WMU elected to membership in prestigious national association

WMU has been elected to membership in the prestigious National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC), the nation’s oldest higher education association. “This provides further national recognition of Western Michigan University’s growing stature, including our continued emphasis on research and graduate education while strengthening quality undergraduate instruction,” said President Haenicke.

“Our selection reflects the diversity, complexity and quality of our programs, our research and our outreach, including the state’s second largest extension program,” he said. “Given our statewide mission, it is most appropriate that we are among this select group of institutions.”

The association, based in Washington, D.C., includes 170 of the nation’s most prestigious public universities. The NASULGC institutions, with more than 2.6 million students, award nearly one-half of all higher education in the United States, including almost two-thirds of all doctoral degrees.

Members include 19 of the 20 largest colleges, universities and multicampus systems of higher education in the nation. With more than 27,000 students, WMU is the fourth largest university in Michigan and among the nation’s 60 largest academic institutions.

The association’s goals include the development of strong partnerships between public universities and federal and state governments. It was among the leaders of efforts that created the National Science Foundation and secured passage of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and its reauthorization in 1993.

“Our membership in this association will enable us to enhance our own relationship with the federal government, from which we already receive 41 percent of our research funds and $33 million each year in student financial aid funds,” said Haenicke, who is a member of the association’s council of presidents. “It also will greatly facilitate our relationships with other leading public universities across the country.”

“In addition,” he said, “the aims of NASULGC institutions of fostering educational opportunity for everyone, emphasizing the practical application of knowledge and nurturing social consciousness through teaching, research and service all are very consistent with our own.”

The association’s members include 83 public universities; 72 land-grant universities, of which 17 are historically black institutions; and 26 public higher education systems.

“WMU’s commitment to graduate education is reflected in our designation as Michigan’s only Doctoral I university by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching,” Haenicke continued. The designation means that, in addition to offering a full range of bachelor’s and master’s degree programs, WMU awards at least 40 doctoral degrees each year in five or more disciplines.

With 25 percent of its total enrollment at the graduate level, WMU has 19 doctoral programs and more than 60 master’s degree programs. WMU faculty members received a record $15.8 million in grants and contracts for research and other sponsored programs last year, 41 percent of which were from the federal government.

In addition to its on-campus programs, WMU offers more than 25 complete degree programs through five regional centers serving more than 30 communities in West Michigan, constituting the state’s second largest off-campus education program. Centers are located in Benton Harbor-St. Joseph, Battle Creek, Grand Rapids, Lansing and Muskegon, serving more than 3,500 students each year.

“Clearly, Western Michigan University belongs in this prestigious national association,” Haenicke said. “We are very pleased to have been formally elected into membership, and we look forward to our active participation in the association.”

Seminar planned to promote understanding

Twenty of Japan’s top high school and college students will meet with 20 of their West Michigan counterparts during a three-day seminar aimed at international understanding Aug. 25-27 at East Kentwood High School in Kentwood.

“The United States and Japan are linked by history and shared interests yet they are divided by perceptual gaps and misunderstanding,” said Victor C. Krause, a Grand Rapids businessman and community leader. “The goal of this seminar is to bridge those gaps and help participants understand the importance of the U.S.-Japan relationship in the post-Cold War era.”


The seminar is co-sponsored by Aquinas College and WMU along with two Japanese organizations, the Association for Promotion of International Cooperation (APIC) and the Society for Promoting Intercultural Education for Children (SPIEC). Major funding is provided through the Sasakawa Foundation and APIC, which is affiliated with Japan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Students from Calvin College, Grand Valley State University and the University of Michigan as well as Aquinas and WMU will participate in the seminar along with students from several Grand Rapids area high schools.

The seminar will initiate a dialogue that will continue throughout the school year by electronic mail using a special computer network called APICNET, which will link high schools and colleges in Japan and the United States. Participants can communicate both one-on-one and in electronic conferences with those in other nations.
WMU center selected for three-state project

A WMU expert on evaluation and the uses of technology in education will be part of a three-state project to develop and test new ways to incorporate technological advances into a school's curriculum.

WMU's Evaluation Center has been awarded a $105,000 grant from the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Telecommunication Collaborative for a project to be directed by James J. Bosco, education and professional development and Tate Center for Research and Information Processing.

Bosco will use the funds to conduct the first year of a multi-year effort to evaluate the work of the collaborative. The collaborative is part of the U.S. Government's Star Schools Program, which funds programs that apply technology to K-12 education.

According to Bosco, the collaborative is comprised of several universities, service agencies that develop curriculum and provide telecommunications services for schools, and representatives of the chief education officers in Michigan, New York, and Pennsylvania.

The focus of the collaborative's work, he says, is to develop new technical products and field test those products at 100 school sites in the three partner states to determine which products improve school instruction by successfully blending curriculum and technology.

"The project reflects the belief that in order to fully utilize technology, 'business as usual' won't work," Bosco says. "A lot of people are talking about schools of the future. This project looks at how we make this reality, given the challenges of school policy and current fiscal problems."

Bosco says computing and telecommunication technology could replace parts of what currently makes up a school's curriculum. The challenge is to determine what needs to go and what should stay in a school structure that has changed very little over the years and still relies on the spoken word to transmit information.

Instead of being viewed as a "frill," classroom computer use and information technology should be acknowledged as "the new basics," he believes.

"Schools should be places where the incredible resources of communication and access to information are available," Bosco says. "The rest of the community has evolved and is using those resources. Schools are in the difficult position of having to play 'catch-up' and move forward at the same time."

Besides the education departments in the three states, partners in the collaborative include: General Motors Institute; Eastern Michigan University; the University of Kansas; Merit Network Inc., which operates Michigan's computer network that links the state's universities to each other and to national networks; Michigan Information Technology Network; the North Central Regional Education Laboratory; Saginaw Valley State University; the Wayne County Regional Education Service Agency; Upper Great Lakes Educational Technologies Inc.; and WMU.

Scholarship created in memory of classmate

Members of the University High School class of 1965 have donated more than $10,000 to the WMU Foundation to endow a scholarship fund in the name of a classmate who was killed in Viet Nam.

The Robert Meagher Endowed Memorial Scholarship will be awarded each year to a mathematics student at WMU. It is named for Meagher, a member of the high school class who attended WMU for two years and then enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. He was killed in Viet Nam in 1968.

Meagher was the son of Sylvia Meagher of Kalamazoo and the late Jack R. Meagher, who was a professor of computer science and mathematics at WMU.

"Creation of the scholarship fund was first proposed at our reunion in 1990," said class spokesperson Bob Kent. "It was at that time that we recognized that Bob Meagher was the only one of our classmates who has died since we graduated in 1965."

The group was the second to the last class to graduate from the high school, which closed in 1966.

A scholarship of at least $500 will be awarded each year to a WMU junior enrolled in the mathematics curriculum. The recipient must have at least a 3.2 overall grade point average. Other considerations for the award, although not prerequisites, include financial need and prior service in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Additional contributions to the scholarship fund are being accepted by the WMU Foundation. For more information, persons may contact Kenneth J. DeVries, planned giving services, at 7-8878.

Exchange

FOR SALE — Parkview Hills townhouse condominium in Cliff's area. Three finished floors, five bedrooms, three-and-a-half baths, family room, fireplace, central air, two-car garage. Parkview amenities. $119,900. Call 375-6763 after 6 p.m.

Media

Two members of the University community will be guests in the coming weeks on "Focus," a five-minute interview produced by news services. "Focus" is scheduled to air on these Saturdays at 6:10 a.m. on WKPR-AM (1420) with the following speakers and topics: Mary Francis Fenton, emerita in education and professional development, on vermiculture, Aug. 21; and James B. Hammond, physician assistant, on health care reform, Aug. 28.
Service

These employees are recognized for five, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years of service to the University in August:

35 years — Russell P. Griggs, physical plant-UG maintenance.

30 years — Arvon D. Byler, chairperson of paper and printing science and engineering; Lyn J. Chase, Waldo Library; and Robert L. Erickson, speech pathology and audiology.

25 years — Robert L. Bleko, mathematics and statistics; James W. Burns, education and professional development; Charles D. Comer, health, physical education and recreation; John R. Cooley, English; Curtis Smith, music; Fred A. Decker, intercollegiate athletics; John B. Dilworth, philosophy; Carl W. Doubleday, music; E. Rozanne Elder, history; Jerry H. Hamelink, mechanical and aeronautical engineering; L. Richard Harring, education and professional development; Gail A. Havens, consumer resources and technology; Robert C. Hinkel, English; Bradley E. Huitema, psychology; Richard J. Keaveny, art; Johannes A. Kissel, languages and linguistics; George G. Lowry, chemistry; Michael E. McCarville, chairperson of chemistry; Mary E. Neu, art; Gale E. Newell, accountancy; Michael S. Pritchard, chairperson of philosophy; Kenneth E. Reid, social work; Robert J. Rietz, music; George Robeck, mathematics and statistics; David K. Isaacson, Waldo Library; Trent P. Kynaston, music; Jay D. Kramer, sociology; Gary D. Lawson, speech pathology and audiology; Marilyn A. Lierman, Sindecuse Health Center; Lynne C. McCauley, Center for Academic Support Programs; Joseph W. McKeen, mathematics and statistics; Corrine Nadaradik, Sindecuse Health Center; Adelaida G. Nicholson, Sindecuse Health Center; Edward J. Pawlak, social work; Leisa L. Perry, aviation sciences; Zahir A. Qureshi, marketing; Gregory D. Roehrich, theatre; Christopher J. Schmidt, geology; Roberta M. Supnick, business information systems; Marion H. Wijnen, social work; Irene R. Wolding, Sindecuse Health Center; Stephen L. Zegree, music; and Christine G. Zimmer, Sindecuse Health Center.

10 years — Susan Carrell-MacDonald, sociology; Cynthia R. Dunaway, public safety; Paul V. Engelmann, engineering technology; Kristin C. Freeman, Haworth College of Business; Donna Kaminski, computer science; Gregory B. Loceau, University computing services; Johny L. Pherigo, music; Donna Russau, Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs; Bonnie L. Smith, public safety; Ruth A. Stevens, news services; Bradley A. Wong, music; and Leard L. Wylie, aviation sciences.

Five years — Christine M. Bahr, special education; Christine Brownie, mathematics and statistics; James M. Butterfield, political science; Connie C. Carlson, speech pathology and audiology; Michael J. Dakak, telecommunications; Lauralea R. Eisenbach, education and professional development; Delores R. Gauthier, music; Tarun Gupta, industrial engineering; Kristin B. Gustafson, physical plant-B/E maintenance; David A. Guth, blind rehabilitation; Ruth J. Hall, Center for Developmentally Disabled Adults; Tricia Hennessy, art; Abdolazim Houshyar, industrial engineering; Patrick M. Jenlink, educational leadership; Sheldon Langsam, accountancy; Marsha A. Mahan, University assessment; Betty A. Markillie, music; Audrey L. Mayfield, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences; Rosemary Nichols, continuing education; Dasha C. Nisula, languages and linguistics; Willie Mae O’Neal, Waldo Library; William C. Olsen, English; Patricia Opel, art; Charles T. Overberger, University computing services; Mary E. Piontek, Evaluation Center; Brett A. Powell, residence hall facilities; Gloria C. Rohr, academic records; Donald R. Schreiber, chemistry; Lawrence C. Scott, physical plant-building custodial and support services; Amy J. Seth, University recreation programs and facilities; Naveed A. Sherwani, computer science; Richard D. Snyder, Miller Auditorium; Camille K. Vande Berg, languages and linguistics; Von H. Washington, theatre; Walter L. Worthy, Office of the Vice President for Research; and Robert Zellers, student financial aid and scholarships.

Obituary

Kathryn L. Loew, former adjunct associate professor of music and University organist, died Aug. 2 in an automobile accident near South Haven.

Loew, 68, taught and played the organ at University functions from 1977 until her retirement in 1990. She also served as organist at Kalamazoo College from 1963 to 1965, at Zion Lutheran Church from 1960 to 1970 and at First Presbyterian Church from 1971 to 1993. She twice served as dean of the Northwestern Michigan Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Loew was a graduate of the University of Michigan, where she earned both bachelor’s and master’s degrees in music. She earned a second master’s degree in sacred music from Union Theological Seminary.

Loew’s husband, Cornelius, was injured in the accident and remained in critical condition at Western News press time. He is a University professor emeritus and former vice president for academic affairs.

A memorial service for Kathryn Loew will be scheduled at a later date. Contributions may be made to the Kathryn Loew Memorial Scholarships for Organ Study at First Presbyterian Church, 321 W. South St., Kalamazoo.

Jobs

The following list of vacancies is currently being posted through the Job Opportunity Program by employment services in the Department of Human Resources. Interested eligible employees should submit a job opportunity transfer application or sign the appropriate bid sheet during the posting period.

S-01 and S-02 clerical positions are not required to be posted. Interested University employees may contact an employment services staff member for assistance in securing these positions.

(N) Secretary II (Term Ends 6/30/94) S-05, Institute for Water Sciences, 93/94-057, 8/17-8/23/93.

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.

(N) New

WMU is an E0/AA employer
Speech and hearing specialists receive federal grant to study effects of classroom amplification

To document what happens when first-graders truly are “all ears,” two WMU speech and hearing specialists will use a new federal grant to study the effects of classroom amplification on learning.

Nickola W. Nelson and Connie C. Carlson, both speech pathology and audiology, have received a $108,750 grant from the National Institutes of Health for a two-year study to determine how providing microphones and speakers in first grade classrooms can improve children’s ability to learn.

The pair will gather and compare data on students in nine amplified and nine unamplified control classrooms in five West Michigan school districts. Although the focus of their work will be on students with temporary hearing loss due to frequent ear infections, they say the technology has the potential to benefit all students.

“Previous studies show that anywhere from 30 to 40 percent of students in preschool and lower elementary classrooms have mild to moderate hearing loss during the winter months,” Carlson says. She notes that most schools only screen for hearing loss at a relatively high level and miss the mild or fluctuating hearing loss that many students experience because of childhood ear infections that are common in early school years.

“Having a fluctuating hearing loss can be as devastating as a chronic hearing loss,” Nelson says. “Children’s learning of language is based largely on hearing consistent patterns. When those patterns are inconsistent, they learn to ignore features of our speech and language that are important for learning.”

“When kids are trying to learn about how sounds go together, they’ll learn more quickly if they can hear,” Carlson says. “Children in the first grade are just developing phonological awareness and the language skills that all of their academic careers will be based on.”

A classroom amplification system amplifies sound by only about 10 decibels and is designed simply to overcome the detriments of distance and background noise. The system consists of a clip-on microphone that the teacher wears with a small transmitter pack — usually attached to a belt. Three or four small speakers, mounted at children’s ear height, are placed around the room to amplify the sound.

The effect is very pleasant, Carlson says, and is not like having a public address system in the room. Teachers like it because it saves their voices and children like it because they can hear better. The system allows students to hear when the teacher’s back is turned and his or her voice falls off and in classrooms plagued by poor acoustics and high background噪声.

Largely unheard of in Michigan, Nelson says classroom amplification has been around for a while in states such as Ohio, Iowa and Illinois. It is used most frequently in special education classes or in classrooms with a hearing-impaired child. Although there is a lot of anecdotal information about how well it works, she says, no well-constructed empirical studies have been done to confirm that view.

Calendar

Thursday, August 19
(tth Sept. 3) Exhibition, “Birds and Flowers of Michigan Gardens,” Cyndy Callog, Niles artist, Department of Human Resources, 1240 Seibert Administration Building, weekdays, 8 a.m.-noon and 1-5 p.m.

Friday, August 20
Doctoral oral examination, “The Effects of Relaxation Exercises on Young Persons with Moderate Asthma,” Robert E. Obrecht, psychology, 283 Wood Hall, 8 a.m.

Friday, August 27
Doctoral oral examination, “Comparative Effectiveness of Therapeutic Strategies on Drug Knowledge and Drug Attitude on Inpatient Psychiatric Substance Abuse Population,” Amber Haque, psychology, 110 West Hall, 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, August 29
Seventh annual “For Freshmen Only” forum, Miller Auditorium, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, August 30
13th annual Bronco Bash, fine arts plaza and first floor of new parking structure, 3-10:30 p.m.

Tuesday, August 31
Fall semester classes begin.
(tth Sept. 10) Exhibition, MFA candidate group show, Student Art Gallery, East Hall, weekdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; reception and Department of Art open house, Wednesday, Sept. 8, 5-7 p.m.

Thursday, September 2
*Football, “CommUniverCity Day,” WMU vs. Youngstown State University, Waldo Stadium, 7:30 p.m.
*Admission charged