Applications and deposits soar by 20%

University stops accepting fall 1999 freshman applications, closes class

With a record number of student applications already processed for the fall of 1999, WMU has closed admission to its freshman class for the first time in the University’s history.

University officials announced May 11 that they would stop accepting admissions applications, following a fifth consecutive recruiting season characterized by skyrocketing numbers of students seeking admission to WMU as beginning freshmen. More than 15,000 students have applied for admission to this year’s class. Freshman enrollment in the fall is expected to substantially exceed last year’s record beginning freshman class of 1,758.

“Our University’s popularity among students and their parents is on the rise, in part because of the recognition that we offer a superb undergraduate experience at a competitive price,” said President Floyd of the decision. “This year, WMU’s popularity has reached such heights, we’re at the point where we need to close admissions to maintain the quality and service level our students expect and deserve.”

The move to close freshman admissions primarily affects graduating high school seniors heading for college this fall and does not affect admission prospects for transfer students or graduate students, says John Fraire, dean of admissions. He notes certain exceptions to the closed status will be made for students applying as freshmen to such programs as the Lee Honors College. Those exceptions will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Admissions staff also will continue to process applications that already have been received.

Fraire says deposited students, whose deposits are non-refundable, will be allowed to maintain their deposit to maintain a position in the admission process. WMU has already notified all students who have paid a $75 deposit to maintain their position in the admission process and will continue to do so.

Freshman applications and admissions for this year are running more than 20 percent above last year’s numbers at this time, Fraire says, and deposits made by admitted students have surpassed the 20 percent mark—even after passing the May 1 deadline for refund requests. Further evidence of the approaching record class size is the fact that students have reserved spots at summer orientation sessions earlier than usual and the first six orientation sessions are totally booked. That series of 12 sessions will begin June 7.

“We’ve known all year that we were going to have record numbers,” Fraire notes. “And not only are our numbers up, the quality of student we’re attracting is higher than ever. Our Medallion Scholarship competition is continuing to attract increasing numbers of top students from around the country, despite the fact the requirements to participate in that competition were tightened two years ago.”

Fraire says all of Michigan’s public universities are benefiting this year from a good economy, students’ increased tendency to begin their studies at a four-year institution and the fact that the number of 18-year-olds in the population is increasing. But WMU is reaping the rewards of those factors at a higher rate than any other school.

“It’s shaping up to be a good year for a number of universities, but for WMU it’s going to be a great year,” Fraire says.

Student team set to take the wraps off newest Sunseeker solar racer tomorrow

The University community will get a look at the latest in solar-powered vehicle technology when students unveil the 1999 version of their solar race car, Sunseeker, Friday, May 21.

In a free public ceremony set for 3 p.m. at Shaw Theatre in the Gilmore Theatre Complex, team members will show off Sunseeker 454, the new aerodynamic race car that will compete against cars built by student teams from around the nation in Sunracey 99.

That 1,300-mile race will begin June 20 in Washington, D.C., and conclude June 29 at Epcot Center in Orlando, Fla. Sunracey is sponsored by General Motors, EDG and the U.S. Department of Energy.

Participating in the unveiling ceremony will be President Floyd; Leonard Lamberton, dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences; Fred Sitkins, industrial and manufacturing engineering and team advisor; Jan Baudy, Sunseeker project manager; and student Ron B. Andrade, Sunseeker team leader.

A traveling team comprised of 14 students and three WMU staff members has been selected to take part in Sunracey 99. They will represent dozens of students from across the University who have been involved in the Sunseeker project. The traveling team will be introduced prior to the unveiling of Sunseeker 454.

The unveiling will also be used to mark the 10th anniversary of WMU’s involvement with the Sunracey program. WMU students first began working on a solar-powered vehicle in 1989 to prepare for Sunracey 90. Team members from the 1990, 1993, 1995 and 1997 Sunseeker teams will attend this year’s unveiling and will be introduced.

Senate subcommittee supports funding boost for WMU; conference committee is next step

The state Senate Appropriations Higher Education Subcommittee has proposed a funding plan that would result in a 7 percent increase in state appropriations for the University for the 1999-2000 fiscal year.

At Western News press time, word was received that the subcommittee is proposing a percent increase in the University’s base funding level plus an additional 2 percent for infrastructure, technology, equipment and maintenance. This recommendation represents an increase from the House’s 3.5 percent proposed increase.

“We are extremely grateful to members of the Higher Education Subcommittee. Their plan is good policy for our state universities,” said President Floyd in response to the news, “This could not have happened without the leadership of subcommittee chair Senator John Schwartz and the dedication of our local legislative delegation, headed by House Speaker Chuck Perricone. If this proposal is supported by the full Senate and the House over the next few weeks, our students and faculty will benefit greatly, as will all of Michigan.”

The next step in the funding process will be for the Senate to approve the subcommittee’s proposals, which could happen as early as this week. Then, representatives of both the House and the Senate will meet to reconcile the differences between the two chambers’ funding recommendations.

Both houses of the Legislature held higher education appropriations hearings in late winter and spring. President Floyd testified in Lansing Feb. 24 before the House subcommittee. On April 9, the Senate subcommittee met in Battle Creek at WMU’s School of Aviation Sciences facilities and President Floyd testified again, along with the presidents of the University of Michigan, Central Michigan University, the University of Michigan/Flint and Eastern Michigan University.

A little Middle Ages romance

Medieval dancers from the troupe Masterworks of Benton Harbor and a Friarsian horse, a descendent of a medieval war horse, added an unusual bit of medieval color to the scholarly activities of the 34th International Congress on Medieval Studies held May 6-9 on campus. Besides these colorful visitors and more than 2,700 scholars from around the world, this year’s event was attended by journalists covering the event for the Chicago Tribune and Reuters News Service. (Photos by Neil Rankin)

Athletics gets NCAA certification nod

The National Collegiate Athletic Association announced May 13 the certification of the athletic programs at WMU and 13 other Division I schools, as part of its on-going Division I certification program.

This announcement concludes the NCAA certification process that began in November 1997 and concluded one year later with a site visit by a peer review team made up of officials from other Division I institutions. The year-long self-study was conducted by a number of committees charged with examining various aspects of the athletics program with respect to academic and fiscal integrity, rules compliance and commitment to equity.

"Many people around campus took part..." (Continued on page four)

Did you know?

• WMU is one of only eight colleges in the country that has competed in all four Sunrayce solar race competitions and it is the only Michigan school to have raced in all four races. WMU’s Sunseeker entries scored top-10 finishes in the 1995 and 1997 races.

• The University’s Kanley Chapel is the only university chapel in the nation in which the stained glass windows were designed by students. WMU art students designed the windows for the facility, which was completed in 1951 and the designs were executed by the Henry Lee Willer Stained Glass Studio in Phila- delphia.

(Continued on page four)
Scholars from 18 nations head for WMU institute

Foreign educators who teach about America in their home countries will learn about the United States through courses this summer during a six-week institute at WMU. Professors and scholars from 18 different countries including Belarus, Cote d'Ivoire, Botswana, China, Nepal and Zambia will come to WMU June 26-Aug. 6 to participate in the Summer Institute for the Study of the United States for International Professors and Scholars.

The institute is funded by a $170,000 grant from the United State Information Agency awarded to WMU faculty members Katherine Joslin, American Studies and comparative religion, education, English, American studies, black Americana studies, ethnicities and nationalities; and area studies, with an emphasis on developing countries. The gift is part of a larger bequest totaling more than $1 million.

"What really appealed to the USIA about our proposal was its interdisciplinary nature," we bring together faculty from 15 different departments or programs and different University colleges, as well as individuals from across Kalama-zoo," Joslin said.

Using the theme "Rolling on the River: Waterways to Diver-sity in America," the institute will focus on the four waterways that greatly impacted the development of the United States--the Great Lakes, the Mississippi River, and the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

"Waterways were instrument-al in the migration and settle-ment that built the nation," Joslin explains. "Along these waterways occurred some of the sa-lient features of American cul-ture including the encounters of peoples of different races, ethnicities and nationalities; re-form movements; and the growth of the industrial nation." When you talk about any of these, he says, "you see how wa-terways tie us all together."

Following the four-week ad-eemacy residency, institute par-ticipants will spend two weeks touring such sites as the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Little Island in New York City, Niagara Falls, Philadelphia, Colonial Williamsburg and Washington, D.C.

The Board of Trustees approved the reappointment of an associate dean and the appointment of four new department chair-persons at its April 23 meeting.

James A. Leja was named associate dean of the College of Health and Human Services effective July 1, 1999, through April 16, 2000. Leja has been dean since 1994. He re-appointed by the board.

Bruce M. Haight was named chair-person of the Depart-ment of History, John A. Tanis was named chair-person of the Department of Physics and Thomas A. Van Valey was named chair-person of the Department of Psychology. Those four appointments are effective July 1.

The board also approved the ap-pointment of Charles E. Fie as director of the Center for Environmental Research, which was established by trustees at a meeting to the April 23 meeting. The pre-viously announced appointment of Fie to that position was effective Aug. 9, 1999. The board was previously approved by the board.

Leja has been a faculty member in the Department of Biology. He served as interim chairperson of the Department of Occupational Therapy and has been a member of the Department since 1986 and has been a member of the Department of Occupational Therapy since 1976. He has previously served as chairperson of the Department of Occupational Therapy.

Boughey, a 1953 WMU graduate in occupational therapy from Albuquerque, N.M., was accepted by trustees.

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The Faculty Senate May 13 approved policies on the management of research, technology, and constitutional rights and due process. They also provided a forum for discussion on disruptive behavior and suggested new policies on the ownership of research.

The new policy was developed and proposed by the Undergraduate Studies Council. One GPA would include grades for all courses taken and used to determine rank and honors. The other, to be used for all purposes other than repeat course work.

The current policy allows students to repeat a course only twice or a total of three attempted courses. The new policy would place no limit on the number of courses a student may repeat to complete an undergraduate degree.

The new policy would be in effect at the start of the fall semester.

James O. Ansel, professor emeritus of teacher education and former director of rural life and education, died April 24 in Kalama, WA. He was 89.

Before joining the WMU faculty in 1949, Ansel was a member of the K. Kellogg Foundation, a teacher and principal at Wiloza Township School in Saginaw County, and a member of the administration at Columbia University and senior lecturer in rural life and education at the University of London.

Ansel was a native of Somerset, Ohio. He received his bachelor's degree in 1935 from WMU and his master's degree in 1938 from Northwestern University and a doctoral degree in education in 1949 from the Teacher's College at Columbia University.

Ansel was a member of many professional organizations and published numerous articles. He served on the advisory board of Rural Youth USA in 1959 and 1960. Ansel was recognized for his service to the American Society of Agricultural Education and the American Society of Agricultural Engineers.

He retired from the University in 1974.

The University libraries offer access to electronic resources, copyrighted materials, and other resources. The libraries also provide access to the national live radio broadcasts of several countries and the national live radio broadcasts of several countries. The libraries also provide access to the national live radio broadcasts of several countries. The libraries also provide access to the national live radio broadcasts of several countries.

Regardless of the time employees begin or end their workday, their schedule must include work between 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. A 30-minute or 60-minute lunch may be taken between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. During flextime, offices are to be staffed and fully operational between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

The University community is invited to an open house in the Department of Human Resources on Tuesday, June 3, from 4 to 6:30 p.m. at the Center for Student Development. This event is open to all employees and their families. The event will include tours of the departmental office and refreshments. The event will conclude with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 5 p.m.

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Human resources

Employee data forms mailed

Employee Personal Data Forms are being sent to all employees, technical and administrative employees. Employees will need to report any changes in personal information, such as name or address changes, on the new data form.

If any information on your EPD is not correct, please note any changes on the signed form to human resources. We will update our records and send you a corrected EPD form to keep on file.

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Green campus audit will review University's environmental efforts

It isn't easy being green, but an audit currently underway at WMU could change all that. The Green Campus Audit, being conducted by students of the Environmental Sciences Program, will look at all aspects of the University's efforts to reduce energy consumption, environmental health and safety, air quality, water quality and usage, solid and hazardous waste, architectural design and building construction.

"We'll be interviewing people involved in the annual running of the University, like those in the physical plant, and we'll survey faculty and staff to find out what they are doing to become more environmentally conscious," says Molly Cole, a new graduate and building construction major.

The audit is expected to take a year. Cole says that the purpose of the audit is not to criticize the campus' environmental efforts, but to gauge how well the University is working toward environmental teaching," says Molly Cole, <<wmi.edu/WMU/news/events>>. The certification program's purpose is to encourage participation in the institution's athletics operations and to assist athletics departments in improving their programs.

Sunseeker (Continued from page one)

at the event. WMU is one of only eight schools in the nation that has competed in all four races. The team搴s new nickname is “Sunseeker,” a play on the name of the University's physical plant, and one of the few teams in the nation that has competed in all four races.

The Sunseeker team and links to the Sunrayce are part of the University's efforts to promote environmental responsibility, according to Dr. Jan Lyddon, the team's faculty advisor.

Ronald James, the team's captain, says that "we are very satisfied with the outcome of the competition. We have received many positive comments from our peers and colleagues." He adds that "we feel we have done well despite some problems during the competition." The team is currently ranked third in the nation, and has earned a place in the NCAA Top Ten rankings.

Nominations for annual staff service awards due

Nominations for the annual staff service excellence awards are due tomorrow. These awards carry a $1,000 cash prize, and the winners receive a certificate of recognition, are honored at a luncheon and have their photo displayed in the Seibert Administration Building. The winners will be announced in June.

More than 70 grants totaling nearly $3.8 million were awarded to the University in the first three months of this year, according to a report presented to the Board of Trustees at its April 23 meeting.

The grants were for Academic Support Services, including faculty salaries to all nine productions for just $25, a 50 percent savings compared to standard ticket prices. WMU students may purchase tickets to all nine productions for just $25, a savings of $60.

The University Theatre offers a variety of discounts to one production.

For more information, contact Cole at 7-4914.

Grants pass $72 million mark

University theatre discounts offered to faculty, staff and students for 1999-2000 season

The University Theatre will offer special discounts for WMU faculty, staff and students for season tickets to the 1999-2000 season.

For more information, contact Cole at 7-4914.

The grants will provide funds for the following purposes:

- A $170,000 grant from the U.S. Information Agency to support cultural exchanges with Egypt and Turkey.
- A $100,000 grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development to support cultural exchanges with China.
- A $50,000 grant from the U.S. Department of State to support cultural exchanges with Japan.
- A $25,000 grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development to support cultural exchanges with South Korea.