The University will award more than 1,600 degrees in commencement exercises Saturday, June 28, in Miller Auditorium. There will be two ceremonies: one at 9 a.m. for graduates of the Haworth College of Business, the College of Education, the College of Fine Arts and the Division of Continuing Education's General University Studies Program; and one at 11:30 a.m. for graduates of the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences and the College of Health and Human Services.

A total of 1,013 bachelor's, 569 master's and 27 doctoral degrees will be awarded. Students who are completing their degrees at the end of the spring session in June, as well as those who will finish at the end of the summer session in August, are invited to participate in the ceremonies. WMU has no August commencement.

Music for the ceremonies will be performed by organist Karl Schlock. The national anthem and the alma mater will be sung by WMU's chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia professional music fraternity. The graduates will be welcomed as new alumni of the University by Robert G. Miller, president of the WMU Alumni Association. President Haenicke will preside over the ceremonies.

The Rev. Sylvester F. Harris Sr., of the Jude Missionary Baptist Church in Detroit will give the invocation and benediction at the 9 a.m. ceremony. His granddaughter, Nginia M. Wilson of Detroit, will be receiving a bachelor of business administration degree in management. Dolly Coad of the Greater Harvest Assembly in South Bend, Ind., will lead those two parts of the ceremony at 11:30 a.m. Coad, who earned her master's degree in educational leadership from WMU in 1985, is the mother of Sharon D. Elder of Niles, who will be receiving a bachelor of science degree in occupational therapy.

Tickets are required for the ceremonies. Each participating graduate is eligible to receive up to six guest tickets. Inquiries regarding additional tickets should be directed to the Office of the Registrar after June 7 at 7-4110.

Guests without tickets may view the exercises on a large-screen television in 3512 Knauss Hall. Each ceremony will air live on Channel 36 of EdABLE, the University's cable television system, and on Channel 30 of Kalamazoo Community Access Television.

The University's Office of Video Services is providing an opportunity for persons to have videotapes of each of the two ceremonies. Orders may be placed by calling 7-9003. The tapes are $20 each.

Finance major learns to budget time while completing bachelor's degree in two years

When Peter T. TerSteg came to WMU in fall 1995, he appeared to be your typical first-year student taking a manageable 16 credit hours.

Now, less than two years later, he's already completing his bachelor's degree at age 20, maintaining a solid "B" average and holding down a full-time job in his field. He'll graduate with a major in finance from the College of Arts and Sciences.

Tersteg entered the University less than two years ago, he already had accumulated 15 hours of college credit. During his junior and senior years at Pennfield High School in Battle Creek, he also attended Kellogg Community College.

Increasing numbers of students are entering the University already well on their way to a bachelor's degree, according to officials in the registrar's office. While tersteg's degree completion in a short amount of time isn't all unusual, the way that he did it and some of the other activities going on in his life certainly make him one of this spring's more unique graduates.

After taking an average class load during his first two semesters at WMU, tersteg reviewed the spring 1996 course offerings and made a decision. "There were three classes I really wanted to take, so I took all three," he said. "I also did an internship, and that made 10 credit hours. People said I was crazy." Because WMU's spring and summer sessions are half as long as fall and winter semesters, classes meet twice as often in the abbreviated timeframe.

TerSteg said since the spring session went well, he stayed around for summer session and took another nine credit hours. Even then, he ably tackled 21 credit hours. But this winter, he finally reached his limit. He signed up for a whopping 25 credit hours. "That got me in trouble," he admitted. "I couldn't quite handle that."

He finished all of his classes with the exception of a three-credit-hour readings in finance course, for which he had to write a paper. He had his research completed, but just couldn't get the paper into shape.

"So this spring, he's taking his now "usual" 11 credit hours, finishing his incomplete from last semester and working about 50 hours a week at the job he got his degree in through the Prudential West Michigan Realtors in Kalamazoo. Tersteg has always held down a job while going to school. In fact, he started a business selling computers at age 13 and continued that throughout college.

He's also worked as a software tester for Microsoft. In addition, he's been employed at a variety of other places.

(Continued on page four)
Seminars funded by an $89,107 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities will co-direct the seminar to explore Old English manuscripts. A selection committee at the WMU Institute, will co-direct the seminar with Timothy C. Graham of Cambridge, who has been a visiting scholar at the institute for several years.

The Parker Library at Corpus Christi College. Paul E. Szarmach, Medieval Institute, will co-direct the seminar with Timothy C. Graham, a WMU faculty member who has been visiting the library for several years.

Participants will have an opportunity to study some of the rare manuscripts housed at the Parker Library, provided WMU with an opportunity to launch an international collaborative effort between Cambridge and the University's Medieval Institute and its Rich- and Hasslo moor Center for Anglo-Saxon Stud- ies and Manuscript Research.

"The seminar will offer an outstanding opportunity to encounter some of the most important Anglo-Saxon manuscripts un- priviledged conditions of access," Szarmach says. "Without Tim Graham's connections to the Parker Library, this would not have been possible." The library at Corpus Christi College was founded in the 14th century, but was greatly enhanced by a bequest of Archbishop Matthew Parker in the late 16th century. Upon his death, the library re- ceived his holdings of medieval manuscripts and early printed books, including the dissolution of monasteries that occurred during the Reformation. Among the many Anglo-Saxon manuscripts housed there and available for study by the seminar participants is a ninth-century manuscript that is the earliest sur- viving copy of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle. That prose and poetry collection is consid- ered the most important source of knowl- edge about the history of late Anglo-Saxon literature.

Co-directors Szarmach and Graham will share their own extensive research back- grounds as they guide participants. Both are experts on the topic of Old English literature and have been involved in the development of new technologies to help scholars study ancient texts. Szarmach is an international- ly recognized authority on Anglo-Saxon literature and one of the directors of the "Electronic Manuscript Project." His digital imaging project has resulted in making an electronic facsimile of the epic poem Beowulf available to scholars around the globe.

Graham will bring a special "insider's" view of the library's holdings to the seminar. "I am sure that the Parker Library has the most important Anglo-Saxon manuscripts under-privileged conditions of access," Szarmach says. "Without Tim Graham's connections to the Parker Library, this would not have been possible." The library at Corpus Christi College was founded in the 14th century, but was greatly enhanced by a bequest of Archbishop Matthew Parker in the late 16th century. Upon his death, the library re- ceived his holdings of medieval manuscripts and early printed books, including the dissolution of monasteries that occurred during the Reformation. Among the many Anglo-Saxon manuscripts housed there and available for study by the seminar participants is a ninth-century manuscript that is the earliest sur- viving copy of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle. That prose and poetry collection is consid- ered the most important source of knowl- edge about the history of late Anglo-Saxon literature.

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On campus

Stewart selected as women’s basketball coach

Roe Stewart, who has been an assistant with nationally-prominent men’s basketball programs at the University of Florida and Kansas State University, has been named WMU’s new head women’s basketball coach.

He replaces Pat Charity who resigned after seven years to accept a position as assistant coach/recruiting coordinator at the University of Alabama.

In 1995 at Gainesville, he assisted with practice and coaching during the Final Four of the National Invitation Tournament. In 1993 at Gainesville, he assisted with practice and coaching during the Final Four.

Stewart earlier had two-year stints as an assistant for Dave Bliss at Southern Methodist University and at the University of Nebraska (1979-80), with the Cornhuskers qualifying for the NCAA Tournament. He also was a volunteer assistant for Dave Bliss at Southern Methodist University, has been named head women’s basketball coach and graduate assistant coach at Kansas State University, has been named an assistant coach at Xavier University, and has served as the head coach at Western Michigan,” said James C. Weaver, intercollegiate athletics. “He is a tireless worker who possesses outstanding integrity, a thorough knowledge of the game and excellent recruiting skills. I firmly believe he is the best person to take our program to the next level.”

A native of Speedwell, Ind., Stewart had high school head coaching experience at Carmel (1983-85) and Indianapolis Cathedral (1985-87) and was a graduate assistant coach at both those clubs to sectional titles. He began coaching at the junior high school level in 1973 and served at two Carmel schools, and he has been national director of Showcase Camps for All Star Sports of Lenexa, a collegiate recruiter’s degree in political science/education from Indiana University and his master’s degree in history/political science from Butler University.

Four employees recognized for outstanding service with $1,000 awards

Four employees have been chosen by the Staff Service Excellence Awards selection committee from campuswide nominees to receive the 1997 annual awards of $1,000.

They are, along with the employee groupings they represent: Dorothea I. Barr, administrative staff; James C. Duzan, foreign languages and literatures, political science from Butler University; Alice F. Krepel, physical plant-building and custodial and support services; and Sally A. Veeder, Evaluation/Certification, professional/technical/administrative.

The awards are intended for those staff members who reach far beyond their assigned responsibilities to enhance the creativity and talent of their departments, and to make a difference. A total of 39 persons were nominated by department heads for the awards, the winners will receive a framed certificate and will be honored at a July 14 luncheon.

Barr was recognized for her outstanding service as a secretary in the political science department, the department said. She has worked for 24 of her 30 years at the University. Barr’s nominator stated that she is “the most extraordinary and indefatigable member” of the department he has known in three decades. Described as a central figure in the department’s complex academic and administrative activity, Barr is credited with providing continuity, bridging changes in administration and managing the transitions in faculty and staff over the years.

She was also cited for her response to students’ needs; sincere, professional, meticulous and impartial service to the faculty and to students, including commitment and performance. Barr’s nominator describes her as a “reserved and unassuming individual, but one with exceptional talent for the background.”

The selection committee agreed that there “comes a time for recognition when one has done their job to perfection repeatedly, year after year.”

Duzan was recognized as an administrative assistant in foreign languages and literatures, received six nominations. Each expressed her “unparalleled” commitment to WMU and the service and a “sense of department.”

Reaching out to faculty, students, staff and the public, Duzan works to ensure that the product we offer and represents the department attitudes to students and the general public with great fidelity and enthusiasm,” one nomination stated. Making a large investment of time and effort, Duzan has learned to speak French and Spanish fluently; she also knows some German, Japanese, Russian and Chinese and hopes to learn some Latin as well.

Service

These faculty and staff members are recognized for 15, 20 and 30 years of service to the University in June:

25 years — Patrick M. Halpin, campus service.

Web watch

The Office of Planning and Institutional Research has the newest site on the WMU Web. Its pages feature an electronic version of the Office of Institutional Research's Report of the Task Force on Enrollment Management; and Shirley A. Vernia, admissions and orientation.

The report is — Patricia A. Connolly, pawprint and Shirley A. Vernia, admissions and orientation.

A Web version of the WMU Calendar of Events is available through the WMU Department of Special Support Programs; Roger A. DeKookkoek, physical plant-maintenance services; Carol Klein, director, public relations; Amy Krieze, student financial aid and scholarships; Angela M. Miller, accounts payable; and Dr. Lisa St. Clair, physical plant-maintenance services; Randy D. VanAvery, physical plant-maintenance services; and Karen R. Wendell, human resources.

Five years — Judy J. Beam, business information systems; and Kyle W. Nystrom, intercollegiate athletics.

Paid placement advertising positions are available on the Job Opportunity Program and vacancies available to external applicants.

Jobs

The following list of vacancies is currently being posted through the Job Opportunity Program by employment services in WMU’s Career and Placement Services, 96/97-448, 6/17-6/23/97.

(R) Electrician (First, Second or Third Shift), M-6, Physical Plant-Maintenance and Custodial Services, 96/97-454, 6/17-6/23/97.

(R) Assistant Director, P-06, Accounting Services, 96/97-453, 6/17-6/23/97.

(R) Student Recruiter, Rural Health (5 FTE, Term Ends 6/30/98), P-02, College of Health and Human Services, 96/97-454, 6/17-6/23/97.

(R) Instructor/Assistant Professor (One-Year Term), 1-40/30, Social Work, 96/97-448, 6/17-6/23/97.

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.

Stewart in Valhalla

The Man in the Valley

Got a door to fix? Some furniture that needs repairs? Willie J. Harrell could be your man. In fact, he jokingly calls himself "the man in the Valley." Harrell is a carpenter in the physical plant’s furniture maintenance area. He takes care of such jobs as repairing doors and furniture, hanging curtains and fitting picture frames.

In fact, Harrell is one of several other tradepersons in his area. "We help each other," Harrell said. "We help each other get work done." Harrell, who learned his trade working construction in the Detroit area, is a licensed builder. He's also a Chili Dogs Bull fan, an active church member and a dedicated family man. He and his wife have five children, one of whom recently won first place in the Black Heroes Essay Contest at the Alma Powell Branch of the Kalamazoo Public Library. Harrell is proud of the fact that the hero his son identified in the essay published in the Kalamazoo Gazette was none other than himself.

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Gershon book analyzes global media corporations

While scholars and critics have been increasingly suspicious of the recent string of high-profile media mergers, a WMU faculty member has a more objective look in a textbook exploring the business logic behind such global decision-making.

Richard A. Gershon, a communications professor at WMU, is the author of "The Transnational Media Corporation: Power, Ideology, and the Global Market Competition." The book offers an in-depth business analysis of the forces that drive the growth of companies globally and, once it does, how that impacts the cost, availability and value of information and entertainment it provides.

"There is a public perception that such companies are huge, monolithic entities that control the entire global marketplace of ideas and I would argue just the opposite is true," says Gershon, who teaches telecommunications management courses. "Companies like Microsoft and Disney are very dominant in certain areas, but no one company can control it — as it might. The most successful companies in media and telecommunications tend to be highly individualistic and entrepreneurial in their approach to business."

Gershon defines the transnational media corporation as a company that operates globally with information and entertainment as its principal commodity. An evolution of the "global corporation" of the 1960s and '70s, today's transnational corporation is characterized by a corporate center that is often unknown to the general public and a corporate culture reflected by those who founded the corporation. The transnational corporation also operates in specific markets, with an obvious preference for where and how it can make the most profit.

"The book also gives a thorough explanation of the business philosophies and histories of these fierce competitors. Readers can learn how the Walt Disney Co. transformed itself from an ailing business in the 20th century into the giant, tremendous success it is now. The book also addresses the role of regulatory and economic reasons that prompt companies to transform themselves or refuse to do so. Overall, it examines the regulatory and economic logic behind such global decision-making," Gershon says.

In addition, Gershon's book "highlights the uniqueness of these firms, refining some of the popular myths surrounding large-scale companies. In some cases, you wouldn't recognize these companies, Gershon says. "Instead, as they become bigger, competitive pressures force them to develop an international business strategy.""