Frostic gift is largest in University's history

**Artist’s $13 million bequest will directly benefit variety of academic programs**

Celebrated Michigan artist Gwen Frostic ended a lifelong affair with her alma mater by bequeathing a gift estimated at more than $13 million, the largest gift in the school’s history, to WMU.

Frostic, one of the University’s most accomplished and celebrated Alumni, died April 25, 2001, one day shy of her 95th birthday. She died at her longtime home in Benton, Mich., where for 40 years she had operated Presscraft Papers, Gwen Frostic Prints of Benton, a Michigan landmark. According to President Elson S. Floyd, the University recently received $13 million from Frostic’s estate. Another distribution in excess of $5 million is expected when the estate is closed.

The gift was made by Frostic for the unrestricted use of the University, leaving allocations to the gift, “Our University, our gift, was a unique student-centered program in the tradition of the funds to the discretion of the University.”

“By any standard,” said Floyd in announcing the gift, “Gwen Frostic was an extraordinary person, and blessed to count her as one of our own. Her generosity was born out of a lifetime of giving, and funded the University that began in the 1920s and lasted more than 70 years. Gwen Frostic honored the University through her final gift and it is incumbent on us to see that she is honored and remembered by the ways in which this gift is used.”

Although the gift carried no restrictions, Floyd said the University will honor Frostic’s life of service and accomplishments by using the majority of the funds for a series of projects and endowments that reflect Frostic’s achievements; her love of art, nature and writing; and her dedication to education.

**Kellogg Foundation’s Lyman to succeed Wright as new aviation dean**

Gregory A. Lyman, a W.K. Kellogg Foundation executive and a longtime booster of aviation education, will become the dean of the University’s College of Aviation, effective Jan. 14, under the foundation’s loaned executive program.

Lyman, senior vice president and corporate secretary for the Kellogg Foundation, will take the reins of the college from Richard A. Wright, who is stepping down for personal and health reasons after serving two years as dean. President Elson S. Floyd made the announcement Jan. 7 at a collegewide meeting held at WMU’s aviation facilities in Battle Creek, Mich.

“This time of great uncertainty for the aviation industry poses a special challenge for colleges of aviation,” said Floyd. “We are fortunate that we will be able to count on the strong leadership of Greg Lyman, who is familiar with the industry and has been dedicated to the success of our enterprise, as we navigate the changing national and international aviation arena. Dr. Wright has positioned the college for a bright future and Greg Lyman will help ensure that future becomes a reality.”

Lyman’s appointment as dean will be brought to the WMU Board of Trustees for approval at the board’s next regular meeting Jan. 24. The Kellogg Foundation has agreed to an arrangement through which Lyman will be on loan to the University. The foundation encourages staff members to be involved in community nonprofit activities and permits executive loans where they may be helpful to an organization. Lyman will retain his Kellogg Foundation position while serving as dean, but expects to redistribute some of his foundation responsibilities in order to create the time needed for his new WMU role.

**WMU is new home to Prague writing program**

The University has taken the reins of a premier summer creative writing program conducted in the Czech Republic.

The Prague Summer Program, which is the new moniker for what writers and literary circles have known for the last decade as the Prague Summer Seminars, has officially become a WMU program. The University will administer the 2002 Prague Summer Program that next convenes in July.

The Prague Summer Program is an annual, intensive creative writing study abroad experience that gives approximately 100 writers the opportunity to work and be mentored by some of the biggest literary names from the United States and Central European countries. Participants travel to Prague for two- and four-week periods, during which they work with established writers. Such luminaries as Grace Paley, Stuart Dybek, Amy Tan and Gerald Stern have been guest writers for the program.
The woman who helped revolutionize education in Chicago and around the nation will headline the University's weeklong celebration honoring the late Martin Luther King Jr.

A number of free public events and activities have been scheduled at WMU the week of Jan. 21-25 to commemorate King's birthday. For the third year, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, this year slated for Monday, Jan. 21, will be an official University holiday.

Activist educator Marva Collins will be the keynote speaker at the University's annual MLK Convocation at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22, in Miller Auditorium. In addition to Collins' address, the convocation will include performances by the Western Michigan University King Jr. Celebration Choir and a Pakistani dance troupe; a dramatic reading by Von Washington, theater, and remarks from President Elon S. Floyd.

Marva Collins has been hailed as one of the most influential educators in American history. After 14 years teaching in Chicago's public school system and feeling dissatisfied with the education her own children were receiving in prestigious private schools, she founded the Westside Preparatory School in 1973. Collins' success there with children labeled as "unteachable" has prompted educators across the nation to rethink and retool their practices throughout the United States to rethink and retool their practices throughout the United States to rethink and retool their practices. In 1983, over 200 educators from around the country attended the first conference for the "IMC"-reorganized into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame in 1990-where Collins was chosen as one of the nation's 10 most influential women in the 20th century, and where she was also elected to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. She is chairperson of the committee, which includes students and faculty and staff members.

Faculty, staff asked to help identify potential 2002 orientation leaders

WMU faculty and staff are asked to lend a hand to the Office of Admissions and Orientation by identifying students who would be good orientation leaders. A total of 35 students with strong leadership skills are needed for the summer orientation program to help new students make their transition to WMU.

Orientation student leaders participate in activities such as facilitating small groups of new students and parents, explaining academic opportunities and procedures, and assisting in the development of class schedules and the registration process.

Qualifications for the position include

- excellent communication skills, a 2.3 minimum grade point average, leadership experience or potential, and flexibility so that students who are hired will receive a $2,800 summer salary, room and board, and additional compensation.
- In addition to identifying orientation leader candidates, faculty and staff are asked to nominate students for the position by sending e-mail to Christopher Tremblay, coordinator of orientation, at christopher.tremblay@wmich.edu.

Speaker to focus on economics of casinos

Since the Potawatomi tribe first proposed building a casino in Allegan County, the potential social and economic ramifications of casinos have been born in many of minds in Southwest Michigan and across the state. Now, an international authority on gambling will offer his perspective on the pros and cons of casinos in a presentation at WMU Wednesday, Jan. 16.

William R. Eadington, professor of economics and director of the Institute for the Study of Gambling and Commercial Gaming at the University of Nevada, Reno, will give a presentation titled "Gambling with the Future: Economic and Social Perspectives on the Casinos in America" at 3 p.m. in 350K Schaefer Hall. Eadington, a visiting professor at WMU this semester, says WMU and University Relations, Walwood Hall, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Mich. Since then, Maier says, history has changed.

"Over the last 30 years, a number of new archaeological discoveries and paleo-archaeological research have shed additional light on what happened in the ancient world," Maier says. "As a result, each chapter of the book has new information."

The book was released as a "gift book edition," a handsome hardback volume enhanced with full-color photographs, paintings, maps and charts. Most of those photographs were taken by Maier.

Dirks will lead national group

A doctoral student studying medieval history at WMU has been elected to the presidency of one of the nation's largest graduate student advocacy organizations. Doris Dirks was elected as the new president of the North American Graduate-Professional Students Federation (NAGPS) executive board. Marcel Brouwers was elected as the organization's secretary, while Toby Johnson will head the employment concerns committee. In addition, Jessica Baby will serve as the campus coordinator, while the NAGPS Midwestern regional conference will be held at WMU.

NAGPS is an advocacy organization representing more than 900,000 graduate and professional students at 200 campuses in the United States. The organization, which has headquarters in Washington, D.C., works to promote the interests and welfare of graduate and professional students in public and private universities and local and state and national agencies.

Trustees name Coons to head counseling and testing center

University trustees approved the appointment of a new director for the University Counseling and Testing Center when they met in December. John H. Coons, who had been serving as acting director of the center since August 2000, was named director, effective Oct. 1. Coons' appointment also includes a faculty position as an associate professor with tenured appointment at WMU.

Coons, a state-licensed psychologist, has been a staff member at WMU since 1997, having joined the center staff as a clinical and test measurement specialist. From 1994 to 1997, he was assistant director of the center, which provides mental health consultation to the University and Kalamazoo community as well as psychological services for WMU students.
Library

Census 2000 information sessions planned at Waldo

Waldo Library's Government Documents Department will offer a series of winter semester introductory sessions on how to access Census 2000 data.

Data from the Census 2000 of Population and Housing are currently being released, and the data are available in a myriad of formats, many of which did not exist just a few years ago. End users are able and sometimes required to manipulate the data and produce their own reports, requiring them to become familiar with the new data releases and formats in order to make the best use of the available information.

Waldo’s free sessions, geared to meet the needs of faculty and students, will cover the Bureau of Census Web site, including American Factfinder, as well as state and regional agencies that are making the data available to users. Waldo Library’s holdings will also be identified.

Sessions will meet from 3 to 4 p.m. on the following dates in Waldo’s lower level Classroom B: Jan. 16, Jan. 31, Feb. 13, Feb. 28, March 14, April 4 and April 17. Seating is limited, so preregistration is advised by calling 487-3087 or sending e-mail to <michael.mcdonell@wmich.edu>.

Search for 19th-century slave site under way

A WMU anthropologist has begun a search to pinpoint the site of a large settlement of escaped slaves near Vandallia, Mich., that disappeared more than a century ago.

Armed with a $21,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, WMU anthropologist Candace L. Roell is now conducting interviews and collecting historical documentation to help locate key locations of the Underground Railroad in the 1850s. Today, there are no standing structural remains of the cabins or the settlement, which was believed to be near Vandallia, a small community a few miles east of Cassopolis.

Roell’s work is part of an effort recently started by the National Park Service to identify key locations of the Underground Railroad, a pre-Civil War system that helped fugitive slaves reach freedom in the North and in Canada. Nassaney, who led a 1998 effort to ascertain the original site of the colonial Fort St. Joseph in Michigan, was interested in the expertise in the search for Rampont.

“Supposedly there were 100 cabins located in this area,” Nassaney says of Rampont. “There are to be no evidence remaining from this site is just implausible.”

Believed to have been one of the largest escaped slave communities in Southwest Michigan, Rampont was built on land that was provided by neighboring Quaker families. Many of the site’s residents were former slaves who had escaped hundreds of escaped slaves and their families, who were given five-acre plots of land for farming their own crops.

“Right now, we want to locate these cabins and examine how being given their own plot of land helped these runaway slaves establish new lives,” says Nassaney.

According to Sondra Mose-Ursery, Vandallia mayor and executive director of the Town of Rampont Foundation, many of Rampont’s residents worked the five-acre plots for 10 years before leaving the site.

“We think that around 1870, all the available land around the original site was used up, and the community just disappeared,” says Mose-Ursery.

Nassaney, assisted by graduate student Amanda Campbell of Hartville, Mich., is currently conducting interviews and historical cataloging to help locate the remaining eight or so sites that were probably similar to Rampont. Based on this information, Nassaney says he and his colleagues will be working to identify potential sites that would help conclusively pinpoint the location of Rampont.

Jobs

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

Employees may call the Applicant Information Service at 7-5669 to hear the weekly Job Opportunity Program postings, seven days a week, 24 hours a day from a voice telephone.

Grade 10 clerical positions are not required to be posted. For persons interested in faculty positions, there are openings in selected fields. A letter of application should be submitted to the appropriate dean or chairperson.

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

(R) Custodial Services Supervisor

(reported), 16, Physical Plant/Building

Custodial Support Services, 01/02-2764,

1/7-1/14/02

(U) Utility Food Worker

F011

Davis Dining Services, 01-2765, 1/7-1/14/02

(N) Assistant Professor

Custodian, academic year), 130, Environmental Services Department. Interested ben-

nity Program by the Human Resource

positions.

the weekly Job Opportunity Program

Information Service at 7-3669 to hear the

academic year), 01/02-2764, (tenure track, academic year), 120, Environmental

School of Community Health Services,

01/02-2767, (tenure track, academic year), 120,1010,

School of Community Health Services,

01/02-2767, 1/7-1/14/02

(Park) Enforcement Officer

10, Public Safety, 01-2768, 1/7-1/14/02

(N) Associate Professor

Custodian, academic year), 130, Management, 01/02-2772, 1/7-1/14/02

(U) Assistant Professor

Pharmacy Technician, 11,

Sindseche Health Center, 01-2769, 1/7-1/14/02

(N) Assistant/Associate Professor

Cosmetology, academic year), 130-1020,

College of Fine Arts, 01-2770, 17-1/14/02

(N) Research Analyst

14, Office of Information Technology, 01-2771, 1/7-1/14/02

(N) Assistant Professor

Office of Information Technology, 01-2775, 1/7-1/14/02

(R) Director, Academic Advising,

14, North College of Business, 01/02-2776, 1/7-1/14/02

(R) Office Assistant, 11, Economics,

01-2777, 1/7-1/14/02

N= New

R= Replacement

WMU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirm-

ative Action Employer.

Obituaries

Harold W. Boles, emeritus in educa-

tional leadership, died Oct. 6. He was 86. The Eaton Rapids, Mich., resident joined the WMU faculty in 1960 as a specialist in school administration and school plant operation. He retired in 1984.

During his tenure at WMU, Boles wrote four textbooks and served as chairperson of the Department of Educational Leadership and the former Department of School Services. He was a student of and visiting fellow, the Indiana native also taught briefly at Western Australia Institute of Technology and at the University of Queensland, Australia.

Boles, also a former member of the Kalamoazoo County Commission on Aging and the Portage Human Resources Board, earned a bachelor’s degree from Michigan State University and Ohio State University.

Frances E. Lohr, emerita in speech pa-

thology and audiology, died Dec. 25. She was 72.

Lohr was a University faculty member from 1968 until her retirement in 1992.

She earned a bachelor’s degree from Michi-

gan State University in 1951, a master’s degree from North-

western University in 1955 and a doctoral degree from the University of Michigan in 1968. Before coming to WMU, she was em-

ployed at Elmhurst College and at public schools in Berwyn, III., and Reed City, Mich.

In addition to serving as a professor, Lohr was coordinator of the Charles Van Ripper Language, Speech and Hearing Clinic. She also was active in the Ameri-

can and Michigan Speech-Language Hearing associations.

Candace L. Roell, emerita in health, physical education and recreation, died Nov. 17 in Kalamazoo. She was 93.

The Grand Rapids, Mich., native earned degrees from Eastern Michigan Univers-

ity and the University of Michigan, and was a state leader in her field.

Roell taught in the Kalamazoo Public Schools and at Eastern Michigan and Bil-

linois State universities before joining WMU in 1956 as an associate professor in the Department of Physical Education for Women.

In 1959 she became department chair-

person, serving in that position until 1967, when she returned to full-time teaching. Roell served as president of the Michigan Association of Health, Physical Educa-

tion, Recreation and Dance (MIHPERD) and was recog-

nized with that organization’s Distinguished Service Award in 1962. She also was an officer in a number of national groups.

Two years later her name was added to the University name Roell Road, near Lawson Ice Arena and Gabel Natatorium, in her honor. In 1997 she was recognized with the WMU Athletic Hall of Fame, and in 2000 she was honored during WMU’s obser-

vance of National Girls and Women in Sport Day.

On Campus with Pat Gustafson

Patricia A. Gustafson’s News Year’s resolutions are simple ones. She wants to get more sleep and read for fun.

Achieving those relatively simple goals are a tall order for someone who spends her days poring over the likes of Forbes magazine, business newsletters and fundraising publications searching for information. Gustafson, as director of development research and donor relations, has worked since 1997 to enhance WMU’s fundraising efforts by identifying prospects from a pool of alumni, corporations, foundations and friends of the University. She does that by using a variety of research tools that help her monitor the career paths and public activities of potential donors and organizations.

"Information like that is more important than ever, with colleges and universities competing with each other and with other organizations for gifts," Gustafson says.

Gustafson, a longtime Kalamazoo resident, came to WMU from the Borgess Foundation, where she learned the ins and outs of fundraising in a small, three-

person shop. She looked at Borgess for more than 20 years, the last five in fundraising, before moving to WMU.

She’s earned a place for herself in state and national fundraising circles, currently serving as president of the Michigan Association of Professional fundraisers for Advancement. She regularly attends and has presented at the APRA international conferences.

She oversees a staff of four people, whose jobs range from special event planning to information gathering. She works with deans and chairpersons, as well as with development officers to coordinate visits to donors and identify which areas at the University might be of particular interest to a donor prospect.

Her work, she says, is all about "relationship building and" while her primary focus is on finding donors who can make a financial impact on the University, she prides herself in having information travel both ways.

"Many of these people are old friends whose contact information has been lost over the years. A lot of them don’t realize the kind of impact they can make at WMU,”

Gustafson says her favorite part of the job is interacting with the development staff on a daily basis and being able to give them useful information.

"I get really excited when I find a new prospect," she notes.
New fine arts management master's degree program will be first in Midwest

A new master's degree program at WMU will fill a void in arts administration training by becoming the first program of its kind in the Midwest.

Approved Dec. 7 by the Board of Trustees, will lead to a master of fine arts in performing arts administration and management. Graduates will be student-empowered to function effectively as arts administrators. Offered with the help of significant encouragement and financial support from the Irving G. Milford Foundation, the program will provide graduates with the appropriate academic credentials and skills they need to compete for arts administration positions.

Graduates will be prepared to work in dance, music or theater as administrators, fund raisers, general directors, or other leadership roles. The program will be filled with practical arts organizations for their practicum experience and will gain field experience by serving an extended internship with a national arts organization in the student's discipline of choice.

Program proponents say there is a growing demand for qualified arts administrators. A recent national survey of more than 400 professional performing arts organizations concluded that formal training in arts administration is preferred by 50 percent of the respondents and that 75 percent preferred formal training for the professional marketing and development directors. Since there is no master of fine arts in performing arts administration offered by a Michigan institution, the proposal's curriculum has the potential to attract students from a broad geographic area.

"Both the University and the community are anxiously awaiting the debut of this professional program," says Dean Margaret Knter, College of Fine Arts. Plans call for the program to be up and running by fall 2002 with about 15 students enrolled in it at any given time after its third year of operation. Students with undergraduate majors in music, theater and dance will be the primary candidates for the degree, but students with other appropriate backgrounds also will be considered.

Prague writing program

The program moved to WMU from the University of the West Indies, where it had been administered since its creation in 1992. The program's director, poet and writer Richard Katrovas, will follow in fall 2002.

"The Prague Summer Program is one of the most prominent programs of its type in the arts world," says Dean Elise Jorgens, College of Arts and Sciences. "Some of the most promising writers and established authors take part in the program, and it has grown in stature, not only nationally, but also internationally. We are very pleased to bring this program to our part of college.

The University has signed a partnership agreement with Charles University in Prague to offer the Prague Summer Program in that university's facilities. Charles University has been the Prague location for the summer program since it began, and the program often "borrows" the university's faculty members to teach some of the Czech culture and literature classes. This is not simply a teaching opportunity, says Katrovas. "Prominent writers present and do workshops, and there is a lecture series in Czech culture and language. We want to give the program's participants a opportunity to think about being a writer in a culture other than their own. Prague is considered a hub of European literary culture and has been home or inspiration to such writers as Goethe, Franz Kafka, Václav Havel and Ivan Klíma."

At WMU, the Prague Summer Program will have its academic home in the Department of English, where curriculum and faculty matters will be conducted, while such administrative tasks as registration and budget will be handled by the Office of Study Abroad in the University's Duerber H. Haenick Institute of International and Area Studies.

Aviation dean

Aviation dean continued from page 1

Air Lines.

"The College of Aviation has grown dramatically and become a part of this community's future because it has been guided by a strong vision and a commitment by the Battle Creek community and WMU to create such a program. The events of Sept. 11 have challenged the industry as a whole, but we will continue to support aviation education and act with purpose and determination to make the College of Aviation one of the world's finest educational institutions. I am pleased to have this opportunity to work with excellent people in the college, the University and the community to continue perfecting this world-class aviation program."

A licensed pilot and certified flight instructor, Lyman is a past member of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission and is a member of the W.K. Kellogg Airport Advisory Board in Battle Creek.