WMU plays big part in economy with $414 million impact

WMU Economists Myron H. Ross, Werner Sichel and Raymond E. Zelder.

"This study is based on conservative and defensible assumptions, leading to a probable underestimate of WMU's annual economic impact," Harik said. "For example, we did not include spending by retirees, income from royalties and patents or the spillover effects of research."

In a related publication, called "Economic Impact Report: A Matter of Quality," WMU officials reported records in research grants and private gifts in the past year and a 10-year total of nearly $280 million in construction. In culture, entertainment and athletics, WMU attracted nearly 400,000 persons to events at its College of Fine Arts and Miller Auditorium and another 250,000 persons to athletic events in 1994-95.

Among academic programs, the report noted, the University's College of Education is ranked fourth in the nation in the number of teachers, counselors and administrators who complete professional education programs. The report, an eight-page tabloid newspaper, is being published this month by the Office of the President.

Activities planned in observance of King's birthday

The theme of this year's observance of the birthday will be "Cross Colors," a multi-ethnic student troupe that addresses diversity issues in a theatrical setting. The group, directed by Von H. Washington, is sponsored a speech contest based on King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech. Applications are available at each residence hall and in the Office of Residence Hall Life in the Faunce Student Services Building. The contest will be conducted at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 19, in 157 Bernhard Center. More information is available from George M. Eskro, residence hall life, at 7-4465.

WMU will cancel all classes for the day, both on and off campus. Officials emphasized that the University itself will remain open. Supervisors are being encouraged to accommodate the requests of staff members to attend MLK Day events.

A complete listing of events at WMU is published on page four.

Jorgens named interim dean in arts and sciences

Elise B. Jorgens has been named interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Her appointment, effective Jan. 15, is subject to approval by the Board of Trustees at its next meeting Jan. 19.

Jorgens, who has been associate dean for curriculum and instruction in WMU's largest degree-granting college since 1992, will replace Douglas P. Ferraro, dean since 1990, who has accepted a position as provost at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas.

A national search will be conducted for a permanent dean, according to Provost Nancy S. Barrett.

Jorgens has played a pivotal role over the last three years in a project to restructure majors within the college. The project was one of eight nationwide to be funded by a grant from the Association of American Colleges.

Jorgens came to WMU in 1977 as a faculty member in the School of Music. A year later, she joined the English faculty and continues to hold rank and tenure in that department. She also served as director of graduate studies in the Department of English from 1989 to 1992.

For every dollar paid by WMU in wages and salaries, there is an increase of $2 in personal income in the county," Harik explained. "And the other half was spending by students and visitors. University spending amounted to more than $17 million. WMU is the state's third largest employer, and visitors and grants from out of state, estimated at $60.5 million in what are called export-base funds.

"The additional tax revenues and export-base funds result in a 7.3 percent rate of return on the state's investment in WMU, or roughly 4.7 percent over the current rate of inflation," Harik said. "That is clearly an impressive figure."

Harik said his study, the third since 1989, probably even underestimates the impact of WMU on the county, region and state. Earlier studies were conducted by WMU economists Myron H. Ross, Werner Sichel and Raymond E. Zelder.

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University libraries striving to make new resources available and useful

Amidst the book stacks in Waldo Library, a quiet revolution is taking place. "This is not your father's library," says Dean Lance Query, University libraries, taking off on a recent automobile advertisement.

Because of technological advances, the entire function of the library is undergoing sweeping changes, he says. "What's happening is that libraries are moving away from ownership of information to access to information," Query explains. "The decision of whether to buy more books or to put that money into databases is becoming a constant tension in libraries like ours. In many cases, it's better to spend dollars on electronic resources than it is to use them to buy a book that someone might not use.

Query and his staff have taken several steps during the last year to meet the growing demand for access to electronic resources. In October, Daniel K. Marmion joined the staff as assistant dean for library technology and systems. A nationally recognized expert in library technology, he has already begun work on replacing computer terminals that have access only to WMU's online catalog with those that can reach other resources, including the Internet.

TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTION — From left, Daniel K. Marmion, assistant dean for library technology and systems, and Dean Lance Query are behind several technological advances taking place in the University libraries, including replacing computer terminals that have access only to WMU's online catalog with those that can reach other resources, including the Internet.

History's days are 'numbered' in new book by WMU faculty member

History students may think their courses already include too many numbers. But a WMU history professor says more attention to the numbers of the past can dispel myths, suggest new ideas and lead to a better understanding of history, a task he started a half century ago.

Ross Gregory, history, is the author of a new reference work which ties the study of history to numerical data. In the first issue published in December, Gregory explains what life was like in days gone by. "Almanac of American Life: Modern America" was published by Facts on File of New York City.

The 450-page book is one of a series of four, each covering a different time of American history — colonial, revolutionary, Victorian and modern America. Each year the book changes.

Gregory, 74, retired earlier this year, but didn't rely solely on numbers to tell the tale of modern America. He wrote dozens of essays offering introductory interpretation. However, he says putting the book together made him realize that, while numbers are important, the whole story can't be told completely without numbers.

Gregory says the numerical data demonstrate the impact of such historic events as the subjugation of African-Americans and the war in Vietnam and provide a perspective on individual citizens. Data can be used to show everything from who gave birth to the oldest person of a given sex to the racial breakdown of those who owned homes or completed their high school educations.

"Numbers are sometimes looked on as boring," Gregory concedes, "but often they represent the only way to get at the truth." The truth may surprise those who turn to his book to support their suppositions, Gregory says. One interesting fact he found is that, although women's history is a story of inequality in many ways, during the first half of this century women were the clear leaders in education. Women completed high school in far greater numbers than men during each of the three decades covered in his book. The reason for that, he says, but the facts cannot be disputed.

The book, Gregory says, was created by blending elements of the historical almanac, which simply lists and explains historical events in chronological order, with that of the annual almanac, a popular reference work containing various forms of data supported by introductory and explanatory prose. Gregory's book contains an abundance of such information, including consumer price indexes, sports tables and documents about baseball "event" chronicled is the first appearance of a baseball "event" contained in the book.

The result, he says, is a happy marriage of the two: a volume offering the breadth of a yearly almanac and the depth and perspective of a historical volume," Gregory says. "This work uses the topical approach to show what conditions were at a given time and to show the process of historical change."

While the inclusion of 396 tables sets his work apart from its historical book store, Gregory says the almanac is far more than an accumulation of numbers. Gregory spent nearly four years in high school where he found that history was a topic that covered ranging from crime to religious rituals. Also included are 51 separate research projects, he notes.

People who turn to almanacs to indulge a fascination with trivia also will not be disappointed by the book, Gregory promises. Information that simply caught his fancy is included. Baseball trivia is one such area detailed in the book because it was an important reflection of the culture of the era and because Gregory likes baseball. One baseball "event" chronicled is the first appearance of a baseball "event" contained in the book.

"I discovered much information that was most meaningful from a contempo¬ rary perspective future historians may examine the potential of that to the current generation may seem unimportant. He sus¬ pected that, as the new century begins, the amount they need in the most efficient way as they read the past." He says the book tells the tale of modern America, from Harding called a time of 'normalcy.' But now he is an avid fan who eagerly awaits the appearance of the book, which he says is "so well written that there was nothing normal about the 1920s."

Before becoming involved with the project, Gregory says he was not a regular user of almanacs. But now he is an avid fan who eagerly awaits the appearance of the book, which he says is "so well written that there was nothing normal about the 1920s."

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Since last fall, WMU faculty and staff members have had use of the LEXIS/ Nexis database after a test project insti¬ tuted by the University libraries. Online databases and law database provides not only citations but only the full text of refer¬ ences. In fact, the dictionary of full-text documents rather than just citations is another step the University libraries hope to take in the near future, according to Marmion.

Making all this information available has created a new challenge for the li¬ braries' staff, Query said. "Our ability to expose faculty, staff and students to in¬ formation outstripped our ability to evalu¬ ate its quality," he said. "Add to that the great variation of skill in using electronic resources and you've got quite a chal¬ lenge."

In order to help library users employ the technology in the most efficient and prac¬ tical way possible, Query has made an unprecedented commitment to disci¬ pline and development in the area of infor¬ mation retrieval. Library staff members have been hearing from outside experts, getting release time for training and prac¬ ticing, and attending conferences. They, in turn, are trying to develop an educational process to help users of the databases to database to database to become more skillful. They hope to make the databases useful in the most efficient way.
Dybek chosen for residency at prestigious Rockefeller Center refuge in Bellagio, Italy

Award-winning fiction writer Stuart Dybek, English, says he’s always wanted to complete a book of non-fiction. Now he’ll get his chance at a prestigious fellowship and scholars’ refuge in Bellagio, Italy.

Dybek has been awarded a residency at the Rockefeller Foundation’s Bellagio Study and Conference Center. During his monthlong stay, which begins in mid-May, he plans to work on a book about a period ending in 1950. "I’ve always been fascinated by that era," he says. "My parents’ generation had grown up in the Great Depression and were reaching the threshold of middle age when I was born."

Dybek describes nonfictional writing as kind of fiction to which a reader’s usual expectations do not apply, therefore one must define those expectations.

"I guess I’m more solitary in my habits, but when I was an artist, I had to live with another’s company," Dybek says. "The role of the writer is to work in that format, to help select the projects to be studied, choosing the agency the committee considers exemplary. NSF officials have identified two to four projects in which evaluation is done in an exemplary manner and to share the methods used with other researchers.

Gullickson says he expects to see a greater sophistication and awareness by the NSF of the findings of Gullickson’s research will prove invaluable in developing new evaluation tools.

"The key to determining the merit of these projects is in how innovations are being developed or implemented or an effective evaluation system," Gullickson says. "I give evaluations provide input from the beginning to the end of a project and help project directors make appropriate and effective changes as their work progresses, he notes.

The findings of Gullickson’s research will be used to train educators in how to effectively evaluate a program. Two Washington-based institutions, the University of Washington, at Lake Como in northern Italy. The center has been operated for 35 years by the Rockefeller Foundation, giving writers more freedom to define those expectations.

"It’s a place where scholars and writers can get away from their usual expectations," he says. "The role of the writer is to work in that format, to help select the projects to be studied, choosing the agency the committee considers exemplary. NSF officials have identified two to four projects in which evaluation is done in an exemplary manner and to share the methods used with other researchers.

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Calendar

The master calendar maintained by news services for use in Western News is available through Gopher on the VMScluster. Currently, there are three calendars available: January events; February events; and future events, which run from March through Martin Luther King Jr. Day observance; classes canceled; all-University convocation.

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

1. Options for December. To view the calenders, type Gopher at the system prompt. At the next menu, choose 2. Western Michigan University, then choose 3. Campus Calendar. You will find options for 1. This Month's Events, 2. Next Month's Events and 3. Future Events.

Thursday, January 11

(thru 24) Exhibition, "Calligraphy, Calligraphy and Rubbings in Chinese Art," curated by Qianshen Bai, art, Gallery II, Sangren Hall, weekdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Jan. 11 slide lecture by Bai, "A Narrative of Chinese Pictorial Slides," 2302 Sangren Hall, 7 p.m.; reception following in Gallery II.

(thru 31) Exhibition, "Holding Stones Series," sculpture by Pall Davene Davis, Oberlin, Ohio, Space Gallery, Knuss Hall, Mon.-Thurs. Thursdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

"A Gathering of Women," Faculty Dining Room, Bernhard Center Public Cafeteria, noon-1 p.m.

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

Friday, January 12

Lecture, University of the Arts, "History of the Flute-Wooden Flute," Chris Norman, Dalton Center Lecture Hall, 2 p.m.

*(and 13) Hockey, WMU vs. Lake Superior State University, Lawson Arena, 7 p.m.

*(thru 14) Multi-Media Room: Jan. 17, 11 a.m.; and Jan. 20, 2 p.m.

School of Music Convocation Series concert, Novgorod Choir from Russia, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 2 p.m.

*(and 1) Women's basketball, WMU vs. Miami University, University Arena, 7 p.m.

Saturday, January 13

Student recital, Deborah Butler, violin, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 2 p.m.

*(and 1) Basketball, WMU vs. Ferris State University, Lawson Arena, 2 p.m.

Graduate recital, Jennifer Moore, flute, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 4 p.m.

*(and 1) Men's basketball, WMU vs. Ball State University, University Arena, 4:30 p.m.

Graduate recital, Jennifer Neslund, mezzo-soprano, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

Sunday, January 14

Student recital, Michael Duffy and Philip Whaley, both trumpet, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 5 p.m.

Monday, January 15

Martin Luther King Jr. observance; classes canceled; all-University convocation; Tam Sweatt, 11 a.m.; see separate calendar on this page for more activities.

Wednesday, January 17

Enhancing Instruction with Technology program, "Search Options on the World Wide Web," Helen Healy, University libraries, 3307 Sangren Hall, noon-1 p.m.; to register call 7-5305.

School of Music Convocation Series concert, Novgorod Choir from Russia, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 2 p.m.

*(and 1) Women's basketball, WMU vs. Miami University, University Arena, 7 p.m.

Thursday, January 18

"A Gathering of Women," Faculty Dining Room, Bernhard Center Public Cafeteria, noon-1 p.m.

Workshop on internal funding for research, Brown and Gold Room, Bernhard Center, 1:30-3:30 p.m.; to register call 7-8329.

(thru 21) University Theatre production, "Side by Side by Sondheim," Dalton Center Multi-Media Room: Jan. 18-20, 8 p.m.; and Jan. 21, 2 p.m.

*(and 20) Performance, Orchesis Dance Society, Dalton Center Studio B: Jan. 18-19, 8 p.m.; and Jan. 20, 2 p.m.

University Film Committee showing, "Short Cuts," directed by Robert Altman, 2750 Knuss Hall, 11 a.m.

*(and 20) Exhibition, "Holding Stones Series," sculpture by Pall Davene Davis, Oberlin, Ohio, Space Gallery, Knuss Hall, Mon.-Thurs. Thursdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Nominations due Jan. 19 for service awards

Nominations for the third quarter Staff Service Excellence Awards are due Fri.

There are many outstanding employees worthy of this award designed to recognize excellence. Do you work with such an employee? By nominating this peer, you encourage students they know or the organizations they serve to submit nominations.

Six awards of $500 each will be presented to individual students who show exceptional efforts in community service. The deadline for submission of entries is Feb. 15.

For more information, persons may call 7-6022.

1996 Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance

"Transforming the Dream into Action"

Saturday, January 13

(at 14) Division of Minority Affairs and Minority Student Organization lock-in, "Knowledge Reigns Supreme," Student Recreation Center, 8 p.m. Saturday through 6 a.m. Sunday.

Sunday, January 14

*(57th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Program Banquet: speech, "Transforming the Dream into Action," by Tonee M. Mitchell, First of America Bank Corp.; and candle-lighting ceremony; North Ballroom, Bernhard Center, 2 p.m.

Monday, January 15

Center for Academic Support Programs displays of King's life, work and teachings, first floor, Moore Hall, near Academic Skills Center, and second floor, near University Curriculum offices.

*(thru 31) Hallway displays, Student Education Association, Kappa Delta Pi and Minority Students in Teaching, Sangren Hall. College of Education film festival, four films, each followed by discussions led by faculty members: "The Road to Brown," 2301 Sangren Hall, 8:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.; "In Remembrance of Martin," 2304 Sangren Hall, 8:30 a.m., 5 p.m., and 7 p.m.; "Bridge to Freedom," 2303 Sangren Hall, 1 p.m., 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.; and "At the River I Stand," 2302 Sangren Hall, 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

All-University convocation, featuring performances by "Cross Colors," Voices of WMU gospel choir and international students, Shaw Theatre, 11 a.m.

University libraries video. "Legacy of a Dream," narrated by James Earl Jones, 1070 Waldo Library, every half hour between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Geography lecture, "Voting Behavior Among America's Minorities," Roger Hunt, Grand Valley State University, MLK Room, Bernhard Center, 1 p.m.

Minority affairs brown-bag luncheon and panel discussion, "Leadership from the African American Female's Perspective," Multicultural Center, A-220 Ellsworth Hall, 1 p.m.

Philosophy, comparative religion and Center for the Study of Ethics in Society lecture, "Mestizo Identity: The Future of Race in America," Gregory Velazco y Trianosky, 2:30 p.m.

Open discussion, "Race and Schooling," facilitated by members of Minority Students for Teaching, the Student Education Association and Kappa Delta Pi, 2302 Sangren Hall, 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

*Admission charged