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 duties as provost and return to the faculty, "a good arrangement for himself and for all those that will continue to make this new chapter of his remarkable career possible," Light said.

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 make planning a regular part of the academic enterprise at WMU." 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 Detther H. Haenicke, with whom he had worked at Ohio State University.

"My reasons for this decision are largely personal," Light said in a memo to the faculty. "I want 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. I wish him all the best in his first year. So on behalf of the entire University community, I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his contributions that he has made and for all those that he will continue to make in this new chapter of his remarkable career." Light 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 in the institution he's served. Once those transitions were well on their way, he always goes 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."

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. Schoettler, Haworth College of Business, moving the military science program under the auspices of the business college is in line with an agreement 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 said.

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 which 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 it being moved out of the University's established colleges.

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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 Stephen Mills will be among the speakers at the third biennial conference sponsored by the WMU Writers and Naturalists organization and the Department of English. The conference is funded through a $163,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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 including 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.

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)
Industrial design students' work 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 NeoCon show area. The show area 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 and industrial design professor.

Turnstone provided the WMU program with a $2,000 grant for students to develop design concepts for alternate office furniture. 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 efficient, helping them to understand the market," says Middleton. "Our students are looking at how people are working differently now before and after they need to have furniture designed specifically for them.

"It was a fantastic experience for the students to work on such high-profiles clients and to have their work displayed at NeoCon," says Middleton. "The students have been working on the furniture solutions for emerging growth companies and allowing for standing or sitting positions, which fits into a home office situation, but not a "desk."" Middle-odd says the students and the program are delighted that their work will be displayed at NeoCon'99, which features 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 to a bicycle chain design, developed by students John DeLadurantaye, Laura Geisz and Jeffrey Klump;
- Narayan, designed for the young professional market with emphasis on compact size and use of industrial materials such as metal sheets, developed by Chad Dohm and Jeff Klimas;
- Options, which gives a modern aesthetic to the traditional design of a roll-top desk, designed by Bryon Viler;
- One of Steelcase Inc.'s brand lines, Turnstone provides a range of affordable furniture solutions for emerging growth and established, cost-conscious corporations.

Female Holocaust survivors are focus of nursing faculty's book

Through the writings of survivors, documents and the major motion picture "Schindler's List," it seems many people believe they had 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, a professor of soci-ology, asked herself as she researched the memoirs of Holocaust sur- vivors, including Charlotte Delbo, Fania Fenelon and Sara Nomberg Prystol, while working on her doctorate. As Lagerwey's research continued, the plight of Holocaust victims at times became too real, such as when she read about the experiences of women and children from extermination. In addition to fighting for their own survival, many were responsible for caring for their children and became trapped 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 analysis 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 her graduate advisor, who was researching the subject, gave her some mate- rial 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 ques-tions 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 heritage and how her father, a U.S. citizen, had returned to Hol- land 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.

"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:


Staff members who have retired are:

- Caryn A. Nomberg, supervisor in the Department of Physical Science, 34 years, effective April 16, 1999; L. Kawa, cashier in the University Dining Center, 18 years, effective April 30, 1999; Beverly J. Pasko, supervisor in the University Dining Center, 18 years, effective April 30, 1999; Anthony C. Sabel, supervisor of the College of Business Enterprises, 33 years, effective April 30, 1999; and Leonard E. Strock, custodian in Plant-Building Custodial and Support Services, 25 years, effective April 30, 1999.
Campus art show opening tomorrow features variety of works by artists with disabilities

At 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 on display in the University’s Unified Clinics on the third floor of the University Medical and Health Sciences Building.

Their pieces run the gamut from paintings and drawings to prints and mixed media. Some of the most extraordinary pieces are also included.

The show’s opening from 5 to 8 p.m. is being included in the Arts Council of Kalamazoo’s “Art in the Park” program. Anyone who will let people not only see the art, but also meet the artists. To the artists, clients of the Center for Disability Services, formerly the Center for Developmentally Disabled Adults. They are regulars in the center art program that started after one client requested an art class. The program now offers art sessions in five groups that meet twice a week.

Tom Mills, a center activity therapist and program coordinator, says: “They’ve shown that they have a skill and a talent for art and that they enjoy their work, too.” Mills and Osborn agree that the program has been good for both the center’s clients, while at the same time showcasing some vulnerabilities and building on their strengths to resemble those of others.

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 core titles; full-text display of journal articles is PDF and searchable HTML formats for the entire body of text or article summaries display; personal search facilities; and technical literature.

Ask for information about your operating system and the software is installed. If your computer or software is not Y2K compliant, then you need to consider some remediation. You can fill out a survey about the site.

Tips on handling Y2K problems

- As of today, June 3, there are 211 days left until Year 2000.
- If you get software that doesn’t address the Desktop Y2K problems?
- Take an inventory of the operating system that you are using (e.g. Win 95/98/2000).
- Hardware and software is installed. Next, check the WMU University Web site, which can be found at www.wmich.edu/.
- For more 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.

OUTOBURY

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

Lewis was a life member of the American Occupational Therapy Association and American Society for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled and a past president of the American Occupational Therapy Association. She was a fellow member of the World Occupational Therapy Association and American Occupational Therapy Association. She retired from WMU in 1981.

FOR SALE—Double recliner loveseat, floral design, used for eight months. Price is $7.50. Contact 726-5215.

FOR SALE—Affordable housing, in-print for one year. Price is $26. Contact WMU Bookstore.

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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 playing concerts in packed houses in Australia, New Zealand and Fiji.

In all, 88 students joined by 11 faculty and staff members boarded the three countries April 28 to May 11. The student entourage was composed of 22 members of Gold Company II and members of the University Symphonic Band and University Concert Band, who 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 to 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 experience as a chance to perform internationally.

The trip was designed 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 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 Cathedral 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 the students enjoy the homes, but the hosts received tips about their own country, and they were able to find out that most American youths are not like those featured in "Beverly Hills 90210."

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

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

The Australian concerts sparked two reunions, one in Melbourne, Australia, named Szuz Burton performed with students after her husband gave a plane ticket for Melbourne to Karen and Patrick Beauregard, one of Spradling's graduate assistants, was reunited with his sister, who lives in Parramatta, Australia, just completed a master's degree in concentration in conducting, directed the Symphony that evening.

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

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

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

Albanian refugees from Kosovo are being guided for the first time those victimized by ethnic cleansings in the first time those victimized by ethnic cleansings in the N.Y. The experiences of those in the U.S. only wartime camp for refugees is told by Front Street/Cricket Books of Chicago. This is Bat-Ami's first experience writing a non-fiction and the Far East.

"Nearly every fact about the camp in this book was either told to me, heard on the radio or tapes or read by me," says Bat-Ami. "The stories have histories to tell that resonate of times today. Many refugees left careers, money, their prop-

erty and communities and were filled with anguish over the fate of relatives and friends who mysteriously disappear. 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 inter-

ment there. Bat-Ami will be present at the reunion and will give a reading from her book at an Owego bookstore.

Bat-Ami says that one impetus for writ-

ing "Two Suns in the Sky" was that, even though it has been a project 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 rela-

tionship between Chris, a teenage girl from Yugoslavia, and Adam, a 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's struggle fighting for freedom, and Adam's father and brother who are still in Europe.

A pivotal symbol in the book, and in many accounts of refugees, is the fence that surrounds the center.

"The fence was an enormously emo-
tional 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 who was knocking on the other side of the fence.

As a result, a hole under the fence developed, allowing refugees and resi-

dents 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 camp.

"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)

NEH institute actually physically having the manuscript.

In addition to WMU faculty members involved, a number of guest faculty mem-

bers will come from institutions like Cambridge University, Stanford Univer-

sity, the University of Kentucky and the University of Chicago. The NEH insti-

tute was founded in 1992 to promote 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 se-

veral hundred memberships including chal-

lenges in Japan, Mexico and England.

For more information about the confer-

ence and ASLE fees for daily programs, contact Bailey at 7-5300.

Diminished nature (Continued from page one)

A highlight of the conference will be an evening of readings from environmentalist 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 Charles of the Big Shop.

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

Six plenary sessions also are planned featuring a number of noted environment-

alists. 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 also an international poetry reading pre-

sented by Terry Gifford of Breton Hall College at Leeds University in England and Shinji Watanabe of Japan's Rikkyo

University from 8 to 9:15 a.m. Friday. According to Bailey, the topic will diminish the enjoyment of the participants, there is also at least one evening of readings that will be presented by the conference planning committee, the event is somewhat of an "open mike night" according to Bailey. The readings will be readings of a nature poem that they or someone near and dear to their hearts has written. Other at-

tendees, who also fashion themselves as troubadours, also will provide entertain-

ment.

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

EMI Institute 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 se-

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