Bush stops at WMU to plug economic views

Speaking March 27 at the University, President George W. Bush urged quick action on tax relief and a commitment to long-term tax reduction.

The president spoke before an audience of approximately 1,300 students, faculty and staff at the University Center's Sam and Dorothy Christopher Auditorium. He watched the president's remarks on television in Miller Auditorium and at various locations across campus. Live coverage of the president's visit and speech at WMU was carried by three area television stations and nationally by CNN.

Bush opened his remarks by acknowledging Governor John Engler and several other state officials who were present. He also acknowledged WMU President Elson Floyd, who served as master of ceremonies for the luncheon program.

"It's great to be here with Dr. Floyd," said Bush. "I got to know Dr. Floyd last summer. I was impressed by him then. I am doubly impressed by him now. He does a fabulous job for this important institution."

Others in attendance included: Michigan Lt. Gov. Dick Posthumus, Secretary of State Candice Miller, and all of Michigan's Republican delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives. Guests also included the leadership of the cities of Kalamazoo, Portage and Battle Creek as well as that of Kalamazoo County. In addition, a large number of Southwest Michigan corporate, education and economic development leaders were present.

In his remarks, Bush said that all indicators point to a women's economy. He said that immediate tax relief is needed.

"He noted that the Dow Jones industrial average, Standard and Poors, and NASDAQ all peaked 12 months ago or earlier. Since it peaked in January 2000, the Dow Jones has lost 20 percent of its value. Standard and Poors is down more than 25 percent in value since it peaked in March 2000, and the NASDAQ exchange has lost more than one-half of its value, said the president.

Bush also said that unemployment is growing and noted that Michigan is especially hard hit. According to the president, during the past 12 months, unemployment has risen faster in Michigan than in any other state.

The luncheon was sponsored by the Kalamazoo County Chamber of Commerce and by Southwest Michigan First, and the Chamber of Commerce handled ticketing for the event. All tickets were reserved within a few hours of when they became available the week before the president's visit.

University's impact on Kalamazoo County tops $564 million

WMU's economic impact on Kalamazoo County now tops $564 million, according to the most comprehensive examination of the university's contributions.

The University's presence in the county is responsible for the creation of more than 7,200 jobs and the attraction of visitors from outside the county for some 600,000 visits annually. Those are just two of the facts highlighted in a new study of "The Economic Impact of Western Michigan University on Kalamazoo County," that was unveiled by President Elson S. Floyd in a speech March 26 to the Kalamazoo Rotary.

"It is important for the University to continue to fuel economic development, growth and vitality," Floyd said of the findings. "This is solid evidence of our partnership with the greater Kalamazoo area. It's a partnership to which we are deeply committed."

Floyd shared a number of findings from the study during his talk. They include:

• WMU spends $310 million in University funds in the county each year, dealing with 4,000 businesses ranging from construction companies to banks and retailers.

• Student spending exceeds $2.27 million annually, with the average student spending about $9,200 locally, in addition to the amount paid in tuition.

• Students' families and friends as well as those attracted by events or activities spend $27 million annually in the community.

Public radio chief to visit campus for WMUK 50-year extravaganza

Public radio will celebrate five decades serving Southwest Michigan Wednesday, April 11, with a gala dinner featuring Kevin Kloze, president and chief executive officer of National Public Radio.

The 50th anniversary celebration for WMUK 102.1 FM, WMU's public radio station, will kick off at 6 p.m. with a wine reception on campus in the Gilmore Theatre Complex. Dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by remarks from President Elson S. Floyd, WMUK's former general manager and the Bar Code.
Teresa Magnuson, Native American Pow Wow to be held at WMU from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 7 and at 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, April 8, in University Arena.

The Office of University Relations is returning to the Circle—Honoring our Traditions and Alumni, will feature Native American dance, regalia, song, food and artwork as well as a variety of activities and seminars geared toward teaching children and adults about Native American heritage. It is open to the public, and families are encouraged to attend.

In keeping with the 2001 theme, a traditional pow wow has been planned. Dancing will be led by Kunibert Bergeron, co-chairperson of WMU's Native American Student Organization, which is sponsoring the event. The focus will be on retaining the cultural heritage and teaching Native American education and culture and on honoring NASO alumni.

"Over the past two years, our children's programs have been well received," Bergeron says, "but we wanted to give the public more events this year, so they're included in this pow wow." In addition to a children's program by Ann Panther Woman, these seminars will include an introduction to making black ash baskets by John Pigeon, fingerprinting by American Indian students, and a presentation on the Ojibwe language by Punktin Shanknaut and Teresa Magnason.

According to NASO Advisor Cynthia Bergeron, communication this year's pow wow theme was inspired by the many WMU students who have contributed to NASO over the years.

"Hundreds of Native American students have graduated from WMU, and many of these alumni are working for tribes or in service positions and are giving back to the community," she says. "We're fortunate to have alumni and previous NASO members supporting the many events we sponsor. We really wanted to focus on how important they are to both WMU and the community. We feel honored to be able to return to WMU and everything begins in a circle, and they are returning to the circle." Special pow wow guests will include Blue Lake, a southern "drum indigo" from southern Minnesota, and Blue Lake will serve as the "host drum," leading all grand entry performances and conclude the event ceremonies with the help of the northern drum Rush Lake, a local drum made up of many NASO alumni.

The grand entries, which feature dancers, singers, drummers and flag bearers in traditional ceremonial dress, are the only time all dancers are honored for their participation. There will be grand entry at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday and at 1 p.m. Sunday.

Dancers also can be seen throughout the weekend performing traditional and fancy dances, traditional and fancy dance, and hoop dances. Participating dancers receive free admission to the pow wow and are treated to dinner Saturday night.

Native American jewelry and arts and crafts from more than 45 vendors, as well as pow wow memorabilia, will be available for purchase. Food vendors will sell each traditional treat as fry bread, buffalo tater and buffalo burgers. In addition, free blood glucose testing and blood pressure screening will be offered during the pow wow.

Admission to the event is $5 for adults and $3 for senior citizens and students ages 6 to 17. There is no admission charge for children 5 and under and for WMU students with a valid student identification card. There is a parking fee of $3 per vehicle.

For more information, call the NASO office at 772-2279.

Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5433.

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EDWIN CHAPMAN, R.C.I.R. / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

EVENT: An evening honoring the graduates of the 2001 Native American Pow Wow at WMU.

DATE/Tuesday, April 4, 2001.

LOCATION/WMU's University Arena.

NOTES/All graduate degrees are awarded by WMU's Graduate College. The purpose is to celebrate the achievements of Native American Graduates and their contributions to the University and the community.

Hawker assumes antidrust post

Curtis Brown and Grant Neilson, political science and director of the Institute for Governmental Studies, will bring to the classroom." He will engage in such activities as drafting legislation, arranging congressional hearings and writing speeches and floor statements. He is also pursuing his own interests in Washington, D.C., where Pinney, hopes to have the opportunity to work with the House Ways and Means Committee, the Senate Finance Committee, and the Senate.

"This is a dream come true for a scholar in my field," Pinney says. "I truly get to practice a politician's perspective of the democratic process. It's a unique opportunity for me, but for the University as well because of the experience it will bring to the federal government."
Spring commencement to feature four ceremonies, honor Gilmer

Nearly 2,400 degrees will be awarded to new graduates as the University, for the first time, holds four separate commencement ceremonies Saturday, April 21. President Eleni H. Souza will preside over all four ceremonies in Miller Auditorium. During one of those ceremonies, at 2:30 p.m., WMU will honor Donald Gilmer, commissioner of the Michigan Bureau of State Lottery and a former state representative. He will receive an honorary doctor of public service degree.

The day’s first ceremony, at 9 a.m., is for graduates of the Haworth College of Business and the General University Studies Program.

The second ceremony, at 11:30 a.m., is for graduates of the College of Aviation, the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, the College of Fine Arts, and the College of Health and Human Services.

The third ceremony, at 2:30 p.m., is for graduates of the College of Arts and Sciences. Gilmer will be honored during this ceremony.

The fourth ceremony, at 3:30 p.m., is for graduates of the College of Education.

A total of 2,377 graduates will receive degrees, including 1,860 who will earn bachelor’s degrees, 502 who will receive master’s degrees and 15 who will be awarded doctoral degrees. WMU also holds commencement exercises in June and December.

The Western Brass Ensemble conducted by Steve Wollenberg will perform music for the ceremonies.

The Western News & Sinfonia professional music fraternity. Tickets are required for guests to attend the ceremonies and each participating graduate is eligible to receive up to five guest tickets.

Guests without tickets may view the commencement in person on Channel 7 of EduCABLE, the University’s cable television system, and live on Channel 19 of the Charter Communication cable system. In addition, video of the commencement may also be viewed online at the time of the ceremonies.

Economic impact

• WMU ranks as the county’s second largest employer. Its 3,458 faculty and staff members comprise 2.82 percent of all those employed in the county.

• Total job creation by WMU is 7,214, accounting for 4.6 percent of the county’s total workforce—both those who are self-employed or employed by others.

The study was done by Bassam E. Hark, economics, using new survey data and an economic model refined since the University last estimated its impact on the economy in 1997. The University first assessed its impact in 1988 and subsequently released updated estimates in 1992 and 1997. The study is based on new phone surveys of students conducted during Spring and Fall 2000 and details on visitors as well as other factors considered in the economic model used.

Hark says this new information as well as refinements to the model used to analyze the information included in the study made the most accurate to date. The economic conclusions in his study, he says, represent a conservative estimate of the University’s economic impact, because of his approach and because the study does not include such factors as spending by WMU retirees living in the area or income generated by royalties and patents.

“May’s approach is that if it’s new on something, I like to take a look at it,” Hark says. “There is a real probability that we have underestimated WMU’s impact on the community.”

Friday noted that the county should expect to see even more impact in the years to come.

“The establishment of our College of Engineering (and Applied Sciences) and related Business Technology and Research Park will provide even more economic stimulus to the community while adding additional jobs and employment, as well as help our faculty and students to gain honors and scholarship, and provide internship opportunities for our students,” Floyd says. “That’s precisely the role that our University should play.”

The W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research ran the new data using their regional economic model. Assistance in funding for the study came from the University and Downtown Kalamazoo Inc. WMU’s Kercher Center for Social Research conducted the two surveys.
Presidential visit

U.S. Rep. Fred Upton's office first brought together the two sponsors and University officials to discuss the feasibility of acting as host to the president's visit just six days before the event. Less than 12 hours after those talks were held, representatives of all the units involved moved into nearly round-the-clock preparations, and the White House advance team arrived in Kalamazoo to begin coordinating planning. Preparations included active activity at K. W. Kellogg Airport in Battle Creek, where Air Force One landed, Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport, where the presidential press corps landed, and the Student Recreation Center, where the president spoke.

About 200 WMU students, faculty and staff attended PresidentSpec as special guests of President Ford and sat in a special section above the main luncheon floor. Those receiving invitations from Ford worked for several days to prepare for the Bush visit and included students and staff from catering services, the recreation center, physical plant, university relations and the president's office.

—Continued from page 1

Calendar
The master calendar maintained by the Office of University Relations for use in College lounge, 4 p.m.

APRIL
4.5 Thursday
Dean of Libraries candidate presentation, Stephen Paul Foster, associate dean of libraries, Central Michigan University, Lee Honors College lounge, 4 p.m.

Faculty Senate meeting, Fetzer Center, 5 p.m.

*Concert, GC II, vocal jazz, directed by Ryan Billington, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

*University Theatre production, "Love's Labour's Lost," Shaw Theatre: April 5-7, 8 p.m.; Sunday, April 8, 2 p.m.

Poetry reading, Conrad Hilberry, 3512 Knauss Hall, 8:30 p.m.; reception follows.

4.6 Friday
*Award-lunch for APA and PSSO, speaker Druma House, Bernhard Center, 11:30 a.m.

College of Arts and Sciences research recognition reception, 208-210 Bernhard Center, 3-5 p.m.

Exhibition, "A Centennial Retrospective: The Historical Photographs of Western Michigan University," Archives and Regional History Collections, 111 East Hall, 6-9 p.m.

Film, "Hard Day's Night," The Beatles, presented by Western Film Society, Little Theatre; April 6-7, 9-10 p.m.; April 8, 8:30 and 9:30 p.m.

*Performance, comedian Jim Breuer, sponsored by CAB, Miller Auditorium, 8 p.m.

4.7 Saturday
Football, Brown and Gold Intramural game, Waldo Stadium, 11 a.m.

12th Annual Native American Pow Wow also (April 8), University Arena, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

Concert, Women's Chorus conducted by Dee Gauthier, special program member, Recital Hall, Bernhard Center, 4 p.m.

Concert, University Chorale conducted by Joe Miller, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

4.8 Sunday
Concert, 42nd Annual Concerto Concerto, University Symphony Orchestra, featuring concerto competition winners Zofia Glashauser (violin), Michelle Millicker (soprano), and Wenli Zhou (piano), Miller Auditorium, 3 p.m.

Exhibitions (through April 13), MFA show, sculpture by Andrea Van Engelsdoven, Rotula Gallery, and BFA show, "The Patrons Divine," printmaking by Alex Lau, South Galleries, East Hall, weekdays 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; reception, Friday, April 13, 5-7 p.m.

Physics colloquium, "X-Ray Crystal Structures of a Cancer Target," Eric Baldwin, Pharmacia Inc., 1110 Rood Hall, 4 p.m.; reception, 2202 Everett Tower, 5:30 p.m.

Concert, 22nd Annual Music Therapy Clinic, concert, the Music Therapy Clinic, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 7 p.m.

Reception, Graduate Student Appreciation Week event for all graduate students, Bernhard Center South Ballroom, 4:45-6 p.m.

Opera workshop, Karen Wickland, featuring scenes from nine different operas, operaettas and music theatre works, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 4 p.m.

4.11 Wednesday continued
Reception for Graduate Research and Creative Scholars and Graduate Teaching Effectiveness Award winners, President's Dining Room, Bernhard Center, 4 p.m.

Concert, Collegiate Singers conducted by Joe Miller, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

Reading, Barbara Goody, fiction writer, 3512 Knauss Hall, 8:30 p.m.; reception follows.

4.12 Thursday
*Bernie's After Hours, Amateur Night, sponsored by CAB, East Ballroom, Bernhard Center, 9 p.m. Call 7-2112 to register.

4.13 Friday
Women's tennis vs. Akron, Sorensen Courts, 1 p.m.

New Sounds Festival (also April 14) featuring music composed during the past year by students in the composition studio, Dalton Center Multi-Media Room, 8 p.m.

4.14 Saturday
Women's tennis vs. Detroit Mercy, Sorensen Courts, 11 a.m.

Women's tennis vs. Buffalo, Sorensen Courts, 1 p.m.

4.16 Monday
Final exams (through April 20).

Exhibitions (through April 20), BFA shows, paintings by Megan Cop and watercolors by Nakis Hamasaki, Rotula and South Galleries, East Hall, weekdays 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; reception, Friday, April 20, 5-7 p.m.

4.20 Friday
Women's tennis vs. Northern Illinois, Sorensen Courts, 11 a.m.

Men's tennis vs. Buffalo, Sorensen Courts, 3 p.m.

4.21 Saturday
Women's tennis concludes.

Commencement, Miller Auditorium; Honors College of Business and General University Studies, 9 a.m.; College of Aviation, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, College of Fine Arts and College of Health and Human Services, 11:30 a.m.; College of Arts and Sciences, 2:30 p.m.; and College of Education, 5:30 p.m.

Men's tennis vs. Toledo, Sorensen Courts, 1 p.m.

Aluma recital, Barbara Leurestone, piano, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

4.23 Sunday
Golf, Bronco Invitational, Kalamazoo.

4.24 Monday
Golf, Bronco Invitational, Kalamazoo.

4.25 Wednesday
*Concert, Western Jazz Quintet with pianist W. Lukewick, celebrating the release of the Jazz Quintet's new CD, "The West Moon," on Universal Records, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

4.26 Thursday
Men's tennis (and April 27-28), MAC Championships, Sorensen Courts.

4.27 Friday
Keystone Lecture Series, "Managing Global Assignments," Jennifer Palthe, management, Dean's Conference Room, Schneider Hall, 7:30-8:45 a.m. For reservations: 7-5050.

4.30 Monday
Spring session begins.

Alumni employment, salary report released
It pays to be an engineer, according to the results of an employment and salary survey published in March by Career and Student Employment Services.

The results appear in CSBS's annual "Graduate Survey," which reflects the status of students who received their degrees between August 1999 and June 2000.

The publication reports that alumni of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences are doing the best in terms of median salary at both the bachelor's and advanced level. In addition, graduates of this college report a higher degree of employment than many of their peers.

About 5,500 students graduated from WMU during the time period covered by the survey. The figures are based on advanced degrees. To compile statistics for its 2001 report, CSBS sent surveys to nearly 46 percent of those alumni three months after they graduated.

Some 25 percent of those receiving bachelor's degrees returned surveys compared to 26 percent of those receiving advanced degrees. The information supplied in the surveys was self-reported and was verified by CSBS.

"This information gives us an indication of how our graduates are faring in the job market and the kind of salaries they command," says Lynn Kelly-Albertson, director of CSBS.

The highest percents of alumni reporting that they are employed and their medium salaries, listed by degree-granting unit, at the bachelor's level are: engineering and applied sciences, 85.2 percent, $42,809; continuing education, 79.2 percent, $39,482; health and human services, 75.9 percent, $37,733; education, 76.1 percent, $35,064; business, 85.6 percent, $35,138; fine arts, 78 percent, $28,378; arts and sciences, 69.6 percent, $26,715; and aviation, 93.2 percent, $22,680.

The breakdown for respondents at the advanced level is: engineering and applied sciences, 87.5 percent, $54,243; business, 100 percent, $52,069; arts and sciences, 85.1 percent, $44,113; fine arts, 100 percent, $43,000; education, 94.2 percent, $38,274; and health and human services, 92.5 percent, $37,785.

Some of the highest salaries at the bachelor's level were reported by alumni who majored in engineering management ($47,000), physician assistant ($46,000), computer information systems ($41,555), integrated supply management ($41,586) and computer security ($46,020). Of those responding to the survey, 94 percent at the advanced level and 2.5 percent at the bachelor's level reported that they have chosen to pursue further education rather than enter the work force.

Reception will honor two
Retirement receptions for two long-term faculty members in the Department of Biological Sciences have been set for consecutive Fridays in April.

A reception from 2 to 4 p.m., Friday, April 13, at the Oaklands will honor Robert C. Eisenberg, who will retire April 21, after 34 years of service to the University.

From 2 to 4 p.m., Friday, April 20, a second reception at the Oaklands will feature Gura Sicior, who will retire April 15, after 34 years of WMU service.

Members of the University community are invited to attend both receptions.

*Admission charged