Grants climb to $24.2 million, up 14.4 percent over last year

With a record $24.2 million in grants secured by the end of the 1995-96 fiscal year, the University’s research future looks brighter than ever, Donald E. Thompson, vice-president for research, told the Board of Trustees at its Sept. 13 meeting. Grants for the year totaled $24,155,766, topping the previous $21.1 million record set last year by more than $3 million. That amount, which includes the final month of June’s $1,625,297 grant total, represents a 14.4 percent increase in grant funding over the past year. Annual external funding for University research has climbed by more than $20 million since 1985 — with nearly $8 million in increased annual funding in the past three years alone.

“We’re building a better future for research at this institution,” Thompson says. “And in the process, we’re building a better future for those who benefit from our applied research and the solutions to problems our research provides.

He credits the recent success to a host of new graduate programs that include a strong research component; a growing core of enthusiastic researchers; many of our new faculty members; and a firm track record and growing reputation among funding agencies as an institution where applied research is done with great flair. He pointed also at the physical transformation of our campus’ new science and aviation facilities as a further indication that the future will be bright for WMU.

“We’ve been focusing on funding sources that will enable our faculty to do the research that works,” Thompson says of recent efforts. “We have a good foundation and a good cross-section of researchers who are willing to work together. Now we’re in the process of improving the whole physical site for research. We’ll have good materials with which to do research and those materials will help us attract more top researchers and students and boost the campus research spirit even higher.”

Significant components to the grant total, Thompson says, included a 25 percent increase in the number of awards of $500,000 or more since 1994-95. The amount of federal grant funding also increased in the last year by 91 percent — with much of that figure represented by a $6 million award received early in June to boost the School of Aviation Sciences. Large, multi-year federal grants awarded to WMU researchers during the 1990s also have set the stage for future research gains, Thompson notes. Since 1990, two five-year, federal awards in excess of $5 million have gone to campus researchers at the National Science Foundation. The campus and the University have set last year by more than $3 million. That’s a significant result of our ongoing efforts to improve our research work and attract much-needed federal funds.

Grants to the arts, sciences, construction, and deferred cash gifts of $10,228,786, a record $12.3 million in gifts, the largest total in the University’s history.

The University received record cash and deferred cash gifts of $10,228,786, a figure that is nearly 20 percent above the previous record of $8.5 million set last year. With the value of $2,111,742 in non-cash gifts received during the year added to the figure, the total reached $12,340,528, setting a new record for total gifts to the University in a single fiscal year and surpassing the previous gift record of $11.1 million set in 1991. The figures were reported to the Board of Trustees at its Sept. 13 meeting.

“These are significant numbers,” says Keith A. Pretty, vice-president for external affairs and general counsel. “This level of support really says that people believe in this University and its leadership and want to invest in the future.

“During the past 10 years,” he continued, “the public has given almost $84 million in gifts to the University. That’s $84 million in scholarships, as well as program support and construction assistance that didn’t exist before.”

Pretty notes that the year’s gifts to the University were made to a wide variety of academic programs and initiatives. That’s a further indication of the University’s wide support in the state and around the country, he says, as well as a residual effect of the fundraising efforts of both individual and deferred cash gifts was received during the final month in the University’s fiscal year.

Among major individual gifts reported during the month was a $136,210 bequest from the estate of Samuel K. Smart Jr. to support a scholarship fund in his name in the College of Education. The funds will benefit students preparing for careers as science or mathematics instructors. Smart, who died in 1994, was a teacher for 20 years in the Starke Springs Public Schools. He earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from WMU in 1949 and 1956, respectively.

Also noted on the report was an anonymous gift of $45,375 from an alumni who resides in Florida. The gift will support a scholarship, awarded on the basis of academic merit, to full-time students majoring in computer science, mathematics or statistics or physics.

West Michigan University

Western Michigan University

Volume 23, Number 4
September 19, 1996

Gifts surpass five-year-old record, reaching $12.3 million in 1995-96

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

THE SERVICE LOOKS GREAT — Dining never looked better for the 1,000 students who eat daily in the Goldsworthy Valley dining room. A completely renovated dining room and server lines as well as delis and carry-out areas are new part of the daily dining experience. “We wanted a theme that was young and appealing — a place that freshmen would want to come back to,” says Jan Myers, director of campus facility development, who coordinated the remodeling. “We worked to get away from the institutional look and move toward the feeling of a warm, friendly restaurant.” The Valley dining area renovation included new window systems and blinds; new flooring and lighting; divider wall and columns; a dropped ceiling; television and jukebox entertainment areas at opposite ends of the room; and walls covered with large photos of student life. James R. Dean, dining services, says self-service lines in the center of the dining area, like the ones pioneered here by five students at the beginning of a commercial buffet. Students can choose their own combination of dishes, select portion sizes and return at their leisure. Dean says the self-service configuration also has been implemented in the five other units in the campus dining service system.

Did you know?

- In the past 10 years, gifts to WMU have nearly tripled, climbing from $4.7 million in 1986-87 to $12.3 million in 1995-96.
- In the past 10 years, grants to WMU have been more than quadrupled — going from $5.6 million in 1986-87 to $24.2 million at the close of the 1995-96 fiscal year.
- The five highest totals in cash gifts received by WMU in its history have all been recorded in the past five years, with the record set this past year.
- Federal grant funding to the University has climbed in the past 10 years from $1.3 million at the close of the 1986-87 fiscal year to $12.3 million by the end of the 1995-96 fiscal year.
- During the past 10 years, the number of grant proposals written and submitted to funding agencies each year by WMU faculty members has increased by 139 percent — from 241 in 1986-87 to 577 in 1995-96.
- Gifts to the arts, sciences, construction, and athletic programs all were part of the mix that led to this year’s record levels.
- Gifts to the arts, sciences, construction, and athletics all were part of the mix that led to this year’s record levels.
- Gifts to the arts, sciences, construction, and athletics all were part of the mix that led to this year’s record levels.
- Gifts to the arts, sciences, construction, and athletics all were part of the mix that led to this year’s record levels.
- Gifts to the arts, sciences, construction, and athletics all were part of the mix that led to this year’s record levels.
A place worth bragging about

Light sees strength throughout University

"This place is a place worth bragging about," Timothy Light told the Board of Trustees Sept. 13 in his second annual report to the board as acting provost. "It is a place where a large number of the brightest and hardiest students are coming and going."

The challenge in establishing the new counseling psychology program has been formidable, he says. "With the new program they will be able to complete their degrees without interference from the phase-in of the new program.

The new master's degree will expand the program currently required to prepare counseling psychologists for the Marlatt book; and Rick Bass for the Rybicki book.

The inaugural volumes in the series and the workshops and seminars are available to all titles, including books to be published. Eimers and Rybicki book. All of the poets published in the first three highly regarded poets and writers: Olsen for the Fishman book; Jack Driscoll for the Marlatt book; and Rick Bass for the Rybicki book.

Board approves new doctoral and master's degrees

The Board of Trustees Sept. 13 approved the offer to facilitate a doctoral of philosophy in counseling psychology and a master of science degree in medicine. The new program is being offered in conjunction with the Medical College of Georgia.

"The change in the program is more to the people with whom I work most closely," Carol L. Stamm and Richard K. Light, who became acting provost Aug. 5, has been a faculty member at Kalamazoo College. "Light also acknowledged the help of "the people with whom I work most closely," Carol L. Stamm and Richard K. Light, who became acting provost Aug. 5, has been a faculty member at Kalamazoo College.

The new master of science degree in medicine eventually will replace the baccalaureate program which is no longer offered.

The new AP accredited Ph.D. program in counseling psychology is offered by Michigan State University.

"The change in the program is more to the people with whom I work most closely," Carol L. Stamm and Richard K. Light, who became acting provost Aug. 5, has been a faculty member at Kalamazoo College.

The new AP accredited Ph.D. program in counseling psychology is offered by Michigan State University.

"The change in the program is more to the people with whom I work most closely," Carol L. Stamm and Richard K. Light, who became acting provost Aug. 5, has been a faculty member at Kalamazoo College.

The new AP accredited Ph.D. program in counseling psychology is offered by Michigan State University.

"The change in the program is more to the people with whom I work most closely," Carol L. Stamm and Richard K. Light, who became acting provost Aug. 5, has been a faculty member at Kalamazoo College.
Geographer's expertise on Aral Sea results in selection for USAID project in Uzbekistan

While the Iron Curtain was drawn across Central Asia, one WMU professor took to the world to a growing environmental disaster: the Aral Sea. Philip P. Micklin, geography, who first alerted the West to the destruction of the Aral Sea, has accepted a year-long post in Uzbekistan from environmental experts traveling to the region. Micklin plans to listen to their needs, offer advice and try to deter them when he feels strongly that an ill-conceived plan is about to go ahead in dealing with an environmental issue. Besides consulting with Uzbek officials, Micklin will arrange for local technical training and coordinate his and the USAID's efforts with other major organizations working in the Aral region and the tributary rivers. Micklin, a faculty member at WMU since 1986, says this project will be spent in dealing with the difficult task of finding housing, setting up an office and devising a plan of action.

The Children's Place, the University's new child care center, will hold an open house to showcase its facilities from 3 to 6 p.m. Monday, Sept. 23.

Service.

Participants are encouraged to bring a lunch.

TIAA-CREF will be sponsoring two workshops to help employees build a strong financial plan. The workshops will help you learn the essential financial techniques you need to design a plan that meets your particular needs and goals.

FORSALE — Five-bedroom portage township colonial, nestled on 2 acres of living space, large lot overlooking woods and creek at end of cul-de-sac; three bedrooms, full basement, large family room, central air conditioning, mechanical heat, fireplace, one car attached garage, $143,900 or best offer. Call 7-5528 or 353-0717, evenings.

Forbes magazine has named WMU an "America's Best Buy," the highest national distinction for a college or university. The rating is based on a five-year study of the cost-effectiveness of the education offered at WMU compared to peer institutions in the United States.

Obituary.

Media.

Carolyn V. Lewis, political science, discusses women voters on "Focus," a five-minute weekly program on WKZO-AM (590), WKMI-AM (1420) and WCFY-FM (90.1). "Focus" is also used on a regular basis by WKZO-AM (590), WKMI-AM (1360) and several other radio stations around Michigan.

Oxfam is an international relief and development organization fighting global poverty. We believe that the root causes of poverty can be changed. We work to build a society that is more equal, less unequal, and fully committed to reducing poverty in the long term. Oxfam campaigns to end the major causes of poverty — lack of education, corruption and inequality — at the local and international levels. We work with the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world to fight the causes of poverty, including environmental degradation, and to build a society that is more equal, less unequal, and fully committed to reducing poverty in the long term.

Human resources.

TIAA-CREF will be sponsoring two workshops to help employees build a strong financial plan. The workshops will help you learn the essential financial techniques you need to design a plan that meets your particular needs and goals.

FORSALE — Five-bedroom portage township colonial, nestled on 2 acres of living space, large lot overlooking woods and creek at end of cul-de-sac; three bedrooms, full basement, large family room, central air conditioning, mechanical heat, fireplace, one car attached garage, $143,900 or best offer. Call 7-5528 or 353-0717, evenings.

Forbes magazine has named WMU an "America's Best Buy," the highest national distinction for a college or university. The rating is based on a five-year study of the cost-effectiveness of the education offered at WMU compared to peer institutions in the United States.
Four September 19, 1996 Western News

Calendar

The master calendar maintained by news services for use in Western News is available through the University's web site. Currently, there are three calendars available: September events; October events; and future events, which ran from November 1996 through December 1997. To view the calendar, type Gopher at the system prompt. At the prompt, type CUMUNIV followed by three periods, then hit Enter. You will find options for 1. This Month's Events, 2. Next Month's Events and 3. Future Events.

Thursday, September 19
(thru 28) Hispanic Heritage Month cultural exhibit, third floor showcases, Waldo Library.

Saturday, September 21
Panel discussion on Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education grants, 157-Z, 8:30-10 a.m.; to register call 7-3232.

Sunday, September 22
*Volleyball, WMU vs. Miami University, University Arena, 7 p.m.
*Young Concert Artists Series concert, Gregory Turay, tenor, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

Monday, September 23
Exhibition, painting by Bruce Richards, BFA candidate, Rotunda and South Galleries, East Hall, weekdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; closing reception, Friday, Sept. 27, 6-8 p.m.

Tuesday, September 24
Electrical and computer engineering seminar, “Some New Methods for Solving Differential Equations,” Dean R Johnson, electrical and computing engineering, 3002 South Science Center, noon-1:30 p.m.; for reservations call 7-8298.

Wednesday, September 25
*Volunteer fair intended to spark involvement in volunteer opportunities open to the community, the University Arena. The fair is designed to encourage outstanding students from across the community a comprehensive look at volunteer opportunities in agencies in the Greater Kalamazoo area. The event is expected to attract up to 1,000 people and 110 community organizations.

Thursday, September 26
“Gathering of Women,” Faculty Dining Room, Bernhard Center Public Cafeteria, noon-p.m.

Volunteer opportunities Fair, University Arena, 3-9 p.m.

SOUTHWESTFEST — WMU fans from Southwest Michigan braved the iffy weather to take part in the University's first "SouthwestFest" at the Sept. 14 football game. The celebration was designed to extend the successful "CommUniCity" concept to communities across Southwest Michigan. Hyames Field featured a miniature version of the I-94-US.131 layout with community tailgate tents located at appropriate spots along the grid. The village of Lawton was represented by, from left, Dan Pratley, superintendent of the Lawton Public Schools; residents Jerry and Kay Martin, Dave Cornish, village president, and Hank Grosel, plant manager for Welch's.

Volunteer Opportunities Fair, University Arena, 3-9 p.m.

Electrical and computer engineering seminar, “Some New Methods for Solving Differential Equations,” Dean R Johnson, electrical and computing engineering, 3002 South Science Center, noon-1:30 p.m.; to register call 7-3232.

Volunteering and Scholarships Program, “institutional Analysis and Its Application: a Discussion of the Workshop on Political Theory and Policy Analysis at Indiana University, 2302 Sangren Hall, 8 p.m.

Thursday, September 26
*Gathering of Women,” Faculty Dining Room, Bernhard Center Public Cafeteria, noon-p.m.

Master class, Horacio Gutierrez, piano, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 2 p.m.

Hispanic Heritage Month cultural exhibit, third floor showcases, Waldo Library and the Computing Center, 2 p.m.

*Volleyball, WMU vs. Ohio University, University Arena, 7 p.m.

Saturday, September 21
*Volleyball, WMU vs. Ohio University, University Arena, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, September 25
*Young Concert Artists Series concert, Gregory Turay, tenor, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

Washington, D.C., visits and voter registration booths will be set up throughout the community.

"That kind of contact makes all the difference," Thompson says.