71 students will spend their spring breaks volunteering at six sites across the country

Instead of working on their tans, 71 students from WMU will be working on their volunteer skills during this year’s spring break.

The contingent will depart from campus today, Feb. 2, participating in WMU’s Alternative Spring Break. The first program in 1992 consisted of only 12 students and one site.

In Atlanta, site leaders Tegan A. Amy and Steve R. Colmus will coordinate a group of 10 students to work on issues of hunger and homelessness in an urban setting. They will incorporate skills in political organizing, educating about the economy and systematic causes of homelessness and poverty, and creating a supportive and inclusive community.

In New York City, site leader Nick L. Mason will lead his group to Florida, where the team of 10 will work with the Bird Emer- gent (BIR) project and the Emory R. Cox Foundation. There, the group will interact with Native American children and help with the area’s Head Start program.

Elliott and site leader Jennifer L. Klock will be leading their group of students to New York City to work with an organization.

(Continued on page four)

Did you know?

WMU’s master of public administration program is the largest in the Midwest and the second largest nationally among the 220 members of the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration. Since its inception in 1975, it has graduated more than 1,400 people who hold leadership positions in local, state and national government, independent sector agencies and health care organizations.

WMU’s Sincereus Health Center has the largest group of nurses certified in “college health nursing” of any university in the nation.

For the fourth consecutive year, WMU is among the nation’s 200 best national universities in U.S. News and World Report’s annual College Guide.
The University received more than $1.1 million in grants and more than $965,000 in cash gifts during December, according to reports presented to the Board of Trustees at its meeting on January 23, 1995.

Center for Research on At-Risk Students. The grant will fund the center’s third year of work. The Center is funded by the Michigan Statewide Initiative in Science and Mathematics. The MSI is designed to totally revamp science and mathematics programs in the state in grades K-12. It was funded in 1992 with a five-year, $10 million grant from the National Science Foundation.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s Lewis Research Center in Cleveland awarded Daniel J. Dorney, mechanical and aeronautical engineering, and Mary E. Widdel, an associate professor of sociology and of Materials Program Improvement project in the Center for Research on At-Risk Students. The grant will fund the center’s third year of work. The Center is funded by the Michigan Statewide Initiative in Science and Mathematics. The MSI is designed to totally revamp science and mathematics programs in the state in grades K-12. It was funded in 1992 with a five-year, $10 million grant from the National Science Foundation.

Walker, chairperson of sociology and of Materials Program Improvement project in the Center for Research on At-Risk Students.

Among other major grants received was a $220,000 award from the Michigan Department of Community and Economic Development’s Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program. The award is designated to assist minority businesses in developing projects.

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The Dundee Formation’s potential.

The new signs, typically 8-by-8-inch, are at the point where we can start showing people what the project is expected to be finished by the end of March. The office, for example, is developing computer programs to handle the signs.

Finding your way around the University can be a time-consuming experience even for long-time WMU employees. Just imagine the challenges faced by a new person on campus with a visual impairment.

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Fifelski says that she and her staff are better prepared to deal with the signs now that they have access to better technology.

The process of developing new signs is complex. The University’s Office of Information Technology is currently installing a state-of-the-art computerized router system at the Student Recreation Center. The system is designed to identify the location of any sign and then automatically cut out the correct letters.

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**Study abroad program launched in Mexico**

Six students are currently studying in Mexico as part of the first study abroad program in that country sponsored by WMU Office of International Affairs.

Launching a program in Mexico fits WMU's strategy to expand its Program of International Affairs. More than 2,500 students have participated in the program in the U.S. during 1989-90.

The program officially opened on Monday, March 4, when John W. Benson, chairperson of foreign language, addressed the students. Students are being housed with host families in the city.

Benson, assisted the students in selecting the Universidad de Autonoma Queretaro (UADQ), a state university located in the city. The university is being housed with host families in the city.

Benson, who is involved in the college's student housing program, addressed the students in a two-part, noon-hour video series set for Wednesday, March 6, and Thursday, March 7.

The video focuses on showing viewers how to incorporate effective habits into their lives in a way that will allow them to manage productive and innovative ideas while maintaining balance in their own lives.

Creating optimum conditions for em- ployees to be effective and learn to control actually increase influence and learning how to maintain control while giving workers the autonomy they need to be effective are among the primary lessons of the presentations.

Covey, the founder and chairperson of the Covey Center Leadership, is also the co-author of "First Things First" and the author of "Winning at Work: A Leadership Challenge." Among his consulting clients are more than 200 of the nation's Fortune 500 companies and 500 mid-sized companies, educational institutions and government organizations.

For more information about the presenta- tions, persons should call Sheila Odehnal at 7-8525.

**Annual seminar planned for office personnel**

**Jobs**

The following list of vacancies is currently being posted through the Job Opportunity Program by employment services in the Office of Personnel. Interested University employees may contact an employment services staff member in securing these positions.

For persons interested in faculty posi- tions, there are openings in selected fields. A letter of application should be submitted to the appropriate dean or chairperson.

(R) Secretary Administrative I, S-O7

**Media**

Two faculty members will be guests in the coming weeks on "Focus," a five-minute interview produced by news services.

"Focus," scheduled to air on these Saturdays at 6:10 a.m. on WKPR-AM (1420) with the following speakers and topics: Gwen Enter- lew, "Living the history of the history talk," Feb. 25; and George Robeck, commu- nication, "on talk radio," March 4.

**Obituary**

Mande Payne, retired from mimeo- graphing, died Dec. 5. She was 88.

She joined the University staff as head of the mimeographing department in 1944. Her office duplicated news releases, arti- cles for classroom use by students and faculty, internal publications and official notices. She retired in 1968.

Payne continued to live in Kalamazoo after her retirement. She was a life member of the Order of the Eastern Star in Hastings. Memorial contributions may be made to Meals on Wheels.

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Calendar

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

Thursday, February 23
(thru 28) Black History Month exhibition, third floor, Waldo Library; Mondays thru Thursdays, 7-4:5 a.m.-midnight; Fridays, 7:45-10 p.m.; Saturdays, 8 a.m.-10 p.m.; and Sundays, noon-midnight.
(thru 28) Exhibition, quilts and stitchery by Lethone A. Jones, emerita in social work, executive wing, third floor, Seibert Administration Building, weekdays, 8 a.m.-noon and 1-5 p.m.
(thru 25) University Theatre production, "Dracula," Multi-Form Theatre, 8 p.m.
Poetry reading, Mark Halliday, Indiana University, and Dean Young, Loyola University, 3770 Knapps Hall, 8:30 p.m.; reception following.

Friday, February 24
Last day to withdraw from winter semester classes, academic records office, third floor, Seibert Administration Building, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Doctoral oral examination, "Teachers' Perception of Instructional Leadership and Student Achievement," David Anspaugh, educational administration, 3208 Sangren Hall, 3-5 p.m.
Concert, "High Noon at Dalton," Sigma Alpha Iota and Phi Mu Alpha choruses, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

Monday, February 27
Cooley finds nature writing a versatile vehicle, indeed, as he believes his collection of critical essays demonstrates. Nature writing is "embracing explorations into the nature of the human self," he says. "In a new dimension of nature writing, the writer is exploring the impact of the natural world on the human individual," he contends.

Tuesday, March 1
Wednesday, March 1
Saturday, March 4
Poetry reading, Mark Halliday, Indiana University, and Dean Young, Loyola University, 3770 Knapps Hall, 8:30 p.m.; reception following.

Friday, March 2
Cooley compiles collection of critical essays on nature writers for new book published by U-M

General readers with an interest in nature writing and the environment will welcome a new book by John R. Cooley, English and environmental studies.


"Nature writing is flourishing in America as never before," Cooley says. "Besides an increased interest among academics, contemporary nature writers enjoy the unusual distinction of a growing popularity with general audiences. In my book I focus on the critical essays on writers of "distinguished fiction and popular culture who were influenced by the European tradition and an intensely personal, first-person vehicle, indeed, as he believes his collection of critical essays demonstrates. Nature writing is "embracing explorations into the nature of the human self," he says. "In a new dimension of nature writing, the writer is exploring the impact of the natural world on the human individual," he contends.

Another essayist, Patrick Murphy, "finds Thoreau's touch on most of the themes and ideas that have concerned nature and environmental writers even in the present day. In "Walden," for example, Thoreau "exults the virtues of country life, but he also launches a pastoral attack on the corrosive impact of the values of urban capitalism society," Cooley writes. "In a gesture not uncommon to pastoralists, he urges his readers to "simply, simplify, their lives." Among the concerns of Cooley's essayists and the writers they criticize is the relationship between nature and the soul. One essayist, James McClintock, observes that Anne Dillard "uses nature as a touchstone for spiritual insight," which also could apply to Wendell Berry and Gary Snyder. Cooley says. "In the tradition of pastoral guides, Dillard is a walker, a stalker, an inveterate, who is also a writer of nature writing. Another essayist, Patrick Murphy, "finds a common strand of spirituality running through the poetry of Snyder and Berry, even though Snyder embraces the Buddhist tradition and Berry the Christian," he says. "All Americans are nature writers, and these are the essays of American nature writers are "usually linked to a vision of harmony with nature," the writer observes.

The book also includes poets such as Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau, who were influenced by the European tradition and who were both "walking" nature. Cooley credits Thoreau with influencing most subsequent American nature writers.

"By alternating between the opposed traditions of detached, scientific observation and the personal narrative that conveys autobiography, personalamerality and ethics," Cooley says, "Thoreau touches on most of the themes and ideas that have concerned nature and environmental writers even in the present day.

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