Quality of freshmen improves as quantity decreases

The average high school grade point average of freshmen has increased from 3.14 grade point average in 1990 to 3.19 this year. A total of 23.6 percent of freshmen were ranked in the top 10 percent of their high school class, compared to 19.7 percent in 1990. Fifty-two percent of freshmen have jumped by 10.3 percent since 1987, while national GPAs have increased by only .69 percent.

Henderson credits a careful refinement of admissions standards, along with a University commitment to scholarships and the Lee Honors College, as aiding in the improving academic trends.

"Universities often are merely into thinking that if they maintain high standards, they'll get fewer students," he said. "In fact, what it means is that students recognize quality. They know that if the standards are kept high, that university is a good place to go. We actually benefit from having higher standards." Henderson noted that half of the public universities in Michigan had greater declines in beginning freshmen this fall than WMU. The decreases since fall 1990 ranged as high as 9 percent. One way WMU reaches out to academically talented students is through its $1 million Medallion Scholarship Program, which each February attracts between 600 and 700 high school seniors to campus for one of two days of competition for the merit-based awards. Established in 1984, the program offers awards ranging from the prestigious $25,000 Medallion Scholarships to the $4,000 Academic Scholarships. All students who participate and decide to attend WMU receive some type of award. This year, nearly two-thirds of those who competed last winter are enrolled in WMU.

In addition, nearly 250 freshmen are enrolled in WMU's Lee Honors College this fall. While various programs for talented students have played a role in improving the freshman class profile, Henderson said the primary factor behind the gains is the University's heightened image in the state.

"WMU is not just a regional institution," Henderson said. "It is, as U.S. News and World Report said in its college guide, a national university.

"We can point to the geographic diversity of the freshman class and say that 100 of the 15 top feeder high schools are from other parts of the state," he continued. "That's an indication that we are not just a Southwest Michigan institution. Geographic diversity speaks to how highly Western is regarded in other parts of the state."

The top feeder high schools and the numbers of freshmen they sent to WMU this fall are: Sterling Heights (27); Portage Northern (37); Northville (31); Birmingham Seaholm (29); Portage Central (20); Brightons (25); Groves Pointe North (23); Troy Athens (23); Detroit Cass Tech (21); Holland (19); Plymouth Salem (18); Owosso (18); Mattawan (18); Detroit Martin Luther King Jr. (18); and Livonia Stevenson (18). The five largest counties represented in the freshman class are: Wayne (444); Oakland (360); Kalamazoo (225); Macomb (199); and Kent (115).

In addition to being more geographically diverse, the fall 1991 freshman class is more racially diverse. The number of Asian American, Native Americans, African Americans and Hispanic Americans has jumped by 23 percent from 239 to 294. They now comprise 0.5 percent of the beginning freshmen at WMU.

"We are extremely pleased to see those numbers of minority students," Henderson said. "That has been a major effort on the part of the entire University. We believe we communicate a message to students by having all of our admissions staff — not just minority counselors — involved in the recruitment of minority students. We also have a diversity unit in our freshman orientation program. Minority students see WMU as a place where there's a positive climate."

Because of the shrinking pool of high school seniors, minority recruitment is becoming increasingly important to universities, Henderson said.

"It's very important for the University to be successful in recruiting students of color because the increases that come in high school classes in the future are going to be among the minority groups. It's imperative that the University realize this and be able to meet those students' needs."

(Continued on page four)
Record number induced into 25 Year Club at banquet

Seventy-one faculty and staff members who have completed 25 years of service at the university were eligible for induction into the 25 Year Club at the annual banquet Dec. 3 in the North Ballroom of the Bernhard Center.

For the fourth consecutive year, this was the largest group to be inducted since the club was founded in 1982 with 98 charter members. The number reflects an unprecedented 33 percent increase over the all-time high of the preceding year. This year's inductees, five new faculty as well as corresponding administrative and support staff 25 years ago, included 20 students, 20 employees and 151 retired members, recognizes those employees who have completed 25 or more years of continuous service to the University.

Members and guests were welcomed and presented with a message from Laura S. Liggett, associate vice president for human resources. New members were presented by President Haenicke.

Those eligible for induction were: Esther E. Bickle, Graduate College; William A. Carlson, emeritus in counselor education and recreation; John E. Coulombe, art; Ellen S. Cha, University libraries; Allen K. Cogdell, provost and dean of the college of arts and sciences; John D. Downey, provost and dean of the college of engineering; Peake Wolter, provost and dean of the college of education and recreation; Ellen K. Page-Robin, Library Services; C. Bruce MacQueen, Counseling Center; Richard W. Malott, psychology; Donna B. Ous, speech pathology and audiology; Fred C. Orlofsky, physical education; Robert E. Perdue, department of social work; Karen P. Rieke, college of arts and sciences; Patricia A. Lemanski, health, physical education and recreation; Craig Byer, provost and dean of the college of business; Edward J. Florin, provost; Karen L. Pulaski, philosophy; Richard C. South, music; Curtis A. Rhodes, art; David W. Rice, physical plant-B/L maintenance; Evan L. Richards, history; George M. Rice, college of business; Martha R. Rogers, political science; Michael H. Rosen, sociology; Ernest E. Rossi, chairperson of the department of political science; the Rossman, communication; John D. Farnsworth, communications; Ronald L. Sackett, engineering technology; Gerald C. Schwingen, controller; David A. Sheldon, music; Thomas E. Small, English; Robert D. Swanson, law; and Richard W. Malott, psychology.

The gift was made by Nichols' widow, Doris, and it honored her bachelor's and master's degrees from WMU, and their children. In addition to their gift, all memorial contributions made to Nichols' name will be designated to this scholarship.

Nichols, who died June 17 at age 73, taught in the Department of Physics from 1959 until 1981 and earned a doctorate degree from WMU in 1939, and later received a doctorate in economics from the University of Michigan and a doctoral degree from Michigan State University.

Design projects to be unveiled

A solar-powered exhaust fan for a motor home, an infrared scanning system to detect human diseases and a device to reduce the volume of recyclable plastics at home are among the projects that will be unveiled Dec. 10, at the ninth Conference on Senior Engineering Design Projects at the Bernhard Center. Seventy-six seniors in aeronautical, computer systems, electrical, industrial and paper engineering and in engineering technology will present the projects they have completed to solve problems facing business and industry.

The conference is sponsored by the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, with exhibitions and the conference 8-10 a.m. to 4-6 p.m. Dec. 10, in the North Ballroom of the Bernhard Center. Seventy-six seniors in aeronautical, computer systems, electrical, industrial and paper engineering and in engineering technology will present the projects they have completed to solve problems facing business and industry.

Play to celebrate 200th anniversary of Bill of Rights

George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton, Robert Morris and James Madison’s other founding fathers and historical figures soon will come to life on stage at WMU. "These Truths We Hold," a play about the new American nation and the efforts to enact the Bill of Rights, will be performed at 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, and at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15, at York Arena Theatre.

The play is written and directed by Clark Cable, political science and public affairs. Cable was commissioned to be the playwright by the Michigan Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution. The commission will hold its final meeting in Kalamazoo in conjunction with the premier performance of the play.

The University Theatre is producing the play, under the direction of James R. Daniels, the university’s artistic director.

"It’s a feather in WMU’s cap to have the commission ask the University to produce this play, which celebrates the adoption of the Bill of Rights on Dec. 15, 1791, plus meet here in Kalamazoo to see it," Cable says. This will be the second time Cable and Daniels have collaborated on a University Theatre production. In 1982, the two worked together on the production of “When Eagles Gathered,” a play by Cable about the Virginia Ratifying Convention of 1788.

"At that time, several important states exacted a promise that the first order of business in the first U.S. Congress would be the ratification of a bill of rights," Cable says. "This new play shifts forward to the 1788’s when to the first Congress met in 1789, the task of ratifying the Bill of Rights was then was a U.S. representative from Virginia, to ratify a bill of rights."

"Putting 'These Truths We Hold' on the stage was a challenge, but a labor of love," Cable says. "We’re looking forward to discussions about the characters in the play — men like Washington, Jefferson and Hamilton, and the work they were close to them — and researching their roles in the events leading to the adoption of the Bill of Rights."

(Continued on page four)
Visiting professor from Eastern Illinois University to present convocation lecture Wednesday, Dec. 11

Olga Abella, a visiting professor at WMU this year, will speak Wednesday, Dec. 11, as part of the University's Convocation Lecture Series sponsored by the Division of Minority Affairs.

The lecture is set for 4 p.m. in Kanley Hall. The King/Chavez/Parks Visiting Professor Program was initiated by Rep. Morris Hood of Detroit and the Michigan Legislature to increase the number of minority faculty members at the University. The conferring of the program has been successful in encouraging minority studies in education through their exposure to minority scholars.

Ideas sought for "On Campus"

Is there a staff member you've seen at the University and thought would be a good guest for the "On Campus" feature? Is there someone in your department who has retired? Send your ideas for "On Campus" to Ruth A. Stevens, news services, or call 7-4100.

Media Services

Media services recently completed projects of instructional interest to the University community. The following are in the University's film/videotape library:

"WESTNET: An Excellent Journey" is a humorous orientation to the University library's multimedia cataloguing system. WESTNET includes Finder, Kelly and Database. In a library environment, this service is available for classroom presentations within the library, for faculty loan from the Media Resource Center and for other libraries as a prototype.

A recent addition to the University's film/videotape library is "10th Annual Peace and Justice Film Festival" (see related story). "10th Annual Peace and Justice Film Festival" is sponsored by the Division of Minority Affairs.

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Media and Information Services

Media and Information Services, currently is finishing production for Edward J. Pawlak, social work, on a series of vignettes dealing with sexual harassment, sextortion and critical incidences. Twelve videotaped scenes depicting a range of events have been taped. These current issues faced by management in human service organizations will be used as discussion materials for seminars.

A recent addition to the University film/videotape library is "Yearbook Reference Library." Purchased

Last News for fall semester to be published Dec. 12

The Dec. 12 issue will be the last Western News of the fall semester. The deadline is noon Tuesday, Dec. 1.

On Campus

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On Campus

Correct address needed for W-2

If you have change of address within the past year and have not notified the human resources information systems (HRS) office or the payroll office, we are looking for you! The payroll office will be mailing your wage and tax statement (W-2) before the end of January, and it must have your current correct address.

To change your address, you may use the form on the back of your paycheck envelope, or send a memo to information systems, 1206 Seibert Administration Building. Changes must be received by Dec. 31 to ensure that your W-2 will be correctly addressed at January.

If you have changed your name, this correction must be made by having your name department submit a P-006. You may call HRIS at 7-3622 to confirm your name and address are correct in your employee file.

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Teichert write German language textbook
A WMU couple has written a new German language instruction book for the college and high school classroom. Herman U. Teichert, languages and linguistics, and Lovette Teichert, Career English Language Center for International Students, have cooperated on a book titled "Allerlei zum Lesen." The book, recently published by D.C. Heath and Co. of Lexington, Mass., is an intermediate German reader suitable for college students in their third or fourth semester or high school students in the third or fourth year. The title translates means "all kinds of things to read," according to Herman Teichert.

"The unique feature of the book is its presentation of pictures with the stories," he said. "It offers mental images like a child's book but it is intended for young adults."

The fact that traditional German instruction books often included only stories with man language instruction book for the college and intermediate German reader suitable for college students in their third or fourth semester or high school students in the third or fourth year, the title translates means "all kinds of things to read," according to Herman Teichert.

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