librarian Debbie Ring, who is coordinating the project. “Obviously, the real-time format is much more convenient for our patrons. Plus, everyone who has been trained on the system so far has found it quite enjoyable.”

Seven WMU librarians are currently staffing two “Ask a Librarian” shifts, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays and from noon to 5 p.m. on Wednesdays. Although there are no current plans for 24-hour-a-day service, Ring does expect the hours to be expanded later this semester.

On Campus

When Cynthia Jackson-Ekeledo, Sincseca Health Center, answers the phone, callers listen—carefully.

“In many cases, an appointment desk is their first point of contact with the health center,” says Jackson-Ekeledo. “If I’m not giving them the service that they want or need, that sets the tone for the rest of their experience. I work hard to treat people the way I would want to be treated.”

For 22 years, the Kalamazoo native has worked at Sincseca, setting up appointments, answering questions, offering a welcoming word or a comforting smile.

“The phone starts ringing at 7:30 a.m. and goes on past 5,” says Jackson-Ekeledo, who admits that the phone is the last thing she wants to hear when she gets home.

Throughout the day, she fields calls about minor injuries, flu shots, lab results, vaccinations, psychological testing, patient records and other matters. At the same time, students who walk up to the appointment window require her immediate attention.

“It’s a challenge, but I enjoy keeping up,” she says. “And being the mother of twin 18-year-old girls and a 12-year-old, you learn to handle things.”

In addition to answering questions, Jackson-Ekeledo often finds herself dispensing patience.

“One of the benefits of working here is meeting people from all over the world,” she explains. “I’m flexible about culture and religion and how that might impact someone’s health care experience. Over time, you learn about people’s needs and their sensitivities.”

One of her most memorable international experiences came more than two decades ago when she took Iroham Ekeledo, a WMU student whom she’s seen only once in Sincseca, but who eventually would become her husband.

Now, 20 years later, Jackson-Ekeledo likes to spend her free time traveling and “just being with the kids,” she says.

Lunch & Learn event focuses on conflict

Learning to identify your own conflict resolution style and use it effectively to improve communication is one of the topics covered in a special Tuesday, Oct. 15, Lunch & Learn session for campus employees.

Dale Anderson, the new coordinator of the Campus Employee Dispute Resolution Service, will lead the discussion beginning at noon in the Bernadette Center. Anderson, who joined the staff last summer, will discuss different conflict resolution styles as well as give employee tips on how his office can help with conflict resolutions.

Volunteers needed for East Campus cleanup

Phase III of an ongoing project to clean up Prospect Hill on WMU’s historic East Campus will kick off at 8 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 12.

The project is being spearheaded by the Hillkeepers, which was formed to work with the University’s administrators and Landmark Services to improve and maintain Prospect Hill.

The third phase will now focus attention on the slope behind North Hall, WMU’s first library building. Volunteers will be needed to work on the hillside, set up clean-up stations, and help with cleanup next week.

Those planning to participate in cleanup work should wear boots, work gloves and protective eyewear. Volunteers will not be required to cut brush or bring any tools.

To register for the Oct. 12 event or obtain more information, visit the Web at <www.wmich.edu/hillkeepers> or call 7-3456.

Workshop will cover dissertation writing

All doctoral students and graduate faculty are invited to attend a workshop on “Practical Strategies for Writing the Dissertation and Developing Career Potential” from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 18, in the Vetzer Center’s Putney Lecture Hall.

Conducting the workshop will be Gary Olsen, director of rhetoric and composition at the University of South Florida.

Often will provide information on career development and publication as well as address issues concerning procrastination, perfectionism and time management.

To reserve a space, call the Graduate College at 7-8212.
WMU announces 2002 Distinguished Alumni Award winners

Three internationally recognized graduates have been selected to receive 2002 Distinguished Alumni Awards from the WMU Alumni Association. The honorees are A. John Daniel of Duffton, South Africa; Huy D. Johnson of Mill Valley, Calif.; and James J. Leisenring of London.

The trio will be recognized during the Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 11, in the West Ballroom of the Bernhard Center. Reservations may be made by calling the Alumni Association at 7-8777.

The Distinguished Alumni Awards, initiated in 1963, are the association's most prestigious honor. Counting this year's recipients, only 116 men and women have received one of these awards.

Daniel is director of research for the Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa's national social sciences research facility. Prior to this appointment in 2001, he served for eight years at the University of Darban-Westville in South Africa, first as professor and then chairperson of political science. He received a master of arts degree from the University of Natal. Daniel is the founder and president of the San Francisco-based Resource Renewal Institute. The institute was incorporated in 1985 and helps advance sustainable development nationwide as well as worldwide. In 2001, the United Nations Environment Programme presented him with the Sasakawa Environment Prize for 40 years of outstanding global contributions to the management and protection of the environment. He received a bachelor of arts degree from WMU in 1956.

Leisenring is a full-time member of the International Accounting Standards Board, a privately-funded organization committed to developing a single set of global accounting standards. He joined the IASB in 2001 after more than a decade with the U.S. Financial Accounting Standards Board, America's designated private-sector organization for establishing standards of financial accounting and reporting. Leisenring received a master of business administration degree from WMU in 1964 and was a member of the University's accounting faculty from 1964 to 1969.

A more complete story on the three award winners is available online at <www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/>

Two DA recipients to address campus groups

Leisenring is Keystone speaker

One of the world's most influential accounting figures will discuss the global state of his profession when he gives a presentation on campus Friday, Oct. 11.

James J. Leisenring, a member of the International Accounting Standards Board, will present "Today's Accounting Profession in an International Context" as part of the Keystone Community Bank Breakfast Series. The free Haworth College of Business program, which includes a continental breakfast, will begin at 7:30 a.m. in 2150 Schneider. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 7-5070.

Johnson to give public address

Internationally recognized environmentalist Huy Johnson will speak on "Green Plans: Green Prints for Sustainability" at 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 10, in 1301 Wood Hall, with a reception to follow.

Johnson was the recipient of the United Nations 2001 Sasakawa Environment Prize, a prestigious award considered by many as the world's highest environmental honor. He founded the Resource Renewal Institute, which focuses on development and implementation of "Green Plans," or practical strategies for translating environmental sustainability into action and policy plans. Green Plans are currently used in New Zealand, Holland, and Denmark, and have begun to be implemented in the U.S., including Oregon, Minnesota and New Jersey.

"His strategy for promoting conservation, preservation and restoration on a global scale is helping to reframe the way we think about environmental problems, stewardship and ecological responsibilities," says Hamilton. "The message he sends is that the ecological dilemmas before us are fundamentally solvable."

Vass to be honored

The Holistic Health Care Program will hold its 20th anniversary dinner Tuesday, Oct. 22, at the Back Bay Inn, 79 N. St.

The event will include a retirement ceremony for Molly Vass-Lehman, who came to WMU in 1985 to direct the Holistic Health Care Program.

The evening also will include a talk titled "What's Love Got to Do with It?" by an anthropologist and author Angeles Arrien. In addition, poet Mark Nepo will share several of his poems.

For information or to make reservations, call 7-3752.