A new research center to focus on nanotechnology, a new student information system and a commitment to enhancing the social and cultural climate of a diverse campus are the initiatives that President Elson S. Floyd says will be the focus of work at WMU during the coming year.

Speaking Feb. 7 at a Faculty Senate meeting that also served as this year's Academic Convocation, Floyd deloaded his annual State of the University address to a crowd of about 250. In his talk, Floyd outlined the accomplishments of the past year, the challenges the University currently faces and the three initiatives he is launching this year. He also reported on the success of the four initiatives he announced in last year's address.

• A new mission statement for the University was approved by the Board of Trustees in December.
• A faculty hiring initiative has added 30 new faculty positions this year and will add 20 more in the next academic year.
• A renewed institutional assessment plan is under way to formally demonstrate the institution's quality.
• Strengthened information systems and a new wireless campus environment are making new opportunities available for faculty and students.

"Let there be no mistake about it," Floyd said. "Our University has a momentum, a presence, a persona and a character that provide appropriate alignment for the year ahead."

Strains on the institution's resources and capacities, the constitutional need to keep pace with technology advances and WMU's determination to foster economic growth in the region have challenged the University over the past year and will continue to demand creative solutions, Floyd said. His initiatives for the coming year were selected to meet those challenges.

"We have more ideas and opportunities than we can respond to," he said. "That's the extraordinary competence, dedication and commitment of our faculty and our students and our staff," he noted. From among those possible choices, he selected three presidential initiatives for the year ahead.

Beebe-Thompson tapped to fill role as first Lacey Chair

A health care professional with a wide-ranging, community health nursing background has been selected as the first person to fill the Bernardine M. Lacey Endowed Chair in WMU's Bronson School of Nursing.

Joyce E. Beebe-Thompson, associate dean of graduate studies and professional development and a professor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, currently holds the highest elected office in the world for middle-age as director of the board of management of the International Confederation of Midwives. At the University of Pennsylvania, she also is director of the PAIRMulticultural World Health Organization Collaborating Center in Nursing and Midwifery Leadership, director of the Teacher Education Program for Nurse Midwifery and Nurse Practitioner Faculty, and project director of Penn-Malawi Women for Women's Health Project.

IN DISTINGUISHED COMPANY—The University honored four WMU faculty members with awards for teaching, service and scholarship at the Academic Convocation Feb. 7. From left are M. Jamie Jeremy, executive director of alumni relations; Carolyn Harris, foreign languages and literatures and recipient of the 2001 Alumni Teaching Excellence Award; John M. "Mick" Hanley, chairperson of the 2001 Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award; and Fredrick J. Dobney, provost and vice president for academic affairs. Not shown is the Academic Convocation Feb. 7. From left are M. Jamie Jeremy, executive director of alumni relations; Carolyn Harris, foreign languages and literatures and recipient of the 2001 Alumni Teaching Excellence Award; John M. "Mick" Hanley, chairperson of the 2001 Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award; and Fredrick J. Dobney, provost and vice president for academic affairs.
Around the Campus

Fullbright Program workshop to be held at WMU March 4

Representatives from Fullbright campuses and interested faculty are encouraged to attend a workshop on the Fullbright Program for faculty and professionals from 3 to 5 p.m. Monday, March 4, in Room 201 of the International Center at Western Michigan University. Presenting the free workshop will be Debra Egan, assistant director for Africa and the Western Hemisphere at the Council for International Exchange of Scholars. Those attending will learn about fact-checking and research opportunities available to 140 countries, how to prepare a successful Fullbright application, which country to apply to, how to make contacts abroad, and how their campuses can play host to a visiting Fullbright scholar from abroad.

Space is limited, so reservations should be made by Monday, Feb. 25. For more information or to register, contact Sue Marsh at ssharp@cisie.org.

Managing risk focus of lecture

An examination of the properties of business and insurance risk will be the topic of discussion for a University of Michigan visiting professor who will speak next month at Western Michigan University. "Managing Risk Before It Manages You," by Gayl Werme, will be presented at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 21, in Walwood Commons. Sponsored by the Special Projects Advisory Committee, the seminar is free and open to the public.

Werme and Jack Moss will be visiting professor in Bronco Athletics, a position sponsored by the Bronco Club Women and Man of the Year awards. Werme and Moss will be honored at a half-time ceremony of the Bronco men's basketball game versus Northern Illinois University Saturday, March 2, in Walwoood. The game begins at 2 p.m.

"W" Club to bestow honors on Gayl Werme, Jack Moss

Gayl Werme, a special projects assistant in the Development Office, and Jack Moss, a sportswriter for the Kalamazoo Gazette since 1984, have been named the 2002 recipients of the Bronco Club Woman and Man of the Year awards. Werme and Moss will be honored at a half-time ceremony of the Bronco men's basketball game versus Northern Illinois University Saturday, March 2, in Walwood.

The game begins at 2 p.m.

Active involved in Bronco Athletics, Werme serves on the Spikers Club board of directors and helped raise funds for the Beaumont Golf Classic, which supports athletic scholarships. She served as a member of the WMU Board of Trust- ees from 1982 to 1985 and is a current member of the board of Bronson Methodist Hospital. Her daughter, Katharine Werme Hermann, was an all-conference selection on the Bronson Women's Track team from 1986 to 1989 and was the 1996 "W" Club Woman of the Year.

Moss, who began his career in the Bronco basketball and baseball, attended WMU for three years. He received a bachelor's degree in public service from WMU in 1990. He will retire from the Kalamazoo Gazette in March, concluding a distinguished career that spans seven decades.

First Lacey Chair

"This is a good example of what we can do with endowed professorships," says Provost Michael R. Taylor, the University's vice president for academic affairs. "This is a person who will bring expertise, leadership and stature to the University, and who, in the right type of program, will have the ability to attract and keep high-quality graduate students. We are very excited about being able to improve the training program in this area in such a way that students will be well-prepared for the clinical, research and administrative needs of the future."
On Campus with George Kohrman

George Kohrman, information technology, got his foot in the door early. As a second grader at WMU’s laboratory school, he tagged along behind his late father, George E. Kohrman, who was dean of the School of Applied Arts and Sciences. Today, as the University’s network manager, the younger Kohrman leads a staff of four network engineers who maintain a key 11,000 devices connected to the campus, each other and the world.

"I like to tell people I've been here on campus for 50 years," says Kohrman, who graduated from The Campus School and earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in information technology. The husband, golfer and father of two also is a salesman, always watching for the next wave of technology and working to help WMU embrace it.

"Over the past year, people have asked, 'Why wireless?' But then, when we first began pushing email, they said, 'Why do I need email if I'm not in the office?"

"We're at the head of the curve," says Kohrman, who expects wireless communication to become standard fare in coming years. "Our students are being exposed to what they need to know before they enter the work place. The rest of the world will catch up."
Calendar

The master calendar maintained by the Office of University Relations for use in Western News is available through WMU's home page on the World Wide Web. Select WMU News and then look for Calendar of Events. You can also link directly to the calendar at <www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/events>.

FEBRUARY 2002

2.21 Thursday
Exhibition (through Feb. 22), Printmaking Group Show, East Hall Galleries, weekdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; reception, Friday, Feb. 22, 5-7 p.m.

Exhibition (through Feb. 22), Interior Design Senior Show: Andrea Beardside, Gina Bingle, Robyn Rae and Sarah Williams; Interior Design Galleries, weekdays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; reception, Friday, Feb. 22, 5-7 p.m.

Exhibition (through Feb. 25), "Dutch Graphic Design: Simplicity, Men-Beardslee, Gina Bingle, Robyn Rue and Sarah Williams; Interior Design Galleries, weekdays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; reception, Friday, Feb. 22, 5-7 p.m.

2.21 Thursday continued
*Concert, Boys Choir of Harlem, Miller Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
*University Theatre performance, "Space," Multiom Form Theatre, today through Saturday, Feb. 23, 8 p.m.

2.22 Friday
Master class, Anita Penomelos, piano, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 2 p.m.
Mathematics lecture, "Separability and Symmetry and Algebra, Oh My!" Jonathan Hodge, Avalon Commons, Everett Tower, 4 p.m.
*Men's hockey vs. Ferris State, Lawson Ice Arena, 7 p.m.
*Performance, National Acrobats of Taiwan, Buster Bronco Family, Lawson Ice Arena, 6:30 p.m.; reception, Friday, March 1, 5-7 p.m.

2.22 Sunday
Synagogue," Dean Bell, Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies, Walwood Classroom B, 3 p.m.

2.23 Monday
Black History Month Symposium, undergraduate student research pre-sentations and judging by Africans scholars, Brown and Gold Room, Bernhard Center, 4-30 p.m.

2.24 Tuesday
Classroom B, 3 p.m.

2.25 Tuesday
Exhibition (through March 1), Alexis Babiarz, BFA Watercolor Degree Show, and Lucas Blanco, BFA Painting Degree Show, East Hall Galleries, weekdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; reception, Friday, March 1, 5-7 p.m.
Lecture, "Geological Perspectives on Global Climate Change," Lee Gerhard, Kansas Geological Survey, 1118 Rose Hall, 4 p.m.
Black History Month movie and discussion, "Sparkle," Dalton Center Lecture Hall, 7 p.m.

2.26 Tuesday
Black History Month movie and discussion, "Kevin's Day," Dalton Center Lecture Hall, 7 p.m.
Concert, University University Symphonic Band conducted by Robert Spradling with faculty oboe soloist Michael Miller, Miller Auditorium, 7 p.m.

2.27 Wednesday
Lecture, "Remembered Pasts: Jewish Historical Narratives and Commu-nal Identity in Early Modern Germany," Dean Bell, Spermas Institute of Jewish Studies, Wolwood Commons, 4 p.m.
Lecture, "A Gateway to Mediterranean Life: Cairo's Ben Ezra Synagogue," Dean Bell, Spermas Institute of Jewish Studies, Wolwood Commons, 7 p.m.
Black History Month panel discussion of male-female relationship issues, 2303 Sangren Hall, 7 p.m.
*Performance, "The Merry Widow," London City Opera, Miller Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
*Vocal jazz concert, "Jazz From New York," Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

2.28 Thursday
Lecture, "Islamic Noms and the Democratic Alternative," Mostas Abdal Fartah, political science, 3301 Friedmann Hall, 12:30 p.m.
Information session, "How to Access Census 2000 Data," Waldo Library Classroom B, 3 p.m.

2.28 Thursday continued
*Admission charged

Scholarships to reward students for service

While some say that volunteering is its own reward, WMU students who devote time to serving others can also be rewarded with cash prizes totaling $5,000.

The 11th annual Volunteer Service Scholarship Competition will award 10 $500 scholarships for the 2002-03 aca-demic year to undergraduate students who work to improve the quality of life for others. Agencies, institutions and individuals are invited to nominate their WMU student volunteers for the contest, and students also are encouraged to nominate themselves. The application deadline is Friday, March 8.

To be eligible, contest entrants must be currently registered at WMU and taking at least one credit hour of classes. In addition, they must be enrolled as undergraduates at the University during the 2002-03 fall and winter semesters, and the volun-teer service for which they are nominated must have taken place within the past two years.

Applications will be evaluated on the impact of the volunteer work, change resulting from it and the amount of innovation shown while performing the work.

Organizers encourage nominators to submit brochures, photos and other materials that verify and support their applications. The scholarship competition is sponsored by WMU's Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships. Application forms are available on campus from the financial aid office, which is located in the Finance Student Services Building, or from Student Volunteer Services, which is located in the Lee Honors College.

For more information, contact Michelle Saks, student financial aid and scholar-ship advisor, extension 4017, or Kristi Zimmermann, assistant in Student Volunteer Services at 7-3200.

Friday night ceremonies

Large class sizes and an increasing interest in the pomp and circumstance of a formal graduation ceremony are prompting WMU officials to schedule four separate April commencement ceremonies over two days to accommodate an expected record number of graduates.

The four ceremonies are set for Friday, April 26, and Saturday, April 27.
*A ceremony at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, April 27, will be held for graduates of the Haworth College of Business and the University's General University Studies program.

*A ceremony at 11:30 a.m. ceremony Saturday will be held for graduates of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, the College of Aviation, the College of Fine Arts and the College of Health and Human Services.

*The final Saturday ceremony will take place at 1:30 p.m. for graduates of the College of Education.

Applications for graduation are being accepted through Friday, March 15, but already, University officials are expecting between 2,500 and 2,500 students will be eligible for graduation, surpassing the previous record of 2,475 eligible students.

"Graduation is an important rite of celebration for our students, their friends and families, and the entire University community," says Provost Frederick J. Dobney, vice president for academic af-fairs. "We're making this move to ensure those participating have the best possible opportunity to enjoy the event and have in attendance those who helped them achieve this milestone."

Complete commencement ceremony details are available on the University's completion Web site at <www.wmich.edu/commencement>.

New initiatives — continued from page 1

WMU must fund and implement a new student information system that will allow the University to become more efficient, improve its stewardship of scarce resources and en- hance its service levels.

Floyd concluded his address with a pledge to welcome the ideas, work and recom-mendations of all members of the WMU community who want to help the Univer-sity build ideas, work and attaining its goals. Such input, he said, "will serve as a beacon for what we must do."

The complete text of Floyd's State of the University address is available online at <www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/features/index.html>.