Board chairperson ends 35-year quest for bachelor's degree

Schlack to be honored for community service, contributions to profession at commencement

In 1974, Marilyn J. Schlack earned her doctor of education degree from WMU. That same year, she went to work at Kalamazoo Valley Community College as assistant dean of instruction. Currently president of KVCC, Schlack will return to WMU Saturday, Dec. 16, to receive an honorary doctor of public service degree for her exemplary community service and for distinguished contributions to her profession. She will be honored during one of three commencement ceremonies at 11:30 a.m. in Miller Auditorium.

"She is an outstanding citizen who did tireless work in coalescing a community spirit for economic development and revitalization of the core city of our community," said President Haenicke when he recommended Schlack as chairperson of the Board of Trustees approve the degree earlier this year. "In addition, she has been an outstanding leader in the field of education in our area and our region. I think it would be most appropriate if the institution honored these many contributions that Dr. Schlack has made to our community and to the lives of the citizens in it by bestowing this honor on her."

"My appreciation goes to Dr. Haenicke and the WMU Board of Trustees," Schlack said. "It means so much to be able to give me an honorary doctorate in public service. This degree will have a very special meaning to me. It is truly a special honor.

"This serves as an indicator of the value of institutions of higher education becoming deeply involved in their home communities to benefit not only their students but the people who call this place home," she said.

Schlack was promoted to dean of instruction at KVCC in 1976, executive dean and dean of instruction in 1981 and president in 1982. She was the first woman president of a community college in Michigan.

Her community service is both diverse and extensive, including her current position as past chairperson of the board of the Kalamazoo County Chamber of Commerce and past campaign chairperson for the Greater Kalamazoo United Way.

Schlack also chaired the downtown partnership that is spearheading the $100 million Arcadia Commons economic development initiative. She helped cultivate that cooperative venture, which now includes KVCC's $6.5 million downtown campus.

The National Council for Urban Economic Development has singled out Arcadia Commons for one of its national awards as a model private-public project.

She has also held volunteer leadership positions with the Borgess Medical Center, Kalamazoo County Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Kalamazoo United Way, the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Old Kent Bank of Kalamazoo, Junior Achievement, the Kalamazoo Enterprise Club and the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra.

University to award nearly 2,100 degrees

The University will award nearly 2,100 degrees in commencement exercises Saturday, Dec. 16, in Miller Auditorium.

There will be three ceremonies: One at 9 a.m. for graduates of the Haworth College of Business, the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences and the Division of Continuing Education's General University Diploma Program; one at 11:30 a.m. for graduates of the College of Education and the College of Health and Human Services; and one at 2 p.m. for graduates of the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Fine Arts.

A total of 1,645 bachelor's, 434 master's and 18 doctoral degrees will be awarded. At the 9 a.m. ceremony, Lana L. Boldi of Kentwood, president of the WMU Board of Trustees, will receive an honorary doctor of public service degree (see related stories on this page).

Music for the ceremonies will be performed by the Western Brass Ensemble directed by Steve M. Welsh; the Sinfonia professional music fraternity. The invocation and benediction will be given by Clarence Syrette of Niles, a Native American spiritual leader, at 9 a.m.; Father Kenneth Schmidt of St. Thomas More Student Parish of Kalamazoo at 11:30 a.m.; and Pastor Dale Krueger of the Immanuel Lutheran Church of Kalamazoo at 2 p.m.

The University's cable television system will broadcast the ceremonies. Orders may be placed by calling 7-5003. The tapes are $20 each.
PLANE PURCHASES TAKE AVIATION SCHOOL TO NEW HEIGHTS - Sky Bronco Michele Kimmet, a senior aviation management major from Ypsilanti, was one of the first students to get a close-up look at the cockpit of the School of Aviation Sciences' new Mooney Ovation. The plane is the first of three such planes purchased with funds from a W.K. Kellogg Foundation grant. Joseph H. Dunlap, right, director of the school, flew the plane in from Texas in November and says all three planes will be in Kalamazoo by the end of December. He calls the planes "the most sophisticated single-engine advanced instrument trainers used in any school in the world" and says each comes equipped with an Electronic Flight Information System, a storm scope, auto pilot and a radar altimeter as well as a Global Positioning System, which works with feedback from satellites.

Thurber works highlighted in radio program

The work of the late American writer and cartoonist James Thurber will come to life in a readers' theatre production by a group of faculty members.

"A Thurber Menagerie: Of Dogs and Other Species (Including Humans)" is a matrix of the writings of poet Robert Frost. The broadcast will begin with a half-hour interview with the late author's daughter, Rosemary Thurber, a resident of South Haven. Smith says Thurber's daughter graciously gave him approval to use the included works. The 90-minute readers' theatre will follow.

Four other WMU faculty members make up the cast of "A Thurber Menagerie." Garrard Macleod, WMU and media services, serves as actor and producer. Other cast members are: Thomas E. Small, English; Carol Payne Smith, education and professional development, who is Smith's wife; and Timothy J. Smith, communication, who is her son.

Since his appointment to the faculty in 1964, Smith has directed and/or performed in 175 productions. In his retirement, he plans to pursue acting, directing and playwriting.

Readers respond positively to Western News survey

Faculty and staff members are faithful readers of the Western News, and they seem to like what they see.

The survey recently released findings of a readership survey of the faculty/staff newspaper conducted this past April.

"The goal was to find out who is reading the News and what they think about its content, design and distribution," said editor Ruth A. Stevens, news services. "The results were overwhelmingly positive."

Some 96 percent of those returning the survey either read almost every issue or read it once or twice a month. More than 70 percent of the respondents read either the entire issue or most of it. Nearly two-thirds of the respondents (63.8 percent) rated the content of Western News as "good." Another 13.8 percent rated the content as "excellent," for a total of 77.6 percent rating the paper as above average.

Only 1.1 percent said they didn't get a copy of Western News either by campus mail, in a University office or at an on-campus distribution point. "For those who didn't receive a copy or enough copies and identified themselves on the survey, we were able to immediately correct the problem," Stevens said. "Others who have distribution questions should contact us."

A total of 90.3 percent of those surveyed either agreed somewhat or strongly agreed that Western News keeps them informed as an employee. Some 86.9 percent either agreed somewhat or strongly agreed that the presentation of the News is appealing, and 82.1 percent either agreed somewhat or strongly agreed that the information presented in the News is timely. The survey also asked readers about the "public service" column initiated in recent years that are written by representatives of public agencies. Some 96 percent of those responding to the "Jobs" postings, the "On Campus" photo column, main campus distribution point. "For those who didn't receive a copy or enough copies and identified themselves on the survey, we were able to immediately correct the problem," Stevens said. "Others who have distribution questions should contact us."

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Readers respond positively to Western News survey

Faculty member collaborates on comprehensive collection of the writings of poet Robert Frost

A WMU faculty member has co-edited the first authoritative and truly comprehensive collection of the writings of Robert Frost. Eagerly awaited by fans and scholars of the 20th-century American poet, "Robert Frost: Collected Poems, Prose and Plays" has been produced by Mark Richardson, English, and Richard Poirier, the Marius Brewley Professor of English at Rutgers University.

The volume contains more than 1,000 pages of Frost prose and poetry, essays, speeches, letters and interviews — many of them unpublished or uncollected. It also includes an extensive and exhaustive chronology about Frost's life, an essay on the texts, an index of first lines, and explanatory notes by the editors.

"It's far more complete than any other edition of Frost's in print today," they say. "We were able to do this because the book is grounded in a lot of primary textual research." Richardson says in keeping with Frost's appeal as a poet, the book is intended for both audiences, students and scholars. "The book is the most complete collection of Frost's poetry is free of the unauthenticated, the common, the second or third most outstanding American humorist.

Thurber is probably best known by the generation of the 1930s, '40s and '50s. Much of his work appeared in The New Yorker magazine, but he's also known for stories like "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty." In recent years, Thurber's famous line drawings of animals and portly people and their pets have been popularized on T-shirts and notecards. Smith's production will center on 20 different Thurber stories that he has mixed together to form a script.

"I took pieces and interlaced them together in a way that would provide enough connections or connections without altering his writing," Smith says. "The stories are not always in sequence, but I tried to use the words based on my own sense of what tended to make sense and connect."
Four selected for service excellence awards

Four outstanding persons have been chosen by the Staff Service Excellence Selection Committee to receive awards for the second quarter of 1995-96.

Those who will receive the prestigious Staff Service Excellence Award for July, August, September are: Terry R. Bettiga, physical plant-maintenance services; Mary Lou Brooks, Academic Skills Center; Steven J. Sharp, physical plant-building custodial and support services; and Rodney Wade, physical plant-building custodial and support services. Among these four staff members, three employee groups are represented: Bettiga, professional/technical/administrative; Brooks, clerical/technical; and Sharp and Wade, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

The winners are among 23 employees nominated by their peers for recognition through this program, which was estabished in 1994 to honor excellence and performance above and beyond job requirements each quarter.

Each will receive a Service Excellence Certificate and a $50 gift certificate for the University Bookstore. In addition, the recipients will be honored at a dinner and dance on Dec. 5 in the Bernhard Center.

The club, which now has 332 active and 242 retired members, was founded in 1982 with the goal of recognizing and rewarding persons, nominated by fellow employees, for caring, conscientious and innovative service beyond job expectations. A total of 49 staff employees have received awards in the four preceding quarters.

The Department of Human Resources and the selection committee, representing the AFSCME, the Administrative Professional Association, the Clerical/Technical/Organization, the Michigan State Employees Association and the Office of the President, identified the award recipients, the sponsors of the award, and encouraged all staff members to nominate colleagues deserving of recognition.

While nominations may be submitted at any time, the Department of Human Resources will specify the award dates in the early part of the next quarter. Now is the time to be thinking of that special co-worker who deserves a public "thank you."

Holiday reception planned

Faculty and staff members are invited to the annual holiday reception sponsored by the University Board of Trustees from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 15, in the South Ballroom of the Bernhard Center. Supervisors are encouraged to arrange work schedules so that staff members who wish to attend the reception sometime during the afternoon may do so.

New edition of FACTS published

Two offices at the University have issued 1995-96 FACTS to departments and offices across the campus in quantities that they requested earlier this year.

The handy, pocket-sized publication is in great demand and also is being sent to departments and offices in quantities that will allow distribution to each faculty and staff member.

"We hope that this edition will be as successful as the first and that faculty and staff members will continue to share the information it contains with colleagues," said Jan W. Kyler, chairperson of English; Thomas F. Pagel, communication; and Robert E. Aponte, University computing services; Kenneth A. Pollock, physical plant-landscape services; and Dale H. Porter, history; Edward W. Randt Jr., physical plant-landscape services.

December openings

Applications are being accepted for the following positions either within a week or through a formal posting period, or may contact an employee in the Department of Human Resources. Interested employees-eligible employees can apply.

(Tenure Track) 1-30/20, Nursing, 95/96-294, 12/5-12/11/95 (R) Assistant/Associate Professor (Tenure Track), 1-30/20, Nursing, 95/96-298, 12/5-12/11/95.

In addition, several current openings were advertised 1995-96 FACTS to departments and offices in quantities that they requested earlier this year.

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Calendar

The master calendar maintained by news services for use in Western News is available through Gopher on the WMU VMS. Currently, there are three calendars available: December events; January events; and future events, which run from February through December. To view the calendars, type Gopher at the system prompt. At the next menu, choose 2. Western Michigan University, then choose 4. Campus Calendar. You will find options for 1. This Month’s Events, 2. Next Month’s Events and 3. Future Events.

Thursday, December 13

(38) Exhibition, paintings by Ellen Armstrong, MFA candidate, Gallery II, Sangren Hall, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

(38) Student Art Gallery exhibition, Max Newworth, MFA degree candidate, Rotunda and South galleries, East Hall, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; closing reception, Friday, Dec. 8-7 p.m.

Opera workshop, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 5 p.m.

Master class, Cassatt String Quartet, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 6 p.m.

Meeting, Faculty Senate, Fetzer Center, 7 p.m.

*Performance, Rodgers and Hammerstein’s “Cinderella,” Miller Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

(thru 9) University Theatre production, “The River Niger,” Shaw Theatre: Dec. 7-8, 8 p.m.; and Dec. 9-10, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, December 8


(*9) Hockey club of WMU vs. Bowling Green State University, Lawson Arena: Dec. 7, 7 p.m.; Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m.

*Concert, “Annual Tribute to the Great Swing Bands,” University Jazz Orchestra and Jazz Lab Band, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

Saturday, December 9

*Men’s basketball, WMU vs. Murray State University, University Arena, 1 p.m.

Student recital, Andrew MacPhail, tenor, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 3 p.m.

*Women’s basketball, WMU vs. Michigan State University: Dec. 7, 6 p.m.; Dec. 9, 7 p.m.

Meeting, Board of Trustees, times and locations to be announced.

*Concert, “Holiday Music for the Family,” University Jazz Orchestra and Faculty Jazz Ensemble, Kalamazoo Community Concert Band, 2-4 p.m.

A “Gathering of Women,” Soup and Sandwich Shoppe, Wesley Foundation building, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Monday, December 11

Retirement reception honoring Judy K. Timmerman, public safety, Dining Room, Bernhard Center, 2-4 p.m.

Friday, December 15

Meeting, Board of Trustees, times and locations to be announced.

Doctoral oral examination, “The Discriminative Stimulus Properties of Morphine and U-50,488 in the Datura Key Assay: A kappa and mu model in the Pigeon,” Malath Makhay, psychology, 208 North Hall, 1 p.m.

Holiday reception sponsored by President Haenicke and the Board of Trustees, South Gallery, Bernhard Center, 2-4 p.m.

*Hockey, WMU vs. Bowling Green State University, Lawson Arena, 7 p.m.

Boldi

(Continued from page one)

faculty members through writing, audio-tapes, telephone calls and e-mail on a regular basis.

Boldi took a writing course last year and is finishing a computer class this year. “They send me a booklet which gives me an outline and there’s always one or two textbooks that go with the course,” she says. “I just do the lessons and send them back through the Division of Continuing Education. The instructor looks at them, grades them and sends them back to me.”

For the writing class, Boldi prepared a lengthy paper for her final exam. This semester, she will take an exam proctored by a University representative.

“I’m just pleased that Western has these courses available for people like me,” Boldi says. “I just can’t say enough for continuing education.”

The challenge of this is a statement for what’s available for nontraditional students,” she continues. “If they ever had any thoughts or concerns about continuing their college education, they should do that. They are programs for everybody, no matter what their circumstances. I would hope that people who have been hesitating about going back to school because they thought they might be too busy or because they thought they might be too old, they wouldn’t think twice about coming to the University because you can’t help when you’re a student yourself. Anybody can go there and have that support.”

Her excitement is eclipsed only by that of her sons, Tony and James. “My two sons have been so supportive,” she says. “They’re just thrilled to death. Both think it’s great that I’m graduating. They’re really proud and happy for me.”

The tables were turned only three years ago, when Tony earned his bachelor’s degree from WMU. In fact, Boldi will be joining a sort of “Bronte dynasty” when she completes her degree. Beginning with her grandfather who attended WMU soon after its doors opened in the early 1900s, a legion of family members have become WMU alumni.

“My father had nine brothers and sisters, and eight of them went to Western,” says Boldi. “They had a lot of children who attended WMU, so I have many cousins who are alumni. I figure there’s at least eight in the family.”

During the commencement ceremony, Boldi expects that she will be performing along with other WMU graduates by helping Haenicke congratulate the graduates as they file across the stage.

“At some point, I’ll look to President Haenicke to determine when I will receive my diploma,” she says. “I’m not sure we’ll do that, although you can be sure I will be there when I leave, I’ll have one in my hand!”

Gagie announces plans to take early retirement

Martin R. (Joe) Gagie, executive director of public relations and communications, has announced his intentions to retire at the end of the year.

Gagie, who has headed public relations efforts at the University since 1974, will end his current responsibilities Dec. 31, 1995. He will take on special assignments from President Haenicke during the next year. His retirement, effective Dec. 31, 1995, is subject to approval by the Board of Trustees at its next meeting Friday, Dec. 15.

According to Haenicke, the public relations functions will report to Keith A. Pretty, vice president for external affairs and general counsel, beginning Jan. 1, 1996.

“As we came to WMU with President Emeritus John T. Bernhard from Western Illinois University, where he was director of news services. He previously was assistant director of information services and assistant professor of journalism at St. Cloud (Minn.) State University and assistant director of public information at the University of Illinois at Urbana.

Trustees meet Dec. 15

The Board of Trustees is scheduled to meet Dec. 15, in the Bernhard Center. Times and places of committee meetings and the full board meeting will be announced at Western News press time. All meetings are open to the public.

Gagie

Gagie arrives at 30 years of public relations

CATCHING UP — Henry W. Foster, who was nominated earlier this year by President Dr. Charles F. Boldi for U.S. surgeon general, met up with his longtime friend Bernardine M. Lacey, director of WMU’s School of Nursing, during a reception in the Bernhard Center. Foster came to campus following a luncheon address at the Radisson Hotel, which was part of the College of Health and Human Services’ William P. Burton Lecture Series. Currently a special consultant in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Foster spoke about youth. He and Lacey have been friends for 30 years and worked on several projects together.