Season's Greetings

We wish all members of the WMU community and their families the happiest of holiday seasons, and we hope that the New Year is full of good health, promise and fulfillment for all.

We join with each of you in hoping for a good New Year for our University as well.

Dieter and Carol Haenicke

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Graduate students hope their success encourages others

Two graduate students have overcome significant obstacles on their way to receiving their degrees during WMU's commencement exercises on Dec. 18.

Sherry Dee Collins of Benton Harbor will receive her Ed.D. degree in educational leadership and Virginia Roosevelt of Dowagiac will receive her M.A. degree in communication.

Collins grew up as a ward of the state of Illinois in Chicago and Roosevelt has battled the effects of multiple sclerosis, a degenerative disease of the nervous system.

"I had proposed before, and I propose again, that the University observe Dr. King's birthday as I have described, and the student groups have agreed to help with this," he said.

"I would strongly encourage that our colleagues are that day to teach about Dr. King to the extent that they can, to the extent that they have memories, to the extent that they have comment on this important subject," he said.

He noted that he has received occasional

Three commencement exercises set for Dec. 18

The University will award more than 2,000 degrees in commencement exercises Saturday, Dec. 18, in Miller Auditorium.

There will be three ceremonies: one at 10:30 a.m. for graduates of the College of Education and the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences; one at 1 p.m. for graduates of the Haworth College of Business, the Division of Continuing Education’s General University Studies Program and the College of Health and Human Services; and one at 3:30 p.m. for graduates of the Colleges of Arts and Sciences and the College of Fine Arts.

At the 1 p.m. ceremony, an honorary doctor of public service degree will be awarded to Frederic W. Summers of Burr Ridge, Ill., occupational therapist and chair of the Fred Summons Division of the Bissell Healthcare Corp.

Summers, whose business manufactures and markets adaptive devices for handicapped individuals, has a longstanding relationship with WMU’s Department of Occupational Therapy. He lectures frequently in the department and has donated several pieces of equipment to it. He will be cited for his extraordinary contributions toward the independence of persons with disabilities throughout the world and for his loyal support of the WMU department.

Music for the commencement ceremonies will be performed by the Western Brass Ensemble directed by Robert L. Whaley, music. 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 John A. Yellich, president of the WMU Alumni Association, who will preside over the ceremonies.

The Rev. Kay Davis of the Presbyterian Church in Dedham will give the invocation and benediction at the 10:30 a.m. ceremony. Her daughter, Darcy L. Davis, will be receiving a bachelor of arts degree in psychology. Dorothy Edser of St. Thomas More Student Parish of Kalamazoo will lead those two parts of the program at 1 p.m. At 3:30 p.m., the Rev. Janet Chartier will give the invocation and the Rev. Myron Owtier of the Rev. Myron Charter will give the benediction. Both are from the American Baptist Churches of Michigan in Portage and are the parents of Timothy O. Chartier, who will be receiving a bachelor of science degree.

Tickets are required for the ceremonies. Each participating graduate is eligible to receive up to four guest tickets. Inquiries regarding additional tickets should be directed to the Registrar at 2-4310. Guests without tickets may view the ceremonies on television monitors in 3750 and 3770. The ceremonies also will be shown live on Kalamazoo Community Access Television Channel 31 and on WMU’s EduCABLE Channel 7.

A total of 1,502 bachelor’s, 530 master’s and 22 doctoral degrees will be awarded.

Senate endorses Haenicke proposal regarding Martin Luther King Jr. birthday observance

The Faculty Senate Dec. 2 unanimously endorsed a proposal by President Haenicke to observe the birthday of the late Martin Luther King Jr. through class discussion and other means and not by closing the University for the day.

The slain civil rights leader's birthday is to be observed at WMU, according to the proposal sponsored by the Rev. Myron Owtier.

"I believe that if we close down the institution entirely, many people would take the day off to shop in," the senators would go shopping. Very few people, other than those deeply involved, would think of Dr. King at all.

"An educational institution has a splendid opportunity and a responsibility to use that day to shifting many of its emphases in the classroom toward the topic at hand, namely the life and teaching of this great American," he said.

The president's proposal includes a three-part request to the faculty for the day: that students who wish to be excused from class to attend special events should be allowed to leave between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.; that classes would be permitted on MLK Day; and that instructors select one of their classes (or part thereof) on that day to deal with issues raised by King.

Haenicke said the University would also place a text by King in the Western Herald, the University's student newspaper.

"I had proposed before, and I propose again, that the University observe Dr. King's birthday as I have described, and the student groups have agreed to help with this," he said.

Haenicke acknowledged he has no authority to tell faculty members what to do in their classrooms.

"But I really would like to encourage the professoriate of this institution to use their classrooms that day to either make reference to the text that we have selected, or to add another text or to make any personal reflection on memories that they might hold of the person whose birthday we celebrate on that day," he told senators.

"I would strongly encourage our colleagues are that day to teach about Dr. King to the extent that they can, to the extent that they have memories, to the extent that they have comment on this important subject," he said.

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New mentoring program launched with federal grant

A $31,220 grant from the U.S. Department of Education to WMU will be used to make Kalamazoo middle school students regular participants in campus activities.

The award will fund the first year of a planned two-year effort, the WMU Mentor Program. The program was designed by Helbart E. Bates, director of the School of Education, in collaboration with Joseph H. Dunlap, director of the Aviation College.

The program will pair up to 50 college student mentors with students from three Kalamazoo middle schools: Dey, Lakeview, and Central.

The mentors will meet with students from other Kalamazoo middle schools and University cultural and athletic events. They will be recruited from three Kalamazoo middle schools and University cultural and athletic events. They will be recruited from three Kalamazoo middle schools.

The program was designed to enhance the self-esteem and awareness of educational opportunities.

"The goal will be to give the kids as much campus exposure as possible," Bates says. "Each year we hope that the student mentor will agree to spend about two hours per week with the younger students, primarily on campus."

In the first year, 150 WMU students from the Aviation College and mentors will meet on campus one Saturday of each month for group activities that will enhance the students' understanding of campus life and attitudes, as well as attendance at University cultural and athletic events.

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"The program is targeted at students who think they are not good enough to make it to the top," Bates says.

"We believe that we can help these students to see that they can be successful in college," Bates says.

WMU and Kalamazoo County public health officials have been working on a plan to take all of the necessary preventive medical steps to give the children a better chance in life.

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Branchaw honored

Three women therapists with experience in delivering substance abuse services in a correctional setting have been recruited to provide counseling and to deal with the gender issues that arise in treating women prisoners. According to C. Dennis Simpson, Special Vice President for Alcohol and Drug Abuse, the contract calls for the delivery of substance abuse services similar to those that SPADA and ABC, the University's facilities for corrections inmates in Kalamazoo County and to parolees and those on probation in Kalamazoo County. More than 400 persons a year receive substance abuse counseling from SPADA under this contract.

Branchaw honored by international association

Bernadine P. Branchaw, business information systems major, has received the highest honors that can be bestowed on a member of the Association for Business Communication. Branchaw recently was named a Fellow of the Association.

In addition, she was recognized with a new award named in her honor, the Bernadine P. Branchaw Award for Excellence in Teaching.

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Branchaw, who served an ABC president in 1992-93, has been a member of the organization since 1975 and has served on numerous committees over the years. She co-chaired the ABC's 1979 Midwest regional convention in Chicago and was the ABC's national convention coordinator for the 1985 national convention in Chicago. She and Joel P. Bowman, international director of the Association, authored the association's first manual on computer systems, and she was also selected as the first recipient of that award.

More than $2 million in grants were awarded to the University during September, according to a report presented to the Board of Trustees at its Nov. 5 meeting.

September grants totaling $2,319,253 brought the total of grants received since the July 1 beginning of the fiscal year to $4,396,368.

Trustees hear gift and grant reports for September

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Thursday, December 9
(Continued from page one) Could be helpful...
She especially appreciates Shirley A. VanHoeven, communication, with whom she has become good friends. VanHoeven included this essay in a powerpoint presentation she prepared about issues in organizations that proved particularly interesting.
Rosevelt and two other disabled students participated in the class with a fourth student on an oral presentation on empowering disabled persons. "We got an A," she said.
How and does one empower disabled persons? "You treat a disabled person like a real person, and you go with their strengths," Rosevelt said. "Their weaknesses often are obvious, but their strengths may not be.
She also has some tips on how disabled persons and able-bodied persons can relate more effectively.
Researchers have discovered that disabled student employment asks for input through surveys
WMU's student employment referral service has mailed a survey to supervisors of student employees regarding a training program for students.
The survey is designed to collect information on how supervisors of student employees that would give students an introduction to their responsibilities and rights as University employees. The program would replace existing training programs currently conducted by departments, but would provide a more focused approach.
For more information, faculty members may contact their department chairpersons or directors, or may call Marcia A. Kingsley, University libraries, who is chairperson of the committee, at 7-5147. She also can be reached on e-mail at "mkingsley@wmich.edu"

Senate (Continued from page one)
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The reservation deadline is Friday, Dec. 10.

Collection areas will be established in several campus buildings to gather the items. For more information, persons may call Greg Mooring, 7-6725.

THE University celebrated this Christmas Latino style in two events last week, sponsored by the Hispanic Student Organization, the Caribbean Latin American Club and the Division of Minority Affairs. A program on Thursday in the Bernhard Center featured cultural displays from Latin America to illustrate how Latin Americans celebrate Christmas. WMU students told stories about customs and sang songs from their countries; tableaux and displays were presented.

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