



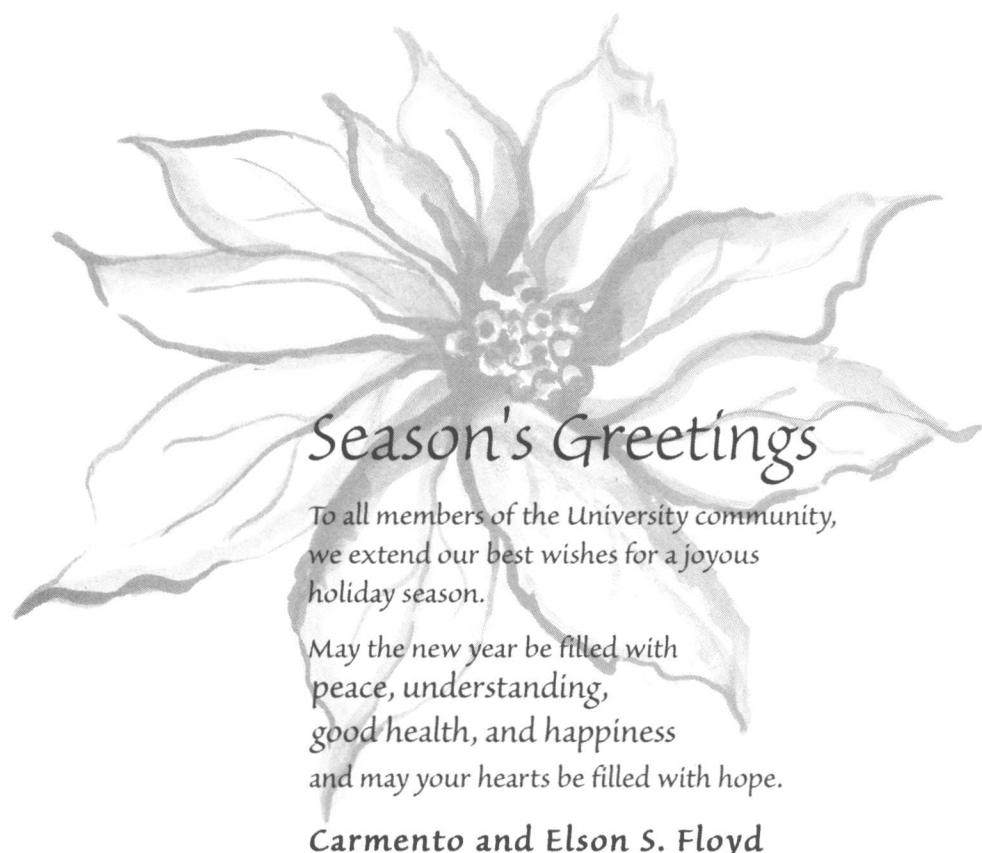
WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

WESTERN NEWS

Volume 26, Number 7

www.wmich.edu/wmu/news

December 2, 1999



Season's Greetings

To all members of the University community,
we extend our best wishes for a joyous
holiday season.

May the new year be filled with
peace, understanding,
good health, and happiness
and may your hearts be filled with hope.

Carmento and Elson S. Floyd

Historian pulls off publishing 'hat trick' with 2 books and video series on early Christianity

Paul L. Maier, the Russell H. Seibert Professor of Ancient History at the University and an expert on the rise of Christianity, has completed two new books and a video series.

The books, "The New Complete Works of Josephus" and "Eusebius: The Church History," have been published by Kregel Publications of Grand Rapids, Mich. The video series on "The Odyssey of St. Paul" has been released by Tobias Communications of Kitchener, Ontario, Canada.

The new 1999 volumes are Maier's translation of historical records left by Flavius Josephus, a first-century Jewish historian, and Eusebius (A.D. 260 to 339), the bishop of Caesarea in Palestine. Maier translated their writings from the original Greek.

His video project is an eight-segment, four-hour documentary on the life and travels of Paul of Tarsus, who is sometimes referred to as "the co-founder of Christianity." Maier wrote and directed the series and serves as its host. The voices of other WMU faculty and staff members as well as local religious leaders also are included.

Maier, who is on sabbatical this year, has been a member of the Department of History since 1960. The noted religious scholar now has 15 books in print in a dozen languages.

"The New Complete Works of Josephus" is a 1,143-page tome containing every word that has survived in Josephus' writings as well as improvements on the

traditional William Whiston translation of these writings. It expands on Maier's award-winning 1988 book, "Josephus — The Essential Writings," which was substantially updated in 1995 and renamed "Josephus — The Essential Works." For that book project, Maier condensed as well as translated Josephus' writings.

(Continued on page four)

1,956 to receive degrees during Dec. 11 commencement ceremonies

The University will award 1,956 degrees during commencement ceremonies Saturday, Dec. 11, that also will honor WMU alumni James Paul Hickey, an ABC News correspondent, and Charles Perricone, speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives.

There will be three ceremonies in Miller Auditorium: one at 9 a.m. for graduates of the Haworth College of Business, the College of Fine Arts and the College of Health and Human Services; one at 11:30 a.m. for graduates of the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Aviation, and the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences; and a final ceremony at 2 p.m. for graduates of the College of Education and the General University Studies Program.

Both Perricone and Hickey will receive honorary doctor of public service degrees. Perricone, a 1989 graduate will be honored at the 9 a.m. ceremony. Hickey, a 1969 alumnus, will receive his degree at the 11:30 a.m. ceremony.

Among this fall's graduates will be 1,488 who will receive bachelor's degrees, 450 master's and specialist degree recipients, and 18 who will be awarded doctoral degrees.

Guest tickets will not be required to attend the ceremonies. If the auditorium fills to capacity, guests may view commencement on a large screen television in 3512 Knauss. All three ceremonies will also be shown live on channel 7 of EduCABLE, the campus cable system, and on Community Access channel 30.

This year, for the first time, video of the commencement may also be viewed online

Middle school math is target of nearly \$4 million in NSF funding

The National Science Foundation has awarded \$3.94 million to a four-year state-wide effort based at WMU and designed to help school districts implement new middle school math programs developed to boost student achievement.

The Middle School Mathematics Reform Project, dubbed M³RP by its directors, is a collaborative effort between WMU, the Michigan Department of Education and school districts around the state to help middle schools align their curricula with the state's new Curriculum Framework in Mathematics.

Using \$767,291 in NSF funding awarded for the first year of the effort, researchers are already hard at work setting up a statewide network of five regional centers that will provide training for a minimum of 75 leadership teams from districts in every corner of the state. The project is designed to provide extensive training in mathematics content and teaching methods based on current research.

"There are wonderful new mathematics programs available to districts now, but those new programs require teachers to learn more mathematics content than they currently have. And they must learn to teach that content and assess student

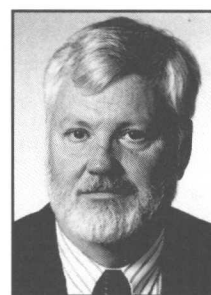
progress in very different ways," says Robert Laing of WMU, who co-directs the project with WMU's Ruth Ann Meyer. "This project sets up a structure to provide teachers and administrators with the training and support they need."

New programs have been developed under the auspices of the NSF and have been rated as "excellent" by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Laing says participants in M³RP will have a chance to become familiar with those programs. They are: Connected Mathematics, published by

Dale Seymour Publications; MathScape, published by Creative Publications; Math Thematics from McDougal Littell Publishing Co.; and Mathematics in Context, published by Encyclopedia Britannica.

Meyer, an emerita in mathematics and statistics, and Laing are longtime specialists in elementary and middle school mathematics. Co-directing M³RP with them are Charles R. Allan, mathematics specialist with the Michigan Department of Education, and Mark Jenness of WMU's Science and Mathematics Program Improvement project. WMU's Sandra R. Madden is over-

(Continued on page four)



Laing



Meyer

"We're telling teachers and administrators around the state they cannot afford not to participate in this project."

at the time of the ceremonies and for 30 days after the ceremony. The site address is <www.wmich.edu/wmu/commencement>.

Music for the ceremonies will be performed by the Western Brass Ensemble.

The National Anthem and the alma mater will be sung by WMU's chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. Graduates will be welcomed as new alumni of the University by William Higley, president of the WMU Alumni Association.



DIGGING INTO DEVELOPMENT—With shovels flying, University and community officials collaborated on a well-attended groundbreaking Nov. 16 to start the first phase of development that will turn WMU's Lee Baker Farm into a new engineering complex that will include a business, research and technology park. Enjoying the celebratory moment were, from left: Kalamazoo Mayor Robert B. Jones, President Floyd; Joan H. Krause, chairperson of the Board of

Trustees; and Craig DeNooyer, president of Southwest Michigan First. Dean Daniel Litynski, engineering and applied sciences, Jeffrey Kaczmarek of the Michigan Economic Development Corp. and project architect Robert L. O'Boyle also took part in the brief ceremony that will be shown on Community Access television at 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 6, on channel 30 and at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 9, on channel 32. (Photo by Neil Rankin)

Holiday reception set

Faculty and staff members are invited to the annual holiday reception sponsored by President Floyd and the Board of Trustees from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10, in the South Ballroom of the Bernhard Center. Supervisors are encouraged to arrange work schedules so that staff members who wish to attend the reception sometime during the afternoon may do so.

BOT will meet Dec. 10

The Board of Trustees is scheduled to meet Friday, Dec. 10, in the Connable Board Room of the Bernhard Center. The time of the meeting and times and places of board committee meetings were not available at *Western News* press time.

1998-99 gifts to WMU reach nearly \$11 million

Gifts to the University amounted to nearly \$11 million in 1998-99 and included an increase of \$2.9 million or 38 percent in gifts to the WMU Foundation, according to reports presented to the Board of Trustees in October.

"These figures represent the continued commitment of individual and corporate donors who share our vision for Western Michigan University and whose generosity is truly exemplary," said Bud Bender, associate vice president for development and secretary of the foundation.

Gifts to the Paper Technology Founda-

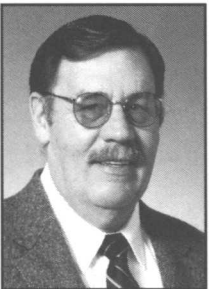
Board approves retirements of seven faculty and four staff members

The retirements of seven faculty members and four staff members were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees at its October meeting.

The faculty members retiring with emeriti status, along with their years of continuous service and effective dates of

retirement are: John M. Carney, professor of art, 34 years, effective April 22, 2000; Philip P. Hsieh, professor of mathematics and statistics, 36 years, effective June 30, 2000; Robert O. LaDuke, professor of blind rehabilitation, 26 years, effective July 1, 2000; James C. Petersen, professor of sociology and associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, 25 years, effective Sept. 7, 1999; Robert I. Sundick, professor of anthropology, 31 years, effective June 30, 2000; Michael D. Swords, professor of science studies, 28-1/2 years, effective Jan. 1, 2001; and Lawrence L. Tyler, professor of sociology, 30 years, effective April 2000.

The staff members retiring are: Lossie McPherson, a custodian in building custodial and support services, 19-1/2 years, effective Aug. 31, 1999; Richard F. Simon, a maintenance roofer in the maintenance services area of physical plant, 18 years, effective Aug. 31, 1999; Richard D. Snyder, director of Miller Auditorium, 12 years, effective June 30, 2000; and Anne E. Thompson, director of compensation and employee relations in the Department of Human Resources, 18-1/2 years, effective Aug. 31, 1999.



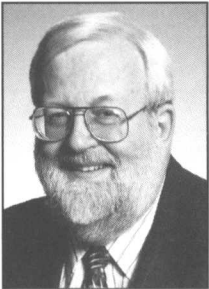
Carney



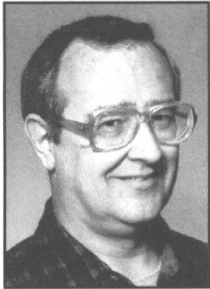
Hsieh



LaDuke



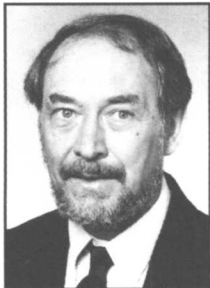
Petersen



Swords



Thompson



Tyler

Student playwrights' work to be featured in two readings

Student playwrights from the Department of English will present their newest works during two nights of reader's theatre in collaboration with actors from the Department of Theatre and other area performers.

The presentations will take place at 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 6, and Wednesday, Dec. 8, in 3021 Brown Hall. Both will be followed by a reception on the 10th floor of Sprau Tower.

The Dec. 6 theatrical reading will highlight the work of students enrolled in an

introductory playwriting course taught by Tim Chapman. The Dec. 8 reading will feature the work of the advanced playwriting class taught by Amie Johnston, English.

The readings and receptions are free and open to the public. For more information, call the Department of English at 7-2572.

Weight discrimination rampant in workplace, management researcher Roehling discovers

Deep prejudice against overweight people in the workplace has been identified in a study to be published this month by a WMU faculty member.

Through careful examination of 29 different studies plus his own research, Mark Roehling, management, finds that weight discrimination is rampant in employment settings and is especially damaging to women. And those committing acts of blatant weight discrimination openly admit it.

Roehling's findings are detailed in a paper to be published Dec. 15 in the scholarly journal *Personnel Psychology*. Results of all the studies and Roehling's own research lead to the same conclusion: overweight people are systematically discriminated against in all facets of employment, from applying to hiring to firing.

Roehling maintains that weight discrimination on the job is worse than most people probably think and, perhaps more importantly, there's nothing most victims of weight discrimination can do about it. His research shows that weight discrimination is more common than discrimination against other protected characteristics, including race and gender.

"If you have three people apply for two jobs and they all have the same objective qualifications, but one is an ex-felon, one is an ex-mental patient and one is overweight, the one person who won't get a job is the overweight person," Roehling says. "The overweight person is evaluated more negatively than the ex-felon or the ex-mental patient."

The worst-case scenario is to be overweight and female, Roehling says. Even slightly overweight women earn less money than other women, while the situation actually is reversed for men.

"Women who are even slightly overweight suffer a wage penalty," Roehling says. "In contrast, men who are slightly overweight experience a wage bonus. They actually earn a little bit more."

Unlike victims of race or gender discrimination, there's often little that victims of weight discrimination can do, Roehling says. Of all the states only one—Michigan—has a law against weight discrimination. However, some cities have laws against discrimination based on appearance.

Roehling says there has been talk of passing more legislation on the state level or possibly federally to prohibit the practice. But Roehling has found that in Michigan, for example, most people are not even aware of the existing law.

"People just don't seem to be aware of the law," Roehling says. "I've talked to managers and I've asked people to identify protected characteristics here in Michigan and weight is showing up less than 10 percent of the time. They'll identify race and gender and religion and the ones we think of under Title VII, but weight seldom shows up. Legislation alone might not do it."

Roehling also has found that victims consistently are too embarrassed to come forward and prosecute an offender in a public hearing.

That weight discrimination was so prevalent and that people so readily admit-

ted that they discriminate against the overweight was shocking, Roehling says.

"I was surprised at the consistency with which weight discrimination is found," he says. "Often in studies you'll find something here or there or in one study but not in another. But the consistency was surprising and the magnitude of it."

"A third thing that surprised me was, in those studies where researchers asked participants about weight discrimination after their participation in the study, how forward they were in admitting that they were making decisions based upon weight. In a way, it appears to be the acceptable bias."

WMU experts are a hit with national media

Calls from the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*, an interview with the BBC and stories in newspapers around the nation kept Mark Roehling, management, busy for much of November.

Roehling, whose research on weight discrimination among employers will be published next week (see related story on this page), is just the latest success story among WMU faculty members who have been working with the staff of university relations to boost awareness about WMU and the quality of its faculty among the nation's major media outlets.

"We have had a phenomenally successful year in terms of raising the profile of the University by promoting faculty expertise," says Matt Kurz, associate vice president for university relations. "It's becoming routine to see the work of our faculty members featured in such publications as *Forbes*, the *San Francisco Examiner* and the *Chronicle of Higher Education*."

Kurz says that such placements have been a major focus for staff members in recent years, and placements are often the result of WMU's membership in nationwide online networks developed to help reporters find expert sources. Such placements, he notes, enhance the University's academic reputation and visibility.

"Every day, our staff members screen more than 100 queries from reporters around the nation. They also keep abreast of breaking news stories and suggest the

names of faculty members who can help interpret and explain events," Kurz notes.

In March, those efforts were enhanced by the addition of the resources of Gehring Associates, a New Hampshire consulting firm that focuses on national media placements. Staff members now routinely work with Gehring personnel in making such national contacts.

The Roehling research placements grew out of an interview Mark Schwerin, university relations, did with Roehling for "News Call," an audio feed provided to radio stations around the state. Because of the news potential of the topic, the information was shared with Gehring personnel, who alerted reporters at several national publications.

"This story was a natural, but it took a tremendous amount of work by everyone involved," Kurz says. "Every day, we're working to make the same kind of placements with faculty members across the campus."

Recent major WMU media placements are the focus of a new addition to the University's Web site. "WMU Makes the News," a link on the university relations site <www.wmich.edu/ur/>, lists major non-local stories about WMU that have appeared in 1999.

Visit the site and see what your colleagues have been up to. Placements listed include connections made independently by faculty members, placements made by university relations staff members and a number of recent placements made with the help of the Gehring firm.



Y2K approach calls for pre-holiday safety precautions

With the Year 2,000 rollover looming, faculty and staff are urged to take extra precautions before leaving the campus for the holiday break. Remember to:

- Back up all important computer files.
- Unplug all electronic items in your office. This means everything from computers to fax machines, scanners and copiers. Don't forget personal items such as radios and clocks.

• Check with your building coordinator to see if any special steps are needed in your building.

• If you are traveling over the break, don't forget the University's toll free number and the WMU News Web site that will be used for Y2K updates. Call 1-888-WMU-INFO for the most current information about the University's Y2K status or go online to <www.wmich.edu/wmu/news>.

• And don't forget to check the University's Y2K Web site <www.wmich.edu/y2k/> for last-minute tips on personal Y2K preparation.

WESTERN NEWS

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Deadline: Items to be considered for publication should be submitted to the Office of University Relations by 5 p.m. Friday the week preceding the publication date. Fall 1999 publication dates are: Sept. 2, Sept. 16, Sept. 30, Oct. 14, Oct. 28, Nov. 11 and Dec. 2. Items may be submitted by mail, fax (387-8422) or e-mail (cheryl.roland@wmich.edu).

Offices that receive too many copies — or too few copies — are asked to call 387-8400. WMU is an equal opportunity/employer/affirmative action institution.



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Thirty-seven faculty and staff members added to 25 Year Club

Thirty-seven faculty and staff members who have completed 25 years of continuous service at the University were eligible for induction into WMU's 25 Year Club at the annual banquet Tuesday, Nov. 30, in the North Ballroom of the Bernhard Center.

The club, which will now have 322 active and 356 retired members, was founded in 1982 with 98 charter members.

Those eligible for induction at this year's banquet were: Nanci M. Aalsburg, University libraries; Janice K. Argue, grants and contracts; Sue L. Barnette, School of Social Work; John W. Benson, foreign languages and literatures; David J. Blowes, physical plant-landscape services;

Patricia A. Brown, finance and commercial law; Mary Ann Bush, occupational therapy (retired 1999); Anna Kay Campbell, psychology (retired 1999); Barbara V. Caras-Tomeczak, Haworth College of Business; Thomas A. Carey, management; Wesley R. Carpenter, public safety; Margaret (Margo) E. Chapman, mathematics and statistics; AnnMarie Cox, Office of the Vice President for Business and Finance; Lowell E. Crow, marketing; Thomas L. Deckard, aviation (retired 1999);

Sandra J. Edwards, occupational therapy; Wil B. Emmert, Office of the Vice President for Research; Kenneth J. Fifelski, physical plant-remodeling services; Leigh

W. Fitzgerald Jr., public safety; David G. Houghton, political science; Robert O. LaDuke, blind rehabilitation; Mark S. Liberacki, College of Arts and Sciences; Pamela G. Liberacki, admissions and orientation;

Randall K. Lung, Brink Printing Services; Janey Lutzka, WMU Apartments; Kenneth H. McCann, physical plant-maintenance services; Bruce Naftel, art; Carl D. Neff, power plant; Peter G. Northouse, communication; Howard J. Ross, public safety; Kanti S. Sandhu, University Video Services;

Beatrice Sichel, University libraries; Janet B. Srackangast, physical plant-administrative services; Larry J. tenHarmsel, English; Victoria A. Wade, physical plant-building custodial and support services; Klazina A. Welch, industrial and manufacturing engineering; and Rudy Ziehl, Office of the Vice President for Research.

The 25 Year Club was established by the Board of Trustees as a way to recognize the valuable contributions made to the University by its employees who have committed their careers to WMU. New members receive a 25-year service pin and framed certificate, and they may choose from a selection of commemorative gifts. New, active and retired members are guests of the University for the evening.

Libraries

What's new at the library? Check out this just-added convenience for library patrons.

WestCat, University libraries' online catalog, now has the capability of permitting patrons to renew their own books online.

Library materials from the general stacks may be renewed twice unless another patron has requested it. Patrons may renew their own books by accessing their own account in WestCat. After executing an

On campus



'ALL-PURPOSE GAL'—That's what Tammy Kiel, a WMU staff member for the past 15 years, calls herself. For eight months of the year, she's one of WMU's six bakers in dining services, making and decorating cakes and turning out bread, rolls, cookies, pies, brownies and sweet bars in very large quantities. "Our students can go through 1,000 cookies in a single lunch period," Kiel says. The Valley III dining service, where she works, provides about 1,700 meals a day and was handsomely redecorated last summer.

The other four months of the year find Kiel (pronounced KEEL) working in landscape services, where she plants, weeds and waters in the Lee Honors College area. "I love both parts of my job," she says. While she did bake with her mother when she was younger and later took some cake-decorating classes, Kiel admits she never had touched a flower or mowed a lawn. "Now I know all kinds of flowers and I could landscape your yard for you," she says. She credits her mentor, Nancy Pyne, head baker in the Henry-Hoekje-Bigelow dining service, with much of what she's learned as a baker. "She showed me how to do things from scratch," says Kiel, who occasionally fills in for Pyne when she's away. When not baking or weeding, Kiel enjoys swimming and snowmobiling, in their respective seasons, of course, with her husband, Gary, a garage-door installer, and their two children, Kristina, 8, and Michael, 5. She also enjoys working in her own flower and vegetable garden and teaching Sunday school to three- and four-year-olds. "That keeps me in touch with kids younger than my own," she says. "I like that." (Photo by Neil Rankin)

Exchange

FOR SALE—1988 Buick Regal. Excellent condition. \$2,995. Call 7-4969.

FOR SALE—1989 Mazda. Good condition. \$3,000 or best offer. Call 381-8369 after 6 p.m.

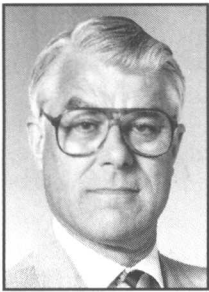
FOR SALE—1992 Honda Accord sedan. 4 dr., auto, loaded, 96K, excellent condition. \$6,200. Call 553-6745.

Obituaries

A. Bruce Clarke, who served the University as provost, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and chairperson of mathematics and statistics, died Nov. 26 in Kalamazoo. He was 72.

Clark, who was born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, in 1927, earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Saskatchewan in 1945 and his Ph.D. from Brown University in 1950.

In 1951 he joined the faculty of the Department of Mathematics at the University of Michigan and rose through the ranks to become a full professor there. He came to WMU in



Clarke

1967 to take a position as professor and chairperson of the Department of Mathematics, a position he held until 1977.

In 1978, he became dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and in 1988, he was named associate vice president for academic affairs. In 1990, he was named provost and vice president for academic affairs, a position he retained until his retirement, with emeritus status, in 1991.

A memorial service is planned for 4 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 11, in Kanley Chapel. Memorial contributions in honor of Clarke may be sent to the WMU Foundation for the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

Alfred B. Connable Jr., a Kalamazoo business and civic leader who was a member of the first WMU Board of Trustees, died Nov. 16 in Kalamazoo. He was 95.

Connable, who was a WMU trustee from 1964 to 1967 and the board's first vice chairperson, also served as a University of Michigan regent from 1942 to 1958. In the latter position, he was celebrated for challenging Sen. Joseph McCarthy's attacks on faculty members during the 1950s.

Born and raised in Kalamazoo, Connable earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Michigan and a master's degree from the Harvard University School of Business Administration. His business career included serving as head of Connable Associates Inc., the firm his grandfather founded in Kalamazoo, and he played a key role in many state and area businesses. He was extremely active in the local community and at the University and was a charter member of WMU's President's Circle, which honors major donors.

WMU's Board of Trustees Room in the Bernhard Center was named for Connable in 1996. Connable also was honored with an honorary doctor of humanities degree from WMU in 1962.

Clayton J. Maus, a 32-year employee who served WMU as registrar and dean of admissions and records, died Nov. 19 in Kalamazoo. He was 88.

Maus came to the University in 1942 as a biology instructor and freshman basketball coach. He was named head track and cross country coach in 1947 and held that position until he was appointed assistant registrar in 1953.

In 1955, he was appointed registrar and in 1967, he was named dean of admissions and records. He held that position until his retirement with emeritus status in 1974.

Maus was a 1933 graduate of Ohio's Ashland College and he earned a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1942. Prior to coming to WMU, he was a high school teacher and coach in Avon Lake, Ohio.

Maus was president of the Central Collegiate Conference in 1952 and president of the Michigan Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers in 1963-64.

Memorial donations may be made to the Mike Gary Athletic Fund through the WMU Foundation or to the Kalamazoo Lions Club.

online renewal, patrons should be careful to review their results to make certain no renewals were rejected. Renewals will be blocked if a hold has been placed on that item or if the renewal limit has been reached. Patrons are responsible for the accuracy of online self-renewals.

When you wish to renew library materials, access the WestCat online catalog and click on the box labeled "patron information." Supply the required information and you will see your own patron account displayed on the screen. The books that are charged to your account are shown on a grid. You may renew all the books or selected titles. The right-hand column displays the circulation status of each item. When you click the "renew" box, an additional column appears on the right that will indicate the renewal status. The status will either be "Not Renewed" or "Renewed: Due mm/dd/yyyy". Books that cannot be renewed should be returned to the library. If the book has been renewed successfully, you should keep the new due date in mind to avoid missing the deadline.

Each book may be renewed twice provided no hold has been placed. After that, the book must be returned to the Library. Be sure to execute renewals carefully and accurately since the Library will support the due dates displayed online.

Jobs

The following list of vacancies is currently being 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 may contact an employment services staff member for assistance in securing these positions.

S-01 and S-02 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.

(N) **Coordinator of Field Education**, P-03, School of Social Work, 99/00-1046, 11/30-12/6/99

(N) **Associate Dean** (Tenure track; full year), Z, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, 99/00-1047, 11/30-12/6/99

(R) **Professor** (Tenure track; academic year), I-10, Electrical and Computer Engineering, 99/00-1049, 11/30-12/6/99

(R) **Assistant Professor**, (Tenure track;

Next News is Jan. 6

This is the last *Western News* of the fall. The first issue for the winter semester will be published Thursday, Jan. 6. The deadline for that issue is noon Monday, Jan. 3.

Zest for life

If you have a completed up-to-date health screening form on file with the Zest for Life office, you can earn prizes for your workouts.

Any combination of fitness activities is acceptable. The activities must be 20 to 90 minutes in duration, and only one activity per day can be counted. Zesters are responsible for thoroughly completing the exercise log and returning it to the Student Recreation Center.

Prizes currently being offered include T-shirts, towels, umbrellas, jackets, sweatshirts, shorts, workout bags, travel mugs, windshirts and massages. The number of required participation periods to qualify for a prize varies according to the prize, with prizes awarded for participation in 30 to 250 recorded activity periods. Many of the prizes are now on display in a Bernhard Center showcase. If you are interested in obtaining a participation record or would like more information on the program, contact the Zest Office at 7-3543.

academic year), I-30, Electrical and Computer Engineering, 99/00-1050, 11/30-12/6/99

(R) **Assistant Professor** (Tenure track; academic year), I-20, Construction Engineering, Materials Engineering and Industrial Design, 99/00-1051, 11/30-12/06/99

(R) **Assistant/Associate Professor** (Tenure track; academic year), I-20/I-30, Paper and Printing Science and Engineering 99/00-1052, 11/30-12/6/99

(R) **Secretary II**, S-05, Davis Dining Services, 99/00-1054, 11/30-12/6/99

(R) **Utility Food Worker** (FTE .65, 37.50 hours per week; academic year), F0/F1, Valley #3 Dining Services, 99/00-1055, 11/30-12/6/99

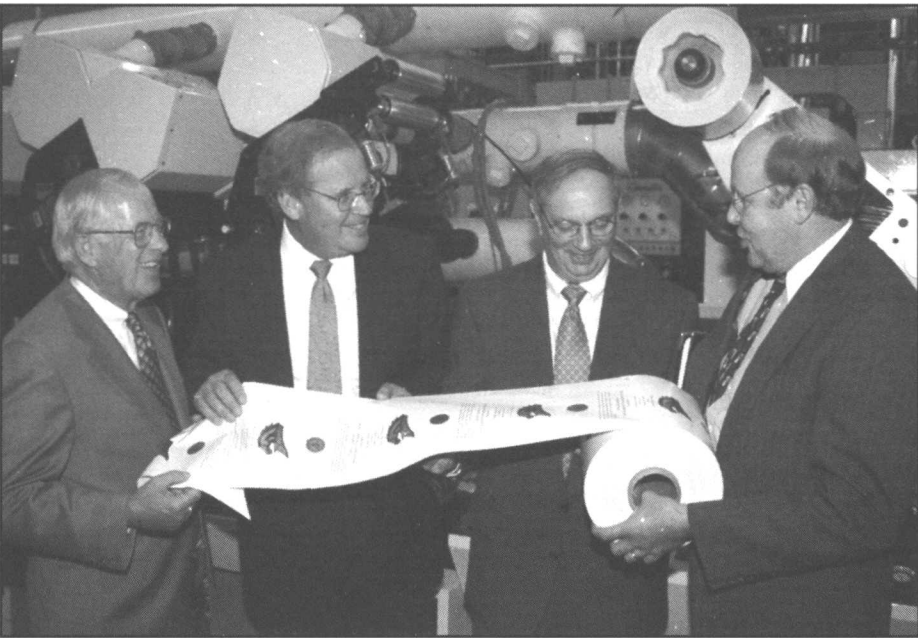
(R) **Utility Food Worker** (FTE .65, 37.50 hours per week; academic year), F0/F1, Henry/Hoekje/Bigelow Dining Services, 99/00-1056, 11/30-12/6/99

(R) **Financial Clerk III**, S-05, Customer Account Services, 99/00-1058, 11/30-12/6/99

(N) New

(R) Replacement

WMU is an EO/AA employer.



PRESSING THE ADVANTAGE—A new flexographic press dedicated last month at the Printing Pilot Plant in Welborn Hall is expected to focus campus research on one of the fastest growing areas of the printing industry. Admiring one of the first products to roll off the three-color narrow flexographic press, made by COMCO International, were participants in the dedication ceremony, from left: Homer C. (“Scrap”) Cox, of INX Corp. and a director of the WMU Foundation; H. Howard Flint II, chairman and chief executive officer of Flint Ink Corp. of Ann Arbor; Thomas Joyce, chairperson of paper and printing science and engineering; and Joseph Raksis, Flint Ink’s senior vice president for research and development. Acquisition of the press was made possible by a \$270,000 commitment from Flint Ink as well as \$50,000 in support from the Flexographic Technical Association. (Photo by Neil Rankin)

Schmutter to head GMAC research task force

Dean James Schmutter, Haworth College of Business, will serve as chairperson of the 1999-2000 Research Policy Task Force of the Graduate Management Admission Council.

He was appointed by the board of directors of GMAC to lead the task force as it develops an agenda for research on the various instruments, including the Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT), that GMAC provides to business schools and corporations to assess academic and managerial talents and potential of future students and employees.

Web watch

Read WMU’s only daily “newspaper”

This is the final issue of *Western News* until Jan. 6, but readers can continue to find out what’s happening throughout December and during the first critical days of the year by logging onto the WMU News Web page.

“WMU News is the only site at our University that is updated every day,” says Matt Kurz, associate vice president for University relations. “That includes weekends and holidays. If there is news of importance to the campus community and to our alumni and friends, we may update the Web news site five or more times in one day.”

In January 1999, more than 2,000 faculty, staff and students learned that the University was closed because of a severe winter storm by checking WMU News, the official Web news site of WMU. Announce-

ment of the closure was on the Web within minutes of the decision by the administration.

WMU News, which may be the most complete news site at any university in the nation, includes a calendar of public events, which will be enhanced within a few months to include student and Alumni Association activities in a searchable database.

The site has weather conditions and five-day forecasts for 10 cities in the WMU region, updated hourly. It contains daily updated results of Bronco sports, commentaries and messages to the WMU community from President Floyd as well as a variety of special features, including a new “classified ad” section.

To continue to find out what’s new at WMU throughout December, and for important Y2K updates, log onto the Web and go to <www.wmich.edu/wmu/news>.

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>.

Thursday, Dec. 2

Art exhibits (through Dec. 3), printmaking by Mary Brodbeck, MFA Degree Show, Rotunda Gallery, East Hall; paintings by Lisa Matlock, M.A. Degree Show, South Gallery, East Hall; reception, Friday, Dec. 3, 5-7 p.m.

March to the Millennium Lecture Series, “Walter Benjamin’s Apocalyptic Eschatology: Messianic Interruptions of the Historical Continuum of Force and Counter-Force,” Rudolf J. Siebert, comparative religion, 3512 Knauss Hall, 7:30 p.m.

*University Theatre production (through Dec. 5), “‘Tis the Season,” Shaw Theatre: Thursday through Saturday, Dec. 2-4, 8 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 5, 2 p.m

Friday, Dec. 3

Department of Biological Sciences seminar, Bruce Bejcek, WMU biological sciences, 1718 Wood Hall, 3:30 p.m.

*Hockey vs. Ferris State, Lawson Ice Arena, 7 p.m.

*“The Nutcracker” (and Saturday, Dec. 4), performance by Ballet Internationale and the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, Miller Auditorium: Friday, 2 and 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 2 and 7:30 p.m.

*Western Film Society showing (through Dec. 5), Bernardo Bertolucci’s “Besieged,” Campus Cinema, Oakland Recital Hall; Friday and Saturday, Dec. 3 and 4, 7 and 9:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 5, 2:30 and 5 p.m.

*Hockey vs. Ferris State, Lawson Ice Arena, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 4

Choral Christmas Concert, School of Music’s Women’s Chorus and Collegiate Singers, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 5

“Holiday Jazz,” annual holiday concert by School of Music jazz faculty and ensembles, Miller Auditorium, 3 p.m.

Maier (Continued from page one)

“His works are so central to understanding the ancient world that all current biblical dictionaries and commentaries would shrink drastically were it not for this Jewish historian,” Maier says of Josephus. “He is the largest ancient source of biblical information outside of the Bible itself.”

Josephus was born in Jerusalem only four years after Jesus’ crucifixion. He was an eyewitness to much of what he reported in addition to being a careful chronicler of what preceded him.

Although Josephus’ historical record ends about A.D. 73, Maier notes that the story of Christianity is continued in Eusebius’ celebrated work, “The Church History.”

Eusebius, often called “the father of church history,” wrote the first history of Christianity. His work covers the religion’s initial three centuries—the crucial time

period from Christ to Constantine. He also details the later careers of Jesus’ apostles, including Peter, James, John and Paul, and shows how their writings and the Gospels were included in what came to be known as the New Testament.

Maier’s third 1999 project, “The Odyssey of St. Paul” documentary, takes an in-depth look at the greatest apostle. The video series was filmed over the past two summers on location in the Mediterranean world. During production, Maier and the film crew visited every site associated with Paul’s life and ministry.

To add realism to the series, two members of WMU’s public radio station, WMUK, lend their voices to the production. General manager Garrard Macleod dramatically portrays St. Paul while reporter/announcer Gordon Evans supplies the voice of Jesus.

Middle school math (Continued from page one)

seeing day-to-day operations of the effort as project manager. An advisory board, comprised of mathematics education specialists from around the state, also is helping to guide the effort.

The M³RP will train district leadership teams across the state to help schools prepare for a dramatically new mathematics test in the 2002 Michigan Educational Assessment Program. That test will reflect the new mathematics framework as well as other state and national standards for mathematics education.

The training will help districts address the causes behind serious achievement problems among the state’s middle school students. Only 28 percent of Michigan’s eighth-grade students achieved at or above proficiency level in math during the 1996 round of testing in the National Assessment of Educational progress.

“We’re telling teachers and administrators around the state they cannot afford not to participate in this project,” Laing says. “It’s an effort to ‘scale-up’ middle school mathematics education on a statewide basis and get students ready for both MEAP 2002 and the 21st century.”

Meyer notes that in an effort to prepare for the new MEAP, districts are asking teachers to select new teaching materials that address the new content students will need to know. But many of those teachers do not have an adequate mathematics background to address these new content areas.

“The problem is that most middle school teachers are most comfortable with the mathematics curricula of the past,” Meyer says. “They’re not yet adequately informed to select a new program or even to be comfortable teaching with the new materials.”

The M³RP will provide training for teachers in that new content as well as help

in both selecting and implementing a new curriculum that is right for each individual district.

Meyer and Laing have been holding meetings at sites around the state to recruit districts to the project. They have been surprised by the level of enthusiasm they’ve encountered and grateful for the opportunity the meetings have given them to become sensitized to the differences they’ll need to address among districts.

“We almost have to design a model for each participating district,” Meyer says. “Each district is facing different issues in implementing reform.”

An implementation model tailored for a participating district, for instance, might include a plan that calls for the district to continue using its existing middle school mathematics program, while weaving in selected modules from one of the four recommended reform programs. Or it might mean helping the district make an immediate transition to one of the new programs by arranging teacher training as well as community information sessions.

Five regional centers will implement the training and capacity building within the participating school districts. Two centers will be located in Southeast Michigan, one will be in Northern Michigan, one will be based in the Grand Rapids area and the final one will be located in the Saginaw/Midland/Mount Pleasant area. The exact locations will be determined by the location of school districts that apply to take part in the project. Dec. 15 is the target date for selecting the participating school districts.

Each center will serve as a training and professional development site for 15 district leadership teams, with each team coming from a single district or from a consortium of districts.

Monday, Dec. 6

Theatrical readings (and Dec. 8) one-act plays written by student playwrights, presented by student and area performers, different works each night, 3021 Brown Hall, 8 p.m.; reception on the 10th floor of Sprau Tower after each night’s presentation.

Friday, Dec. 10

Board of Trustees meeting, times and locations to be announced

Holiday Reception sponsored by the Board of Trustees and President Floyd, South Ballroom, Bernhard Center, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

*Kalamazoo Film Society showing (through Dec. 12), Ziad Doueiri’s “West Beirut,” Campus Cinema, Oakland Recital Hall; Friday and Saturday, Dec. 10 and 11, 7 and 9:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 12, 2:30 and 5 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 11

Commencement, Miller Auditorium, 9 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 12

*Boys Choir of Harlem Christmas Concert, Miller Auditorium, 2 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 20

*Men’s basketball vs. Marshall, University Arena, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 22

*Men’s basketball vs. Marist College, 7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 24

(through Jan. 3) Holidays and winter closure, most offices closed.

Monday, Jan. 3

University offices open

Wednesday, Jan. 5

Winter semester classes begin.

*Women’s basketball vs. Toledo, University Arena, 7 p.m.

*Admission charged