Freshman enrollment soars by 18 percent to set University record

Beginning freshman enrollment at WMU this fall hit 4,426, shattering the University’s previous record freshman enrollment figure, set last year, by 18 percent.

The University closed its freshman class in May after receiving a record number of applications for spots in the fall freshman class. Since the closure—the first in WMU’s history—record numbers of students took part in summer orientation sessions, leading University officials to expect a large increase in freshman numbers this fall. This year’s beginning freshman class has 668 more students than last year’s previous record class of 3,758 students.

“The size of this record freshman class is a huge tribute to the work of our faculty and staff,” said President Floyd of the news. “The figures show that the quality academic experience the University offers is proving very attractive to a large number of high quality students. Our enrollment numbers also reflect substantial gains in such important areas as the Graduate College.”

Total fall enrollment at WMU stands at 27,744, an overall increase of 4.4 percent over last year’s total of 26,575 students. The fall 1999 figure reflects the second highest enrollment figure in University history. The highest enrollment figure in University history was set in 1991, when 27,901 students who have enrolled in the University’s Lee Honors College.

Contributing to the total enrollment picture was a 9 percent increase in graduate enrollment defies the traditional numbers also reflect substantial gains in such important areas as the Graduate College.
Faculty Senate considers committee recommendations for sweeping reforms to group’s structure, operations

In a sweeping revision of its structure and operations, the Faculty Senate Sept. 9 considered recommendations to the administration that would strengthen the senate’s role in shared governance at Western Michigan University.

The report is intended to disregard or dis- honor current and past contributions of senators and members of committees, said Linda M. Delene, marketing, who chaired an ad hoc condominium to review senate structure.

"We believe our recommendations reflect the current reality of professional life in this University and encourage the use of scarce faculty resources in areas most appropriate and central to the faculty’s knowledge and expertise," she said in the committee’s report.

Curriculum review streamlined

In related action, the senate approved equally sweeping changes in the curriculum review process.

Most significantly, University-level review will be necessary only when new degrees, majors, curricula and graduate concentrations are proposed.

More routine changes, such as revised minors, majors and courses, will be final with the approval of college curriculum committees and deans. These changes are expected to become effective this fall.

The senate’s reorganization, which is expected to be approved at the Oct. 7 meeting, would be expected to be effective in May 2000. It calls for the senate to be "a governance body for specific, major policy terms with active, senior-level administrative participation and responsiveness at council and senate meetings," Delene said.

The report recommends that policies should be implemented after faculty- administrative review so that "actual decision-making may occur within council and committee meetings." At present, the senate approves recommendations and the administration subsequently approves or modifies them.

"Restructure and strengthen the senate’s Executive Board.

"The operating principal for Faculty Senate meetings, it says, is that committee members will be expected to expend faculty knowledge, expertise and time only on academic matters germane to the professoriate-and outside the collective bargaining agreement," Delene said in the report.

"Moreover," she continued, "this committee envisions senate councils and meetings culminating with active, definitive policies if our administrative colleagues commit to a dual, dynamic partnership role for policy formulation."
Bonds drive is going on now through Thursday, Sept. 30.

Investment from inflation, are purchased Bonds, which are designed to protect your investment guarantees you returns over and above the rate of inflation for up to 30 years. Both I Bonds and EE Bonds offer attractive tax benefits, as well.

Buying U.S. Savings Bonds through payroll deduction and helps you to save, even if you can only set aside a small amount each pay period. For more information, please take a moment to review the material that was sent to employees this week, or check out www.savingsbonds.gov on the Web.

Human Resources has been provided with 150 small quartz desk clocks with the U.S. Savings Bonds logo. A clock will be given to each of the first 150 employees to enroll in the payroll deduction plan during the current drive.

Benefits fair Sept. 29

All benefits providers are invited to attend the Benefits Fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 29, in the North Ballroom of the Bernhard Center. The fair, sponsored by the Benefits Office, will provide employees an opportunity to learn more about the variety of benefits. Representatives from many on- and off-campus organizations and benefit providers will be at the fair, ready to share information and answer questions.

Employees attending the fair will be able to enter the drawing for door prizes.

Health plan news

Benefits-eligible employees with health plan coverage will have an opportunity to switch health plans and eligible dependents to their coverage during open enrollment, Sept. 27 through Oct. 8. Selecting the plan that best meets your needs and those of your family is a very personal decision, but employees should keep in mind:

• Employee contributions for dependent coverage under the University Plan (BCBSM), Blue Care Network and Cigna Plans are increasing effective Nov. 1.

• The cash bonus for continuing or enrolling in the Alliance Health & Life Company plan (formerly known as HAP) offered through SMHIA is increasing to $700 and the University will continue to waive employee contributions for dependent coverage under this plan.

• Representatives from our health care carriers will be on hand to meet with employees to answer questions and help compare plans from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 23, 8 to 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 24 and Monday, Sept. 27, in the President’s Dining Room at the Bernhard Center. Stop by at your convenience.

• To make a change during open enrollment, stop by the Benefits Office, 1310 Seibert Administration Building, to obtain the necessary forms and instructions.

Jobs

The following list of vacancies is current and is posted through the Job Opportunity Program by employment services in the Department of Human Resources. Interested benefits-eligible employees should submit a job opportunity transfer application during the posting period, and all permanent and temporary service staff members for assistance in securing these positions.

More clerical positions are not required to be posted. For persons interested in faculty positions, there are opening in several disciplines. Faculty position application should be submitted to the appropriate dean or chairperson.

(R) Pharmacy Technician (Repeat), S-06, Sindace Health Center, 9/90-9/91, 9/92-9/93

(R) Dean (Tenure Track; FY), Z College of Education, 9/90-883, 9/91-9/92, 9/92-9/93

(R) Administrative Assistant I, P-01, College of Arts and Sciences, 9/89-884, 9/90-9/91

(R) Assistant Professor (Tenure Track; Fall and Winter Semesters), I-30, Sociology, 9/90-9/91, 9/91-9/92

(R) Assistant Professor (Tenure Track; Fall and Winter Semesters), I-30, Comparative Religion, 9/90-884, 9/91-9/92, 9/92-9/93

(R) Assistant Professor (Tenure Track; Fall and Winter Semesters), I-30, Comparative Religion, 9/90-884, 9/91-9/92, 9/92-9/93

(R) Assistant Professor (Tenure Track; Fall and Winter Semesters), I-30, Anthropology, 9/90-883, 9/91-9/92, 9/92-9/93

(R) Chairperson, Arts & Sciences (Tenure Track; Fall and Winter Semesters), I-30, History, 9/90-982, 9/91-9/92

(R) Assistant Professor (Tenure Track; Fall and Winter Semesters), I-30, History, 9/90-883, 9/91-9/92, 9/92-9/93

(R) Assistant or Associate Professor (Tenure Track; Fall and Winter Semesters), I-30, Biology, 9/90-884, 9/91-9/92

(R) Assistant Professor (Tenure Track; Fall and Winter Semesters), I-30, Anthropology, 9/90-883, 9/91-9/92, 9/92-9/93

(R) Assistant Professor (Tenure Track; Fall and Winter Semesters), I-30, Anthropology, 9/90-883, 9/91-9/92, 9/92-9/93

Health and Human Services reception set to honor two

Members of the University community are invited to attend a reception Thursday, Sept. 23, for the two newly appointed leadership roles in the College of Health and Human Services.

The appointment of Wayne M. Peterson, chairperson of the Department of Occupational Therapy, and Donna M. Weinreich, director of the College of Education's occupational therapy program, is from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Oaklands.

Peterson joined the WMU Occupational Therapy Department in 1980 as its clinic coordinator. In 1985, she was promoted to assistant professor and today holds the rank of associate professor and is working toward the completion of her doctorate in child health policy from The Union Institute Graduate School in Cincinnati and recently became department chair on July 1.

Weinreich comes to WMU from Balti-
more where she served as the program director for several local organizations and was executive director of the Maryland Gerontological Association. She taught and held research positions at the University of Maryland, where she earned a doctorate in social work. Weinreich has focused her career on elder abuse and suicidal behavior in late life. She began working at WMU in early August.
Presidential envoy Wolpe to visit campus Sept. 24, talk about post-Cold War Africa

Howard Wolpe, a former U.S. congressman and WMU faculty member who is now Presidential Special Envoy to Africa's Great Lakes Region, will speak on campus Friday, Sept. 24.

Wolpe will present a lecture on "The United States and Africa: After the Cold War" at 7 p.m. in 1010 Fetzer Center. His lecture, sponsored by the Diether H. Haenicke Center for International and Area Studies' African Studies Program, is free and open to the public.

Wolpe, who was a member of the political science faculty from 1966 to 1972, served in the United States House of Representatives from 1974 to 1993. An expert in Africa and a member of the House Africa Subcommittee while in Congress, Wolpe is the co-author of "The United States and Africa," a book recently published by W.W. Norton.

For more information, persons should contact the Haenicke Center for International and Area Studies at 7-3907.

Black alumni reunion

Activities on Friday, Sept. 24, include:

* Historical Slide Presentation and Pioneer Symposium—The one-hour public program begins at 10 a.m. in Oakland Recital Hall. Dr. Benjamin Wilson, professor of black American studies, will narrate a slide show emphasizing some of the "first" events and contributions of black students, faculty and staff members at WMU.

* Barbara Lett Simmons, a 1949 WMU graduate who heads her own consulting business in Washington, D.C., will lead the symposium. Panelists will include: Dr. John W. Dobbs, ’54; Gloria Smith Lett, ’57; ’76; Fletcher Lewis, ’59; Louis B. Mallard, ’35; Charles Mitchell Jr., ’59; David Robinson, ’51; and Hakley E. Woodford, M.D., ’36.

* Kalamazoo Scholarship Golf Outing—The Onyx Society is sponsoring a golf outing to raise money for its scholarship program from noon to 4 p.m. at the Prairie Golf Club.

Welcome Reception—Hot hors d’oeuvres and beverages will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the lobby of Walwood Hall, home of the McKee Alumni Center.

Housemaster Basketball—Alumni and friends of the University are invited to attend this challenge event between alumni teams from the 1960s through the 1990s, from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Student Recreation Center.

Activities taking place on Saturday, Sept. 25, include:

* Breakfast and plenary sessions—President Floyd will make remarks during a continental breakfast, beginning at 8 a.m. in the Fetzer Center. Alumni then will convene sessions on a number of discussion topics. Campus tours will follow.

* Entrepreneurship—Bettey A. Daly, ’76, Daly Enterprises; Michael S. Hawkins, ’84, Hawkins & Co., CPA; and Jim R. McKinley, ’66, McKinley Financial Services.


* Politics—Janice Hanley, ’75, Ameritech; Felix Sharpe, ’91, Detroit mayor’s office; and Deborah Thomas, ’73, Wayne County judge.

Alumni and Student Barbecue—The Multicultural Student Leadership Council will sponsor a gathering of members of historically black fraternities and sororities from 1 to 3 p.m. near Goldsworth Pond.

Reception and Dinner Dance—Roy M. Roberts, a 1970 WMU graduate and president and group executive of General Motors sales, service and marketing in North America, will be the keynote speaker at a dinner, which begins at 7 p.m.

Calendar

The master calendar maintained by the Office of University Relations 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/events>.

Thursday, Sept. 16
An exhibition opening, Oct. 5, "Major Works — Full Scale 1969-1999" by Kansas City artist Robert Stackhouse, Gallery II, Sangren Hall, 7 a.m.-3 p.m.

Exhibitions (through Sept. 17), Photography Group Show, Brandon Morkut and Ryan Flatbau, Rotunda Gallery, East Hall; and SACI Florence Study Abroad Exhibition, South Gallery, East Hall; reception, Friday, Sept. 17, 5-7 p.m.

Visiting Scholars and Artist Lecture, "Secret Sewers of Vice": Disgust, Bodies and the Law, the artist Robert Stackhouse, Gallery II, Sangren Hall, weekdays 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

* Miller Movies showing, "The Matrix," Miller Auditorium, 7:30 and 9:30 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 17
* Volleyball tournament and (see Sept. 18), WMU Invitational; University Arena: Friday, Sept. 17, WMU vs. Loyola at 5 p.m., DePaul vs. Miami at 6:30 p.m.; Saturday, Sept. 18, DePaul vs. Loyola at 1 p.m., Michigan State at 3 p.m., WMU vs. Miami at 5 p.m.; Sunday, Sept. 19, DePaul vs. Loyola at 1 p.m.

* Film showing (through Sept. 19), "Linbi," 1999 film by John Sayles, Campus Cinema, Oakland Recital Hall; Friday and Saturday, Sept. 17-18, 7 and 9:30 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 19, 2:30 and 5 p.m.


Monday, Sept. 20
Art exhibition (through Sept. 24), Advanced Photography Group Show, Rotunda and South Gallery, East Hall; East Hall; reception, Friday, Sept. 24, 5-8 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 21

Center for the Study of Ethics in Society lecture, "Using Children's Philosophy to Examine How Children and Adolescents Relate to Nature," Patricia Nevers, professor of biology education, University of Hamburg, Patney Auditorium, 1010 Fetzer Center, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 22
Workshop, informational meeting on the Faculty Research and Creative Activities Support Fund, 242 Bernhard Center, 1:30-5 p.m.

Ten Years After the Wall lecture series, "The Challenge of Market Transitions," Dr. Annette Brown, The Barents Group, Lee Honors College Lounge, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 23
Workshop on the workings of the Human Subjects Institutional Review Board, 204 Bernhard Center, 1:30-3:30 p.m.; to register, call the Office of the Vice President for Research, 7-8298.

Reception for Cindee Q. Peterson, chairperson of occupational therapy, and Donna M. Knuth, genetics, 4-6 p.m.

Mathematics and statistics colloquium, "Newton Mappings," Assen L. Donchev of Mathematical Reviews, Alavi Commons Room, sixth floor of Everett Tower, 4:10 p.m.; refreshments served at 3:50 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 24
Workshop on the workings of the Human Subjects Institutional Review Board, 204 Bernhard Center, 1:30-3:30 p.m.; to register, call the Office of the Vice President for Research, 7-8298.

Emerging Scholars in American Studies Lecture Series and March to the Millennium Lecture Series, "Moving Mountains: The Historical Archaeology of Seventh-Day Adventism in Battle Creek," Michael Nasannsay, anthropologist, and Brian C. Wilson, comparative religion, Meader Rare Book Room, Waldo Library, 3:50 p.m.

Lecture, "The United States and Africa: After the Cold War," Howard Wolpe, President special envoy to Africa's Great Lakes region, 1010 Fetzer Center, 7 p.m.

* Volleyball vs. Western Michigan University, University Arena, 7 p.m.

* Kalamazoo Symphony, debut of KSO Music Director Raymond Harvey, Miller Auditorium, 8 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 25
* Volleyball vs. Bowling Green, University Arena, 7 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 27
Art exhibition (through Oct. 1), Photography Group Show, Craig LaCourt and Kirsten Field, Rotunda Gallery, East Hall; reception, Friday, Oct. 1, 5-8 p.m.

* Faculty and Guest Artist Recital, Thomas Knick, double bass, with Gene Bertocini, guitar, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 28
* Time management workshop, Franklin Covey's "What Matters Most," session for WMU clerical/technical staff, Fetzer Center, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; to register, call 7-3302.

* Plaza Arts Circle Young Concert Artists Series, pianist Adam Neiman, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

Workshop, informational meeting on the Faculty Research and Creative Activities Support Fund, 242 Bernhard Center, 10-11:30 a.m.

* Slide lecture, "Robert Stackhouse Full Circle," artist Robert Stackhouse, 7 p.m. Room 2304, Sangren Hall; 7 p.m.; reception follows in Gallery II.

Wednesday, Sept. 29
Tens Years After the Wall lecture series, "Free Art in a Free Society?: The Dilemma of Public Institutions Dedicated to Fine Arts in Post-Soviet Russia," John O. Norman, history, Lee Honors College Lounge, 7:30 p.m.