New program adds global perspective to faculty ranks

WMU’s long-standing commitment to international education is being infused with new energy from a successful program that recruits faculty with experience abroad.

In 1993, President Haenicke implemented a special hiring program to increase the international expertise of the faculty. Each year, the president sets aside a special allocation that is sufficient to hire four to six tenure track assistant or associate professors. These positions are available to any department above and beyond the positions authorized by the deans and the provost.

“The possibility of attracting new and additional positions provides a strong incentive for departments to look aggressively for candidates who meet the specific criteria for this special talent pool,” Haenicke said. “At the current rate of hiring, we expect that in 10 years we shall have added to our regular faculty at least another 50 colleagues with strong international credentials and expertise.”

Haenicke said he began the program because the University had begun to lose some of its faculty with international expertise to retirement and he felt there was a need to broaden the scope of the faculty to coincide with other internationalization efforts.

In the 1960s, the University made a concerted effort to attract faculty members with international expertise. WMU became home to some of the most distinguished scholars in the world focusing their research on countries that included Korea, Nigeria and Pakistan.

“When I came to WMU in 1985,” Haenicke said, “the composition of our faculty was beginning to change. Many of those international experts hired in the 1960s were approaching retirement age. We needed to take a hard look at our recruitment efforts and to put in place a program that would permanently guarantee the presence of a cadre of international experts on our faculty.”

“I am a strong believer in the striking educational benefits a university derives from a culturally diverse student and faculty body,” he continued. “I have seen firsthand the improved understanding that results from exposure to culturally different points of view. Students have told me how much better they are prepared for careers in a global economy because of international education.”

Since the program began, 12 faculty members have been hired. The faculty members must speak, read and write fluently in another language; must have lived or studied or worked for an extended period in another country; and must apply half of their teaching load to instruction in an international or comparative subject.

The goal has been to position the faculty in geographical areas that correspond to University priorities in the 1990s. These areas include Europe, Asia, Latin America and Africa. Because WMU already has a large number of European specialists, hiring has been most vigorous in the Asian and Latin American areas.

About half of the recent hires were born in other countries; the other half are Americans who have lived and studied abroad. Here is brief background on some of the faculty members the University has attracted recently:

• Catherine Julien is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of California at Berkeley who is an expert on Latin American history. She specializes in Incan history and archaeology and sixth century South America. She has spent half of the past 15 years abroad, primarily in Spain, Germany and Bolivia. Recently, she was a faculty member at the University of Bonn, where she also spent two years as a Humboldt Fellow.

• Qianshen Bai is an art historian who was born in China and studied at Peking, Rutgers and Yale universities. An expert in Chinese and Japanese art, she won first place in the National Calligraphy Compe- tition for University Students in China. His calligraphy has been widely published and exhibited.

• Ann Miles is an anthropologist who has conducted research on gender and class in southern Ecuador and on popular health conceptions and the political economy of alternative medicine. She studied anthropology at the University of Chicago and Syracuse University and public health at Columbia University. Her teaching specialties include medical anthropology and the cultures of Latin America.

• Gunther Hegel is a political scientist who specializes in comparative politics, European politics and international relations. A native of Germany, he was educated at the University of Tubingen and Washington University in St. Louis. His research interests include economic, industrial and education policies in Europe as well as European integration.

• Julie Fischer is an American-born geographer whose research interests include natural resource tenure and management systems in Guinea, West Africa. She has spent several years working at a land tenure center in West Africa and is fluent in French.

The significant contributions student employees make to the University were recognized during the 11th Annual Student Employment Week Feb. 10-14. As part of the celebration organized by the student employment referral service, two members of the University community were honored as “Student Employee of the Year” and “Supervisor of the Year.”

LEFT: Kevin Knutson (holding plaque), residence hall life facilitator, is surrounded by some of the students he supervises as director of Garneau/Harvey Halls. In nominating him for “Supervisor of the Year,” one student wrote, “Kevin makes daily contributions to student growth and development. He is caring, supportive and flexible. He is one-on-one with his students, encourages goal setting and conflict resolution. In the programming aspect of his position, he emphasizes academic and becoming successful students.”

The Department of Blind Rehabilitation is the oldest, largest and one of the best-known blindness programs in the world and each year attracts visitors from around the world as well as requests from other nations for help in building their own blindness programs.

The Department of Occupational Therapy offers a new graduate certificate program in hippotherapy—the use of horses and riding to accomplish specific therapeutic objectives. The program is the first of its kind in the nation and the only University-based program in the world.

The Graduate Certificate Program in Alcohol and Drug Abuse was the first such program of its kind in the nation and today is internationally known as a leader in substance abuse education.

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Mainframe moving to computing center

The University's administrative mainframe computer system, which provides access to the Library information systems and the telephone registration systems, will be down from 11 p.m. Fri., Feb. 28, to 7 a.m. Mon., March 3.

The system is being relocated from the basement of the Seibert Administration Building, the first floor of the University Computing Center. It will be returned to service as soon as the relocation has been completed.

A consolidation of all computing operations has been an objective since the computing center was first established years ago, according to Richard A. Wright, associate vice president for academic affairs and director of the Computing Center. The new equipment will require an elaborate water cooling system and the old type and disk drive storage systems were too large for available space in the new building.

Now, the equipment has been upgraded to state-of-the-art in terms of water cooling and the floor space needed is a fraction of the old.

"The move will finally achieve the University's goal to finally unify and integrate all computing services into one unit, under a single director, in a single building," Wright said.

The move also will allow operations staff to expand their knowledge and change, but the long-term result will be improved service capability for the University community," Wright said. "The move will also help plan for the future. The majority of campus users should not even see a disruption in their service.

Telephone numbers for the administrative operations and production control staff will remain the same. All report distribution will now be at the new location.

Seminar for office personnel marks 25th year

For 24 years, WMU has presented an annual seminar as a way of helping all levels of office personnel adapt to workplace changes. This wealth of communication styles and personality types, "says Joel P. Bowman, chairperson of the Office of Marketing, Public Relations and Communications by noon Tuesday of the week of the issue will be published Thursday, March 13. For more information about the pilot testing project, call Zimmer at 7-3263.

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The day will conclude with a banquet and the 20th Annual Deans’ Occupational Therapy Research Day will return to the campus of its origin to celebrate both the 100th anniversary of that event and to launch activities marking the 75th anniversary of WMU’s Department of Occupational Therapy. Students and professionals from more than 100 research clinics and students from six Midwestern states are expected to attend activities which will take place at WMU’s Health and Medical Sciences Center and the Fetzer Center.

The two-day event will focus on the topic of mentoring. It will include a day-long workshop on Friday, March 14. Following the workshop, a reception and tours of WMU’s Allied Health Clinics will be offered. The day will conclude with a banquet and the Bill Burian Memorial Lecture—named for the founding dean of WMU’s College of Health and Human Services—who also initiated the annual Deans’ Research Day. Presentations, roundtable discussions and poster presentations are expected to attend those events.

The occupational therapy program at WMU ranks among the nation’s two or three oldest academic programs in the field. The department founder was Marion R. L. Spear, director of occupational therapy at the Kalamazoo Asylum who began an OT training program to fill the Post-World War I demand for therapists. The first collaboration between her training program and Western State Teachers College began in 1918.

Nomination due March 5 for excellence awards

Nominations for staff Service Excellence Awards are due Wednesday, March 5.

Under the new format for this award program, up to 12 individuals may be selected from those nominated to receive a prize of $100 (less taxes) and a commemorative certificate. Nominations may be submitted by any employee. The committee will not know the names of the nominators or nominees. Consideration will be based solely on the individual’s contribution to the University. For this reason, be sure to include as much detail as possible explaining how your nominee has performed in true excellence when you make a nomination.

The committee will be looking for employees who have far exceeded their normal expectations in service to the University. To make a nomination, use the form included in the flyer that was sent out last week, or contact the Department of Human Resources. Information about colleagues may also be submitted by memo or by e-mail to Anne E. Thompson, human resources (anne.thompson@wmich.edu). Awards are due Wednesday, March 5.

More than 100 area educators will meet on campus for conference March 13, as part of the 20th Annual Deans’ Occupational Therapy Research Day. The Deans’ Research Day is part of 75th anniversary activities for WMU’s Department of Occupational Therapy. Atherapist to present Young Scholars lecture

A family with a special interest in treatment of the handicapped will be the topic of a Thursday, March 13, as part of the themes of the Young Scholars Program. The three-week workshop will be presented by Charles B. Royeen, professor and assistant dean for research in the Department of Occupational Therapy, and his wife, Dr. Marjorie Royeen, associate clinical associate professor at the College of Human Development in Philadelphia, will discuss “The Spiritual Basis for Therapy with Poor Families” at 7:15 p.m. in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. The program, certificates and monetary awards will be presented to students and master’s degree students for their scholarly papers, presentations, community service and recognition.

Apotheorist also will be director of the Philadelphia Child Guidance Clinic and a lead teacher at the Menninger Clinic in Topeka, Kan.

He trains therapists to work with the similarities and differences between themselves and their clients in socio-economic status, personal life experience and values. He is the author of “Bread and Spirit: Therapy with the Poor New: Diversity of Race, Culture and Values.” This book puts family therapy in the context of an African American base of ethnicity, culture and spirituality at the heart of their therapy, an issue of particular importance to race, culture and age.

The Young Whitney Jr. Scholars Program is sponsored by WMU’s School of Social Work in 1971 as a memorial to Whitney Young, an internationally known social worker who died that year. At the time of his death, he was the executive director of the Urban League of America. As president of the National Association of Social Work (NASW), Young was instrumental in the formation of the National Association of Social Work (NASW) School of Social Work in 1968.

For more information, contact Linwood H. Cousins, social work, at 3-7173.

Nature Conservancy representative to speak

An official from the Nature Conservancy will discuss work the organization is doing in Michigan during two lectures on campus, Tuesday and Wednesday, March 11-12.

David Ewert, director of science and stewardship at the Michigan office of the Nature Conservancy in East Lansing, will lead a first public presentation at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Kresge Auditorium at WMU’s Fetzer Center. His topic will be “The Nature Conservancy in Michigan.”

Ewert also will present as part of the Department of Biological Sciences seminar program at 4 p.m. Wednesday in the G. F. C. O. and W. C. Baker Auditorium of the Science Hall. The seminar is titled "Habitat Protection Along Lake Huron, Mich."

In the first lecture, Ewert will describe some of the Nature Conservancy’s 37 Michigan preserves, which include dunes, marshes, prairies and forest. He will discuss the organization’s efforts to protect the preserves, such as controlled burning to maintain prairie, as well as its research on endangered species and cooperative conservation ventures with other groups and government agencies.

Ewert’s second lecture will cover research he is conducting on neotropical migratory birds, which migrate with today’s “green revolution” behind them. At the time of his death, he was the executive director of the Urban League of America. As president of the National Association of Social Work (NASW), Young was instrumental in the formation of the National Association of Social Work (NASW) School of Social Work in 1968.

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Future events, which run from April through December. To view the calendars, type "Future Events." The calendars also are available through Gopher on the VMS cluster.

Thursday, February 27

(an 28) Exhibition, painting by Peter Middleton and Andrew Snyder, Rotunda and South Galleries, East Hall, weekdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; reception, Friday, Feb. 28, 5-8 p.m.

*Management development program, "Positive Discipline: A Primer on Problem-Solving Employee Relations," Fetzer Center, 8:30 a.m.-noon, to register call 7-3322.

Monday, March 3

(thur 7) Spring break.

*Management development program, "Riding the Wave of Change: How to Build Resilience in Times of Change," Fetzer Center, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; to register call 7-3322.

Tuesday, March 4

*Management development program, "Organizational Intelligence: Restoring Balance in a Chaotic Environment," Byron Stock, performance improvement consultant, Fetzer Center, 7:30 a.m.-9 a.m.; to register call 7-4174.

March 5

(thur 14) Exhibition, graphic design by BFA candidates Wendy Morgan, Cheryl Jipping and Kelly Krumm; Rotunda and South Galleries, East Hall, weekdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; reception, Thursday, March 13, 5 p.m.

*Doctoral oral examination, "A Systems Approach to Performance Quality: An Application to Higher Education," Tobias Lafleur, psychology, 208 North Hall, 10 a.m.

Thursday, March 6

(thur 27) Exhibition, sculpture by John Payne, University Park, Ill., artist, Gallery II. Sangren Hall, weekdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Conference (Continued from page one)

The conference will open on Thursday, March 13, with welcoming remarks by WMU President Thomas J. Haenicke and a talk by Ephraim Issac, director of Semitic Studies at Princeton University who will also be a workshop presenter for the conference.

Friday activities, which will run from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., will include both keynote addresses and morning and afternoon workshop sessions.

The conference will deliver the morning keynote address at 8:45 a.m. He is currently professor of history and American culture at Georgia State University and is also a commentator for National Public Radio.

Wilkins served as assistant attorney general under the Lyndon Johnson administration and worked for the Ford Foundation. He has international experience in international development before launching a distinguished career in journalism. He has worked for the BBC, ABC, CBS, CNN, The New York Times and the Washington Post and as a network radio commentator for both CBS News Radio and National Public Radio.

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