Engineering management grad program named best in nation

The University’s graduate program in engineering management has been named the top such program in the nation, while WMU’s undergraduate program in the same discipline is among the top-three programs nationally.

The American Society for Engineering Management announced the rankings in October at the group’s annual meeting, held this year in Huntsville, Ala. This is the third year both WMU programs have been listed among the nation’s top five. WMU is the only school in the nation with top-ranked programs at both levels in the discipline that blends engineering and project management skills.

According to the programs’ advisors, David Lyth and Larry Mallak, industrial and manufacturing engineering, three years of national rankings have transformed their programs, doubling the number of undergraduates enrolled and generating more job opportunities for recent graduates of WMU as well as increased mobility for program alumni.

Trustees to consider AFSCME contract, real estate moves

Real estate transactions and ratification of a new contract with members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees top the list of agenda items to be considered Friday, Dec. 15, when the WMU Board of Trustees meets.

Convening in a public session at 11 a.m. in Rooms 157-159 of the Bernhard Center, trustees will also consider a resolution on the ongoing search for WMU’s eighth president as well as a recommendation on revising the research misconduct policy. They also are expected to set a series of board meeting dates for 2007.

In addition, the board will hear gift, grant and personnel reports.

Year’s last paychecks available early

With the last paycheck for the year falling on Dec. 26, when the University is closed, the administration has elected to change the paycheck day to Friday, Dec. 22.

All paychecks will be distributed on that day.

Direct deposits and WebCheck information also will be available to employees on that day. Requests for early pickup of paychecks will not be honored.

Employees also are asked to verify their home mailing addresses to avoid delays with the January mailing of W-2s. Change of address forms can be found at www.wmich.edu/hr/forms.htm.

Enslen, Mallinson set to receive honorary degrees during Saturday commencement

A renowned West Michigan legal figure and a scholar who helped build WMU’s science research and graduate capabilities will be awarded honorary degrees at WMU commencement ceremonies on Saturday, Dec. 16.

Richard A. Enslen, senior judge for the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan, will receive an honorary Doctor of Law degree, and an honorary Doctor of Science degree will go to Jacqueline Buck Mallinson, who retired from WMU in 1988 after a decades-long career in science education.

The degrees were approved by the Board of Trustees Oct. 20. The recommendations were brought to the board by WMU Interim President Diether H. Haenicke. Both nominations were brought to him by WMU’s Honorary Degree Committee.

Enslen, according to Haenicke, will be honored for “his great achievements as a judge and as a citizen of this community.” Nominated to the federal court in 1979 by President Jimmy Carter, Enslen announced his retirement in 2005, formally taking on senior-judge status. His 27 years on the bench included oversight of a host of controversial cases. Among the most notable were those dealing with Indian fishing rights, conditions in Michigan prisons, civil rights and Title IX gender	

WMU to graduate 2,200-plus students

More than 2,200 students will graduate during three commencement ceremonies Saturday, Dec. 16, in Miller Auditorium.

Interim President Diether H. Haenicke will preside over the first and third ceremonies while Provost Janet I. Pisaneschi will preside over the second ceremony.

The University will confer an estimated 2,246 degrees: 1,707 at the bachelor’s level, 483 at the master’s level and 47 at the doctoral level. It is believed that more doctoral-level students will graduate on Saturday than have graduated at one time since WMU began granting doctoral degrees in 1968. In 2005-06, the most recent academic year completed, the University awarded a total of 68 doctoral degrees during the entire year.

Ceremony times and the colleges for which they are being held are: 9 a.m., College of Education and Extended University Programs; noon, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, College of Health and Human Services, and Haworth College of Business; and 3 p.m., colleges of Arts and Sciences, Aviation, and Fine Arts.

During the final ceremony, WMU will present honorary degrees to Judge Richard A. Enslen and Jacqueline Buck Mallinson.

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Michigan Senate capital outlay bill includes WMU's Sangren Hall

After years on WMU's list of top building priorities, a project to renovate Sangren Hall moved closer to reality when the Michigan Senate approved a capital outlay bill that includes authorization for the first phase of the $52 million project. Michigan Senate Bill 1081 passed Dec. 7 and includes an amendment developed by Sen. Tom George of Kalamazoo. The amendment authorizes the University to begin the planning phase of reconstruction for the building that is home to WMU's College of Education.

The 43-year-old structure is one of WMU's major classroom buildings. The bill still must be approved by the Michigan House and signed by the governor. "Sangren Hall is home to our oldest college and is our primary location for educating the young people who will teach in Michigan's K-12 classrooms," said Interim President Dieter H. Haenicke. "It is structurally sound but in dire need of renovation to modernize it and allow us to provide the best possible technical instruction for these young professionals. We are pleased and grateful that Sen. George recognized the importance of this project and gave its support with the amendment he proposed."

Weather closing procedures, snow removal plans detailed

With the onset of winter, WMU employees and students should review the weather closure and snow and ice removal plans.

Winter weather rarely results in a decision to close the University. On those infrequent occasions when severe weather does result in closing WMU, first word of the decision will be found online on the University's home page at www.wmich.edu or by calling WMU's primary information line at (269) 387-1010. The latter is equipped to handle dozens of callers at the same time.

Once a decision is made and the home page and emergency line closing notifications are implemented, University staffers also will notify local television and radio stations of closing details.

Any official closure of the main campus means WMU regional centers will be closed as well. It is, however, possible for a regional center to close and the main campus to remain open.

Winter hours have begun for snow removal crews at WMU. Plow schedules cover snow and ice removal activities 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Emeriti Council event Jan. 10 will focus on Gilmore Festival

January's regular Wednesdays II program sponsored by the Emeriti Council will feature a presentation called "Reflections on the Gilmore Festival" by Phyllis Rappeport. It is scheduled for 2 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13, in the Heining Emeriti Lounge on the second floor of Walwood Hall's west wing (side closest to Oakland Drive).

Snow removal crews are responsible for clearing more than 23 miles of roads, 100 acres of parking, 39 miles of walkways, 200,000 square feet of steps and ramps, and hundreds of doorways. Even when it does not snow, freeze/thaw conditions create special ice management challenges on all of these surfaces.

Providing there is not a major storm, most areas will be clear of snow and ice prior to students, faculty and staff arriving on campus each day. Various steps around the campus that are deemed to be a convenience rather than a necessity are closed for the winter, allowing crews to concentrate on major access areas.

WMU has contracted with KLS for street and parking lot snow removal. Faculty, staff and students with special mobility needs should call Landscape Services at 387-8557. Snow and ice removal schedules can be adjusted to accommodate needs. Any questions or concerns after normal business hours should be directed to public safety at 387-5555.

Western Way's campus campaign still shy of overall goal

The 2006 United Way campus campaign brought in $202,379 in gifts and pledges through Monday, Dec. 11, which leaves WMU $14,621 or 6.8 percent shy of its $215,000 goal for the year.

"There have been many success stories in this year's campaign," said Lynn Kelly-Albertson, chair of the campus campaign. "We are very confident that with a few gentle reminders to those who have not yet returned their pledge cards, we can surpass the goal by the end of December."

Among the success stories, Kelly-Albertson cites 223 new contributors and more than 280 WMU donors who have increased the amount of their gifts compared to one year ago. More than 1,100 employees and retirees have already pledged or contributed.

WMU's campus drive officially kicked off Oct. 3 and is part of the Greater Kalamazoo United Way's $10.75 million overall campaign.

Julien publishes new book about Spanish conquest in the Andes

Catherine Julien, history, has just published a translation that tells the story of what happened during the 16th-century Spanish conquest period in Peru—from the viewpoint of an Inca ruler. Her translation of Titu Cusi's "History of How the Spaniards Arrived in Peru" was published this fall in both hardcover and paperback editions by Hackett Publishing Co. of Indianapolis.

The book was designed to be put in the hands of history students everywhere, and it offers side-by-side Spanish and English text put into the context of the historical, cultural and literary contexts that produced it.

"It's inexpensive. I'm glad because I want him to be read," she says. Julien, an ethnohistorian whose longtime focus has been on Peru, has been a faculty member since 1996. She is also the author of the award-winning book, "Reading Inca History," and the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship for her work in Peru.

Doctoral student presents prize-winning work to CDC in Atlanta

Barbara Cliff, a doctoral student in the interdisciplinary Health Studies program, traveled to Atlanta last week to present her 2006 Pisaneschi Prize research paper at the U.S. Centers for Disease and Control's 12th Annual Material and Child Health Epidemiology Conference.

Cliff was invited to make the Dec. 6 presentation of her paper "The Association between Body Mass Index and Water Circumference in Adolescents." This paper was awarded the Pisaneschi Prize for best research presentation at the 2006 Interdisciplinary Health Studies Conference on campus in July. She is the first recipient of the prize, which was named for WMU Provost Janet I. Pisaneschi, who also served for 17 years as dean of the College of Health and Human Services.

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Pharmacy reopens on Sindecuse's main floor

After a seven-month renovation, WMU's pharmacy in the Sindecuse Health Center resumed its first-floor operations Dec. 4 and debuted its new drive-through pickup window three days later.

To use the drive-through service, faculty and staff members must sign up for Express Pay payroll deduction. WMU retirees and students will have charges billed to their WMU accounts.

Except for holidays and break periods, the pharmacy's and Sindecuse's new winter and spring semester hours are: 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Fridays, and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays.

The pharmacy's drive-through window is for prescription pick ups only and will be open during Sindecuse's regular hours and after hours until 5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

The Sindecuse Health Center modified hours during this year's holiday break are: Monday through Friday, Dec. 18-22—open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday through Tuesday, Dec. 23-26—closed; Wednesday, Dec. 27—open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Thursday, Dec. 28—closed; Friday, Dec. 29—open 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Saturday through Tuesday, Dec. 30-Jan. 2—closed; Wednesday, Jan. 3—open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Thursday and Friday, Jan. 4-5—open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday, Jan. 6—closed.

January deadlines approaching for Universitywide awards

The University is seeking nominations for its 2007 Distinguished Service Award, which will be presented to outstanding members of the WMU faculty or staff. The deadlines for this and a number of other campus awards are coming up in January.

All current, continuing full-time faculty and administrative staff with at least five years of service at the University are eligible to receive the Distinguished Service Award, and only current, continuing full-time faculty and administrative staff are eligible to submit a nomination.

First presented in 1980, the award recognizes exceptional service to WMU through innovative and effective programs, service in areas and organizations that contribute to the growth and stature of the University, or service that extends the impact and presence of the University into larger communities.

Up to two recipients of the Distinguished Service Award will be selected and announced at the academic convocation in February. Recipients will receive a plaque, an honorarium and a subsequent adjustment to their base pay.

The complete nomination packet will be accepted in the Office of the Provost until 4:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 26.

Guidelines and nomination forms are available as PDF files at www.wmich.edu/provost/announcements.

Meanwhile, the deadlines for other important campus awards are coming up in January, and members of the campus community are encouraged to take advantage of the holiday break to complete their nominations for:
• The Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award—up to three awards based on outstanding professional achievement will be made this year. The deadline for nominations is Saturday, Jan. 20. Details are available at www.wmich.edu/research/distinguished.html.
• The Emering Scholar Award—a new award designed to acknowledge the accomplishments of academics' rising stars. Up to three awards will be made this spring, and the deadline to nominate someone is Friday, Jan. 26. Details are at www.wmich.edu/provost/announcements/.
• The Distinguished Teaching Award—recently revived, this award honors outstanding teaching, and up to three awards will be made this spring. The previously announced deadline has been extended to Friday, Jan. 26. Details are at www.wmich.edu/provost/announcements/.
Honorary degrees

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equity in Michigan schools.

Throughout his career, Enslen has been deeply involved in civic and community activities, and as a judge who was keenly interested in the potential for alternative dispute resolution, he served on the American Bar Association’s Special Committee on Dispute Resolution. His reputation on the bench led the Kalamazoo Gazette in 2000 to name him “Person of the Century” in the category of law and courts. A native of Kalamazoo, Enslen has had a lifelong relationship with the University that began when he was an undergraduate. Named a WMU Distinguished Alumnus in 1982, he is a dedicated fan of both professional baseball and WMU athletics.

Enslen earned a law degree from Wayne State University in 1958 and a Master of Laws degree from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1986.

Mallinson, Haenicke said, will be honored for her “high level of professional achievement and her outstanding service to the University.”

Mallinson established a national reputation in her field by participating in the original design and evaluation of tests for the Educational Testing Service and by serving as co-director, instructor and evaluator for more than 10 National Science Foundation institutes and programs. She reviewed and edited hundreds of papers for the Journal of School Science and Mathematics, helping to propel that publication to national prominence. Her peers recognized her in 2000 for her “high level of professional achievement and her outstanding service to the University.”

With her late husband, George G. Mallinson, a longtime dean of WMU’s Graduate College, she worked tirelessly to build the University’s graduate programs and expand its science facilities. The couple is credited with helping to launch some 50 programs at WMU, including some of its most celebrated graduate offerings, such as blindness and low vision studies and physician assistant. Jacqueline Mallinson played a major role in developing the Rood Hall and Everett Tower science complex and was instrumental in securing federal and state funding for the projects.

The author of more than 300 professional articles, and the co-author of numerous textbooks, she taught at WMU from 1957 until her retirement in 1988 as an adjunct associate professor of science education.

Mallinson earned a bachelor’s degree from Kalamazoo College in 1948 and a master’s degree from the University of Michigan in 1951.