



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

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Light announces he'll step down as provost, return to faculty next June

Timothy Light, provost and vice president for academic affairs, announced last week that he will step down from his post as WMU's top academic officer June 30, 2000.

Light, who has held the post since 1996, will return to the faculty to teach and do research following a year-long leave of absence. A national search for a successor will be launched.

"My reasons for this decision are largely personal," Light said in a memo to the campus community. "I would like to have more time for my family. I very much want to get back to teaching and research while I still have a few years in which to do that."

"It is with mixed emotions that I have accepted Tim's decision to retire from his duties as provost and return to the faculty," said President Floyd. "He has done much for this fine University and for me personally, in this my first year. So on behalf of the entire University community, I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all of the contributions that he has made and for all those that he will continue to make in this new chapter of his remarkable career."

Light said he will concentrate his efforts during the next year on the University's planning process and ensuring that planning tools are in place for the future.

"I'll be continuing my work on the University's long-term plan, working with members of the Strategic Planning Committee and with Dr. Linda Delene to implement President Floyd's academic priorities within that plan," Light said. "We'll continue the establishment and refinement of budgetary and statistical instruments that will help make systematic planning a regular part of the academic enterprise at WMU."



Light

Light, a Kalamazoo native, joined the WMU faculty in 1991. Before his appointment as provost, he had been a special assistant for international affairs to former WMU President Diether H. Haenicke, with whom he had worked at Ohio State University.

Light's academic career began at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, where he held several teaching and administrative positions. He also has been a faculty member and director of the East Asia Study Center at the University of Arizona; professor and chairperson of the Department of East Asian Languages and Literature at OSU; provost and professor of linguistics and Asian studies at Kalamazoo College, and then acting president of that institution; and president of Middlebury College.

An expert on Chinese language, Light maintains adjunct appointments as a professor of applied linguistics at the Beijing Language Institute and as a professor of Chinese at Ohio State. He is the author of many scholarly books and articles for professional journals and has served as president of the Chinese Language Teachers Association and vice president of the International Society for Chinese Language Teaching.

Light noted that since early in his academic career, he has been in and out of administrative positions, often during times of transition at the institutions he's served. Once those transitions were well on their way, he has always gone back to teaching.

"In the years that I have been at WMU," Light said, "I have grown to love this University. People here have been truly wonderful to me, and I am most grateful for the opportunities that I have had here and will continue to have teaching in religion, a subject which I love. Administration is considered by some to be about projects and measurable achievements. To me, it is the friendships and associations that I carry when leaving an administrative position, far more than any list of things accomplished."

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WMU
SUNSEEKER 454

Faculty, staff, students, sponsors and alumni turned out May 21 for a Shaw Theatre ceremony to unveil the 1999 version of the University's Sunseeker solar car, which is entered in Sunrayce 99. That 1,300-mile race is set to take off from the mall in downtown Washington, D.C., on June 20 and end 10 days later at Epcot Center in Orlando. Here,

spectators come to the Shaw stage for a closer look at the car and a chance to quiz team members about its capabilities. With a solar array that includes 700 solar cells, the 800-pound car boasts an average cruising speed of 50 m.p.h. The 14 members of the Sunseeker traveling team that will accompany the car on the race also were introduced at the unveiling ceremony. (Photo by Neil Rankin)



Scholars from across nation head to WMU to study a time long ago and a place far, far away

While everyone else may be discussing "Star Wars" this summer, 15 college and university instructors from across the United States will be in Kalamazoo to discuss a different place from long ago and far, far away—Anglo-Saxon England.

Hoping to strengthen their knowledge and teaching of Anglo Saxon England, the instructors will be on the campus for six weeks during June and July to participate in a summer teaching institute organized by the Richard Rawlinson Center for Anglo-Saxon Studies and Manuscript Research at WMU's Medieval Institute.

Funded through a \$163,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the institute, which runs from June 21 through July 30, will feature sessions and seminars taught by 11 guest and resident

faculty members on topics including vernacular literature, Anglo-Latin literature, history, art and archaeology.

A special theme of the institute will focus on the use and function of online resources for studying and teaching about Anglo Saxon England. According to Paul E. Szarmach, director of the Medieval Institute and institute coordinator, online resources allow scholars and students direct access to materials that they normally wouldn't have without extensive travel.

"Online resources allow scholars and students remarkable opportunities to study subjects almost directly," he explains. "For example, if they were to study an old manuscript online, the color resolution and the high quality of the image are comparable to

(Continued on page four)

Military science program gets down to business

What do military and business training programs have in common?

Quite a lot, according to University officials, who will make the Department of Military Science a department in the Haworth College of Business, effective July 1.

According to Dean James W. Schmotter, Haworth College of Business, moving the military science program under the auspices of the business college is a good arrangement for both the program and college.

"Both the Haworth College of Business and the military science department are in the leadership education business. We can learn from each other," he says.

The Military Science Program at WMU is an elective academic minor through which students can qualify for the Reserve Officers Training Corps. It features leadership and military skills training that prepares students for officer responsibilities in the military.

Provost Timothy Light says the goal of the reorganization is to bring WMU's Bronco Battalion closer to the academic mainstream, which necessitated its being part of one of the University's established colleges.

Robert Beecher, chairperson of military science, says he welcomes the move, and believes it "will mutually benefit both activities and have a positive impact on the health and viability of the WMU ROTC program."

Environmental writers gather on campus to consider 'diminished' nature of Midwest and other locations

Environmental decline is the focus of a conference this week that has brought some of the country's foremost environmental writers to Kalamazoo.

Writers and naturalists including Wendell Berry, Scott Russell Sanders and Michigan's Stephanie Mills will be among the speakers at the third biennial conference of the Association for Study of Literature and the Environment at the Bernhard Center through June 5.

The conference, titled "What to Make of a Diminished Thing," was expected to attract more than 400 participants from around the world to spend four days exploring humankind's relationship to the natural world. More than 360 scholarly and creative papers will be presented in-

cluding some by attendees from such far-flung places as Norway, Hong Kong, England and Japan.

Participants aren't spending all their time indoors talking, however. They'll experience the environment firsthand through 17 trips planned to natural spots throughout southwest Michigan. Arranged and guided by the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, the trips include jaunts to sites such as Asylum Lake, the Kalamazoo Nature Center, Hidden Marsh Sanctuary and Bishop's Bog. Among the outings are a series of float trips down the Kalamazoo River from Comstock through the Allegan State Forest, showing the river in its industrial, suburban and wild environments.

Thomas Bailey, WMU ombudsman and coordinator for the conference, says the river is symbolic of the types of diminished environments the conference will address.

"We have seen a real ecological crisis come upon us in the last 35 years. The East doesn't have the natural world it once did, hence the 'diminished thing,'" Bailey explains, noting this is the first time the ASLE conference has been held east of the Mississippi. "When it comes to nature, there's a big difference between East and West. Natural descriptions of the East are less rhetorical than those of the West as well. We have hills, not grand mountains; woods, not forests. But our nature is just as complex and worthy of study."

(Continued on page four)

Industrial design students' work for Steelcase unit picked for international trade show in Chicago

Four home office/alternative office furniture designs by WMU students will be displayed next week in Chicago at NeoCon@99, one of the world's largest trade fairs for interior designers, architects and furniture manufacturers and dealers.

Quarter-scale models of the designs will be featured in the Chicago showroom of Turnstone, a division of Steelcase. The showroom is part of the NeoCon display area. The models were developed for Turnstone by WMU industrial design

students as senior projects under the direction of David O. Middleton, construction engineering, materials engineering and industrial design.

Turnstone provided the WMU program

with a \$2,000 grant for students to develop design concepts for alternate office furnishings. Middleton says the projects are not conducted so that students compete

with professionals, but to give the students experience working in a professional environment.

"These projects allow companies to experiment, get ideas and play around with concepts," explains Middleton. "Our students looked at how people are working differently than before and their need to have furniture

fit into a home office situation, but not scream 'desk'."

Middleton says the students and the program are delighted that their work will be displayed at NeoCon@99, which fea-

tures more than 900 exhibitors and is expected to draw thousands of attendees.

"It is wonderful when a client wants to show off what we have developed for them. Turnstone is saying these designs are worth being shown," he says. "They display the designs and say, 'here's something experimental, what do you think?' This is often how products get into production. You never know what will catch on."

The four designs and the students that developed them are:

- Acuity, which features circular, interconnected work surfaces that connect in a bicycle chain design, developed by students John DeLadurantaye, Laura Geisz and Jonathan Moroney.

- Incline, an angled work surface that allows for standing or sitting positions and can fit into existing office furniture configurations, designed by Andrew Smedley and Chuan Li Chen.

- Narayan, designed for the young professional market with emphasis on compact size and use of industrial materials such as metal screens, developed by Chad Dykgraaf and Jeff Klimas.

- Options, which gives a modern functionality to the traditional design of a roll-top desk, designed by Bryon Vlier.

One of Steelcase Inc.'s brand lines, Turnstone provides a range of affordable furniture solutions for emerging growth and established, cost-conscious corporations.



David Middleton reads two of the quarter-scale models that will be on display in Chicago this month. On the left is the Narayan design. On the right is Options. (Photo by Neil Rankin)

Dahlberg elected to food and human values group

Kenneth A. Dahlberg, political science, is the new president of the Agriculture, Food and Human Values Society.



Dahlberg

An expert on food systems, worldwide agriculture and food production, Dahlberg assumed the presidency of the group at its annual meeting in Toronto June 1. He previously had served on the organization's governing council since 1988 and as vice president for the past year. He is only the second leader of the group not to come from a land grant university.

The organization grew out of a series of conferences funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in the early 1980s to encourage interaction between the agricultural sciences and the liberal arts. The group produces the journal *Agriculture and Human Values*. Dahlberg serves on the journal's editorial board.

Dahlberg directed a national project, financed by the National Science Foundation, to evaluate urban food policies. He also directed a Kellogg Foundation project to assist six communities around the nation to strengthen their food policy capabilities.

He is a frequent contributor to the literature on such issues as the green revolution and the globalization of the food system.

Female Holocaust survivors are focus of nursing faculty member's book

Through the writings of survivors, documentaries and the major motion picture "Schindler's List," it seems many people believe they have a pretty good idea what it was like to live in a Nazi death camp like Auschwitz.

But do they really?

That's a question Mary Lagerwey, nursing, encountered when she researched the memoirs of Holocaust survivors. And she found that in some ways, people's understanding of life in the camps is lacking.

After extensively rereading accounts by Holocaust victims, Lagerwey gives a new perspective to life in Auschwitz in the appropriately titled book "Reading Auschwitz," published recently by Alta Mira Press, a division of Sage Publications Inc.

In her book, which grew out of her dissertation while a WMU doctoral student in sociology, Lagerwey finds that for many people, knowledge of the Holocaust is shaped predominantly by the writings of men. As she continued to read about the Holocaust, and in particular Auschwitz, she was struck not only by what women survivors had written, but also how those remembrances were being overlooked.

"I was impressed with how rich some of the women's stories were," Lagerwey says,

"but in many cases, their stories were not being heard."

Most people's perceptions of the Holocaust—Anne Frank notwithstanding—are shaped by such male writers as Primo Levi and Elie Wiesel. Though Levi breaks male stereotypes by writing about relationships, memoirs by female survivors, including Charlotte Delbo, Fania Fenelon and Sara Nomberg-Przytyk, delve more into their bonds with other prisoners.

Issues men and women faced in the death camps also set them apart, Lagerwey says. Among those issues were giving birth and child care. In addition to fighting for their own survival, some women were responsible for caring for their children and became absorbed in a nightmarish struggle to keep their children from extermination.

Lagerwey found that this perspective of life in Auschwitz, the largest, most complex and most notorious of the Nazi death camps, too often was being ignored.

"Part of what I did was a content analy-

sis of the memoirs themselves," Lagerwey says. "I wanted to look at what is being offered and whose stories are being emphasized."

Lagerwey hadn't planned on studying the Holocaust, but became absorbed in it after her graduate advisor, who was researching the subject, gave her some material to read.

"I found myself very, very interested in it," Lagerwey says. "At one time, I had so many books out of the library they wouldn't let me take any more out."

"It raised so many issues about life. I didn't go into my doctoral dissertation thinking I would do this, but all the questions about suffering and how we, as a society, think about suffering intrigued me."

Lagerwey is not Jewish, but found a connection between her family's Dutch ancestry and the onslaught of Nazism. Her father, a U.S. citizen, had returned to Holland and was strongly urged to flee the country after Germany invaded Poland. After she began her research, she also learned that other family members were very interested in the Holocaust and her project.

In addition to extensive reading, Lagerwey visited Auschwitz twice and traveled to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. Entries from a journal she kept during her travels are interspersed throughout the book, giving it a personal feel.

As Lagerwey's research continued, the plight of Holocaust victims at times became too real, such as when she would awaken from nightmares in which she was in the death camp with her two sons, Alex and Arie, and unable to save them.

"At those times I knew I had to put my research down for awhile," Lagerwey says.

To say much of what she read about Auschwitz was disturbing would be a huge understatement. But perhaps one of the most pervasive and troubling themes was the helplessness of victims swept up in Hitler's "Final Solution."

"No matter what these people were like as individuals, their survival often was by chance and was way beyond their physical control," Lagerwey says. "It shows how in the face of overwhelming evil there is very little one person can do."

Board approves retirements of eight faculty and six staff members

The Board of Trustees approved the retirements of eight faculty members and six staff members at its April meeting.

The faculty members retiring with emeriti status, along with their years of service and effective dates of retirement are: Lynwood H. Bartley, associate professor of communication, 32 years, effective Jan. 1, 2000; Lowell E. Crow, professor of marketing, 24 years, effective Jan. 3, 2000; Francis L. Gross, professor of comparative religion, 26 years, effective Jan. 1, 2000; Joseph M. Kanamueller, professor of chemistry, 32 years, effective Jan. 1, 2000; J. Michael Keenan, professor of management, 31 years, effective June 30, 1999; Erika Loeffler, professor of anthropology, 31 years, effective Feb. 6, 2000; Larry E.

Syndergaard, professor of English, 30 years, effective Jan. 1, 2000; and Kung-Wei Yang, professor of mathematics and statistics, 32 years, effective Jan. 3, 2000.

Staff members who have retired are:

Janice Bradeen, custodian in Plant-Building Custodial and Support Services, 10 years, effective April 30, 1999; James A. Cornell, supervisor of the Department of Physics machine shop, 12 years, effective

April 16, 1999; Bernadine A. Kawka, cashier in Sindecuse Health Center, 18 years, effective April 30, 1999; Beverly J. Reist, first cook in University Dining Services, 21 years, effective March 31, 1999; Anthony C.

Sabel, coordinator of computing in the Office of Auxiliary Enterprises, 33 years, effective April 30, 1999; and Leonard E. Srackangast, supervisor in Plant-Building Custodial and Support Services, 26 years, effective April 30, 1999.



Bartley



Crow



Gross



Keenan



Loeffler



Syndergaard



Yang

WESTERN NEWS

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Campus art show opening tomorrow features variety of works by artists with disabilities

An art show opening tomorrow evening provides ample evidence that people with disabilities don't have any handicap when it comes to creating art.

Works produced by seven artists with developmental disabilities and other impairments are being displayed in the University's Unified Clinics on the third floor of the University Medical and Health Sciences Building at 1000 Oakland Drive. Pieces run the gamut from paintings and drawings to prints and mixed media. Some three-dimensional pieces also are included.

The show's opening from 5 to 8 p.m. is being included in the Arts Council of Kalamazoo's Gallery Hop on Friday and will let people not only see the art, but also meet the artists.

The artists are clients of the Center for Disability Services, formerly the Center for Developmentally Disabled Adults. They are the first group to take part in a new center art program that started after one client requested an art class. The program now serves about 30 artists in five groups that meet twice a week.

Tom Mills, a center activity therapist and photographer, shepherded the program into existence about eight months ago. He since has passed the brush on to Julie Osborn, a center art therapist and artist.

Mills and Osborn agree that the program has been good for the center's clients, while at the same time showcasing some pretty significant talent. Pieces in the show are for sale and five already have been sold.

"They all look forward to the group and seem to really enjoy doing the art work and getting positive feedback for what they do," Osborn says. "They have a lot of freedom in the group and they really respond to that. Even their skill level seems to be developing. It's a good outlet for them."

Mills says some of the artists lack verbal skills and that creating art helps them communicate.

"I think they express themselves through their art, whether it's the choice of colors or subject matter, even the brush strokes," Mills says. "Their styles are very consistent. You can really tell who created what."

The program has temporarily set up shop at the YMCA on Maple Street. Osborn hopes to move it to a more permanent home in a local art studio, which would bring artists into closer contact with the community while helping it to attract more artists and expand offerings.

Whether the program continues to grow

or not, its success already has been demonstrated. The proof is hanging in the WMU Unified Clinics. Mills calls the quality of the works on display and the images created "pretty exceptional."

Osborn agrees that the artists really say something in their work.

"They're so uninhibited with their art," Osborn says. "They're just very natural with it."

Anyone interested in taking part in the program or donating time or studio space should call Osborn at 382-7041.

Names of National Guard students sought for tribute

Faculty or staff members aware of the names of students who are part of National Guard units headed for the Balkans, should contact the Registrar's Office to make sure that office has a complete list of students involved.

A tribute board listing the names of students headed for the Kosovo area or already in that region is being compiled for display in the Seibert Administration Building. For more information or to add to the list of students involved, call Dori LaChance, Registrar's Office, at 7-4115.

Weekend bookings available for Oakland Recital Hall

Scheduling weekend events at Oakland Recital Hall will be easier this fall thanks to a reduction in the number of regular bookings for the facility.

Both the Kalamazoo Film Society and the Western Michigan University Film Society have decided to use only one weekend per month each for the 1999/2000 season. This will open up at least two weekends per month for other uses.

Campus groups interested in using the Campus Cinema/Oakland Recital Hall facility for rehearsals, performances, lectures or meetings should contact the Miller Auditorium main office at 7-2311. The facility's auditorium seats 198 people and the projection equipment available consists of 35 mm, 16 mm and videotape machines.

Web watch

A pilot test of WMU's new home page will begin today. Users may link to the proposed new page from a button on the current WMU home page or on other major University sites, such as WMU News. The button linking to the test site is labeled "Enter to win." The test page also can be accessed directly at <www.wmich.edu/newwmuhome/>.

Once the site is accessed, visitors will automatically be entered into a University wide contest to win a \$50 gift certificate for the WMU Bookstore if they take time to fill out a survey about the site.

Obituary

Alice E. Lewis, associate professor emerita in occupational therapy, died May 14 in Chapel Hill, N.C. She was 80.

Lewis joined WMU's faculty in 1956 and primarily taught human anatomy as well as courses in medical and orthopedic conditions, therapeutic techniques, neuroanatomy and several others. She also was the department transfer student advisor for many years.

She earned a bachelor of arts degree in 1940 at Mount Holyoke College, a certificate in occupational therapy at Western Michigan College in 1951 and a master of arts degree in 1956 from the University of Southern California. Before coming to WMU, she was rehabilitation coordinator and director of occupational therapy at Springbrook T.B. Sanitarium in Aurora, Ill.

She served two terms on the Faculty Senate, was a member of the University Diamond Jubilee Committee in 1978 and served on numerous other University and department committees. In 1972, she re-

On campus



Bernie's After Hours, Movies at Miller, and an international festival. In addition, he oversees the operation of WIDR-FM, the student-run campus radio station; assists students in establishing student organizations; sits on numerous committees including the Cultural Events, Presidential Spirit and Campus Programming committees; and serves as an adviser to the Stallion Hockey Club and Campus Activities Board. Sound tiring? Hufford just laughs and says, "All the programs are student-run. A lot of my job is getting the students to do most of the planning and work. It's really student development and collaboration." Hufford's intense involvement has brought him recognition, including the 1998 Golden Bronco Award as Advisor of the Year for student organizations and the 1998 Administrative Professional Association's New Professional of the Year award. With so much to do, it is hard for Hufford to pinpoint his favorite thing about his job, but he admits it's the day of an event, like Bronco Bash. "Even though it's the most nerve-wracking it is also the most fun. You really feel a lot of accomplishment." Hufford, who graduated in April with his second degree in organizational communication from WMU—this one a master's—will get to experience that event-initiated exhilaration again this summer as assistant director of the Michigan Summer Institute for high school students, which will be held on campus July 11-24. Hufford, who first visited the campus himself in 1988 as a participant in a summer institute, says it is interesting to be on the other side of the program. "This is really a great recruitment tool for the University," he says. "We tap the best parts of the University and show them to students. I'm proof that it works." When not at work, Hufford spends time with his wife, Laura, and 22-month-old son, Alex. (Photo by Neil Rankin)

Tips on handling Y2K problems available

■ As of today, June 3, there are 211 days left until Year 2000.

■ How do you get started addressing desktop Y2K problems? Take an inventory. Make a note of what operating system you are using (e.g. Windows 95) and list what software is installed. Next, check the WMU Year 2000 Web page, which can be found at <www.wmich.edu/y2k/>, for information about your operating system and the software you use to see if there may be problems and to find out how to fix those problems.



■ GMT is software which checks hardware, operating systems, application software and data files for Y2K compliance. The cost is \$7.50. Contact y2k@wmich.edu for more information.

■ If your computer or software is not Y2K compliant, then you need to consider some remediation. You can find more information about this on the Year 2000 Web site at <www.wmich.edu/ais/y2k/youy2k.html>.

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) Assistant Vice President, Z, Human Resources, 98/99-641, 6/1-6/7/99

(R) Facility Technician, X-03, Telecommunications, 98/99-646, 6/1-6/7/99

(R) Employment Representative, P-03, Human Resources, 98/99-648, 6/1-6/7/99

Please call the Applicant Information Service at 7-3669 for up-to-date information on the Job Opportunity Program and vacancies available to external applicants.

(N) New

(R) Replacement

WMU is an EO/AA employer.

Exchange

FOR SALE—Double recliner loveseat, floral design, used for eight months. \$900 new, asking \$350. Call (616) 372-8094.

FOR SALE—Affordable housing, includes home warranty and \$500 rebate. Three bedroom, two bath, C/A, 1,000+ sq.-ft, seven-year-old home. Mattawan schools, financing information available. Must see. Only \$16,500. Call (616) 668-3832.

Libraries

ScienceDirect, a new Web-based database for in-depth scientific research, has been added to the University libraries collection of science materials and databases.

The full text of more than 1,100 journals published by Elsevier Science as well as full text from other participating publishers is available. ScienceDirect is focussed on building comprehensive coverage of the world's refereed scientific, medical and technical literature.

ScienceDirect is accessible from the University libraries' Web site at <www.wmich.edu/library>. It features the ability to search across journals on specific topics and keywords or within specific journal titles; full-text display of journal articles in PDF and searchable HTML formats to search the entire body of text or produce pages as they would appear in print; a subject-tailored abstract and indexing layer; browsing and tables of contents generation; sophisticated graphics capabilities; SummaryPlus, an innovative article summary display; personal search profiles to retrieve newly-added articles; and navigational links from reference lists to cited articles.

Available to faculty, staff and currently enrolled students, ScienceDirect provides a starting point for the research process with access to the full text of Elsevier science journals and abstracts, which form the core journals in the life, physical, technical and social sciences.

Music students go 'down under' for spring concert tour of Australia, Fiji and New Zealand

A tour of the South Pacific this spring had WMU students hiking the outback and mixing with kangaroos and koala bears in addition to performing before packed houses in Australia, New Zealand and Fiji.

In all, 88 students joined by 11 faculty and staff members toured the three countries April 28 to May 11. The student entourage was composed of 22 members of Gold Company II and members of both the University Symphonic Band and University Concert Band, which combined to form the Wind Orchestra.

Planning for the trip started a year ago after a student survey, says Robert Spradling, music and director of bands. Students were asked to rank five areas of the world they would like to tour, with choices ranging from Europe and the Mediterranean to South America, the South Pacific and the Far East.

"Our responses came back with the South Pacific being far and away the first choice," Spradling says. "They were really taken with Australia and learning about the 'down under'."

Students weren't disappointed with their choice, Spradling says. The trip became as much a cultural, social and educational eye-opener as a chance to perform internationally.

The trip was intended to expose students to the world's diversity in addition to performing abroad, Spradling says. But students weren't the only ones getting something from the experience, as audiences marveled at instruments and vocal jazz music they'd never been exposed to before.

"It was really interesting and fun to watch their faces as they were watching," Spradling says. "There was just this wide, saucer-eyed look and every time the music changed from one instrument or voice to another you could see hundreds of eyes shift. They were just totally engrossed in what was going on."

The group first flew to Auckland, New Zealand, for a performance at the Cath-

dral of the Holy Trinity, which is similar to the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. The venerable cathedral houses the largest stained glass piece in the

Southern Hemisphere.

Students stayed with host families, bringing about a cultural exchange that typified much of the trip. Not only did students learn about their hosts, hosts were relieved to find out that most American youths are not like characters from "Beverly Hills 90210."

While in New Zealand, students also visited Rotorua as well as a nearby and very rare area of volcanic activity complete with hot springs, steaming fissures and geysers.

The group then flew to Sydney, where students presented two concerts. They performed a joint concert at the University of New South Wales with members of that university's concert band, uniting to form one big orchestra in performances of "Amazing Grace" and Sousa's "Hands Across the Sea." They performed a second concert in the 150-year-old Cathedral of St. John in Parramatta.

The Australian concerts sparked two reunions. A Gold Company alumnus from Melbourne, Australia, named Saz Burton performed with students after her husband gave her a plane ticket for Mother's Day. And Patrick Beauregard, one of Spradling's graduate assistants, was reunited with his sister, who lives in Parramatta. Beauregard, who just completed a master's degree with concentration in conducting, directed the Sousa march that evening.

A guided tour of the Australian bush country and a visit to a zoo gave students a first-hand look at the wilds of Australia and koala bears, kangaroos, wombats and dingoes. Students also took in performances at the famous Sydney Opera House, with tickets furnished by President Floyd's office, and visited the site for the 2000 Olympic Games.

Students then flew to Suva, Fiji, where they stayed at a beach resort and were treated to that island nation's rich cultural heritage.



Gold Company II director Diana Spradling works to win over a tough Koala bear audience, while members of her group enjoy the Pacific vista at a national park in Australia.

Bat-Ami draws from history for young adults' refugee romance

Albanian refugees from Kosovo are beginning to arrive in America, but it isn't the first time those victimized by ethnic cleansing in Europe have been brought to safe haven on American soil.

In 1944, during World War II, the United States brought just over 980 refugees—most Jewish—from Europe to an Emergency Refugee Center outside of Oswego, N.Y. The experiences of those in the U.S.' only wartime camp for refugees is told through the eyes of two teenagers in a new book written by Miriam Bat-Ami, English.

A novel written for young adults, "Two Suns in the Sky," was recently published by Front Street/Cricket Books of Chicago. This is Bat-Ami's fourth book and is based on an event in American history that relatively few people know about.

Located at the site of Fort Ontario, a decommissioned army base, the Emergency Refugee Center served as a holding center for refugees until plans were finalized for their return to Europe or resettlement in the United States. While many of the refugees had escaped imprisonment in concentration camps in Europe, what they found at the center was eerily reminiscent. The camp was surrounded by a six-foot fence topped with barbed wire and with a gate manned by armed guards.

Bat-Ami spent nearly eight months doing research for the book including reading historical documents and newspaper accounts and interviewing a dozen of the surviving refugees.

"Nearly every fact about the camp in

this book was either told to me, heard on tapes or read by me," says Bat-Ami. "The refugees have stories to tell that resonate of times today. Many refugees left careers,



Bat-Ami

money, their property and communities and were filled with anguish over the fate of relatives and friends who mysteriously disappeared. In spite of the less-than-ideal conditions in which they were housed, the camp did allow

the refugees to make new lives." On June 12, about 20 of the camp's surviving refugees will return for a reunion marking the 55th anniversary of their interment there. Bat-Ami will be present at the reunion and will give a reading from her book at an Oswego bookstore.

Bat-Ami says that one impetus for writing "Two Suns in the Sky" was that, although there has been an attempt to set up a museum at the fort, most Americans, including citizens of Oswego, know nothing about the center.

The book focuses on the romantic relationship between Chris, a teenage girl from Oswego, and Adam, a Yugoslavian Jewish refugee at the camp, and the issues that arise when their families object to their relationship. Also depicted in the story are accounts of the generosity and prejudices of the townspeople toward the refugees as

well as subplots involving Chris' family members fighting in the war and Adam's father and brother who are still in Europe.

A pivotal symbol in the book, and in real-life accounts of the camp, is the fence that surrounds the center.

"The fence was an enormously emotional issue for the refugees and the town's residents," Bat-Ami says. "The refugees, who thought they'd find freedom in America, couldn't understand why the fence was there. At the same time, the country was gripped with paranoia about spies and other fears."

As a result, a hole under the fence developed, allowing refugees and residents to sneak in and out of the center. That hole is prominent in developing the relationship between Chris and Adam. This is Bat-Ami's first experience writing a romance, but she explains that the romantic relationship was important in telling the story of the center.

"I thought that through a love story I could speak to my readers about some things which transcend time, such as the need for freedom and the responsibility we all have to each other," she says.

NEH institute *(Continued from page one)*

actually physically having the manuscript."

In addition to WMU faculty members involved, a number of guest faculty members will come from such institutions as Cambridge University, Stanford University, the University of Kentucky and the University of Notre Dame.

This is the third NEH grant received by the Rawlinson Center to conduct a summer program on Anglo-Saxon studies. Previous programs were conducted in by WMU

1995 in Kalamazoo and in 1997 at Cambridge. Szarmach says that receiving funding for the institutes is a testament of the excellent efforts being made by the center, Waldo Library and The Medieval Institute to expand the University's resources of Anglo-Saxon material.

"We are very pleased by this," he says. "To receive three NEH grants in five years is an external validation of WMU's excellence."

Diminished nature *(Continued from page one)*

A highlight of the conference will be an evening reading by naturalist author Wendell Berry. A noted environmental poet, novelist and essayist from Kentucky, Berry will read at 8:15 p.m. this evening. He is the author of a number of books including "What Are People For?" and "The Gift of the Good Land."

Another evening reading from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, will feature Native American poetry presented by Marilou Awiatkta, an author and member of the Spokane tribe, and Gloria Bird, poet and member of the Cherokee tribe.

Six plenary sessions also are planned featuring a number of noted environmental writers.

The conference won't focus exclusively on American nature. A number of sessions are devoted to the environmental writings about other locales, including Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and Spain. There's even an international poetry reading presented by Terry Gifford of Bretton Hall College at Leeds University in England and Shinji Watanabe of Japan's Rikkyo

University from 8 to 9:15 a.m. Friday.

Lest one think the seriousness of the topic will diminish the enjoyment of the participants, there is also at least one evening of "Poetry Karaoke" planned. Dreamed up by the conference planning committee, the event is somewhat of an "open mike night" where attendees can provide readings of a nature poem that they or someone near and dear to their hearts has written. Other attendees, who also fashion themselves as troubadours, also will provide entertainment.

"This is really a five-day celebration of humankind's concern for the natural world," Bailey says.

ASLE was founded in 1992 to promote the exchange of ideas and information about literature that considers the relationship between human beings and the natural world. The organization has grown to several hundred memberships including chapters in Japan, Mexico and England.

For more information about the conference and ASLE fees for daily programs, contact Bailey at 7-5300.

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, June 3

*Third Biennial Conference of the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (through June 5), Bernhard Center, all day; for details call 7-5300. Faculty Senate's Research Policies Council meeting, 3150 Schneider Hall, 3 p.m. Retirement reception for Bernardine M. Lacey, nursing, Fetzer Center, 4-6:30 p.m. Faculty Senate meeting, Fetzer Center, 5 p.m.

Friday, June 4

Art show opening featuring works by clients of the Center for Disability Services, Unified Clinics, University Medical and Health Sciences Building, 5-7 p.m.; daily viewing, Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.; Fridays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Tuesday, June 8

Faculty Senate's Undergraduate Studies Council meeting, 3150 Schneider Hall, 3 p.m.

Thursday, June 10

Faculty Senate's Admissions, Financial Aid and Student Affairs Council meeting, Conference Room B, Seibert Administration Building, 3:30 p.m.

Friday, June 11

*Film showing, Julia Sweeney's "God Said, 'Ha!'" (through June 13), Campus Cinema, Oakland Recital Hall: Friday and Saturday, June 11 and 12, 7 and 9:30 p.m.; Sunday, June 13, 2:30 and 5 p.m.

Tuesday, June 15

Faculty Senate's Campus Planning Council meeting, Faculty Lounge, Bernhard Center, 3 p.m.

Thursday, June 17

Faculty Senate's Regional Education Council meeting, Conference Room B, Seibert Administration Building, 3 p.m.

*Admission charged