Diether Haenicke returns to take helm at WMU

Diether H. Haenicke, who served from 1985 to 1998 as WMU’s fifth president, was unanimously appointed interim president at a special meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees Aug. 15.

He succeeds Judith I. Bailey, who had served as president since 2003. Planning is under way for a national search for a new president, and the board is expected to announce more details of the search process later this month.

Haenicke was academic vice president and provost at both Wayne State and Ohio State universities. During his more than 40 years in higher education, he has served at every level of academic leadership. His major fields of study are German and comparative literature, history and philosophy.

Following his tenure as WMU president, Haenicke returned to the faculty and officially retired in 2004 as president emeritus. Since 2000, he has written a popular weekly column published in the Kalamazoo Gazette. A book containing about 100 of his earliest Gazette columns was published in 2003.

IT services upgraded to filter out more obnoxious e-mail messages

There’s no more wading through Nigerian banking scams, offers involving Russian business, PayPal account checks or Viagra ads just to get your e-mail.

Welcome to a world nearly free of spam.

Among a number of other upgrades and changes, WMU launched its first campuswide anti-virus and anti-spam system this fall. In earlier times, information technology staff members did their best to filter and stop troublesome e-mail at the server level, but in recent years, the massive volume of spam and the increasing resourcefulness of spammers have made that job much tougher.

To protect University systems and faculty, staff and student users, WMU invested in a virus and spam detection system, tested it over the summer and implemented it for the entire University community just in time for the start of the fall semester.

“Our user community has been pretty smart about not getting pulled into most of these scams, but the spam and viruses are still a problem,” says Vice President Viji Murali. “The most obvious change for end users is that they’re going to actually get to see the real e-mail they need to see, without having to wade through millions of these spams.”

Initially, the anti-spam software will be programmed to automatically and permanently remove any piece of e-mail identified with 90 percent certainty as spam. In testing, IT officials carefully tracked the removed messages to make sure that there are no errors—that is, valid e-mail mistakenly identified as spam. Later in the project, the system will be adjusted to automatically remove spam at the 80 percent certainty mark, with suspected spam of less than 80 percent certainty directed to a spam folder that users can check on a regular basis.

Murali notes that IT staff will be monitoring continued on page 4
Around Campus

Spirit Day fires up weekend
Faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends are encouraged to wear brown and gold or Bronco gear Friday, Sept. 8, for Bronco Spirit Day. This month’s spirit day kicks off a big weekend of school spirit with Bronco Bash on Friday and CommU-niCity Night Football on Saturday.

The WMU Bookstore and Campus-Trends are having a sale Friday and Saturday, Sept. 8-9, with 20 percent off regular prices on all WMU clothing and souvenirs at the Bernhard Center locations and booths in Waldo Stadium at CommiUniverCity.

Richmond Center group forms
A community support group is organizing for the new Richmond Center for Visual Arts in the School of Art. All interested campus community members and the public are invited to attend either of two introductory meetings at 5:30 p.m. Monday or Tuesday, Sept. 11-12, in the Dalton Center Lecture Hall. A reception will follow. At the introductory meetings, benefactor James Richmond will offer opening remarks.

GSAC staging family picnic
RSVPs are due by Monday, Sept. 11, for the Graduate Student Advisory Committee picnic from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16, at the Goldsworth Valley gazebo. The event will feature free food, games and music as a way of welcoming to campus new and returning graduate students and their families. RSVPS are available online at www.wmich.edu/gsac.

Komen Foundation event slated
WMU will play host to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation National community educational tour from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 20, at the parking lot in front of Sangren Hall. The public is welcome at the event, which will feature a pink truck that converts into an interactive learning center. For details, contact Linda Lumley by sending e-mail to linda.lumley@wmich.edu or calling 387-2995.

Study Abroad Fair open to all
The campus community and public are invited to “Experience the World” by attending the Haenicke Institute’s 2006 Study Abroad Fair from 4 to 7 p.m. Wed., Sept. 20, in the Bernhard Center’s South Ballroom.

During the fair event, attendees will be able to speak with WMU faculty and students involved in study abroad, representatives of non-WMU sponsored programs, and helpful University staff from the Haenicke Institute, Student Health Center and Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships.

Service set for 9/11 anniversary
WMU’s employee groups are sponsoring a service at noon Monday, Sept. 11, to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States. The ceremony, which is open to the public, will take place in Goldsworth Valley near the 9/11 memorial erected by the employee groups in September 2002.

The program is nearly identical to the memorial’s dedication ceremony. Those attending the event are invited to bring a flower, ribbon or other token. In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held in Kanley Chapel.

Jobs
The following vacancy is currently being posted through the Job Opportunity Program by the Human Resources Services Department. Interested benefits-eligible employees should submit a job opportunity transfer application during the posting period and may contact a human resource services staff member for assistance in securing this position.

Employees may call the Applicant Information Service at 387-3669 to hear the weekly Job Opportunity Program postings, seven days a week, 24 hours a day, from a touch-tone phone. Current posting information is also available online at http://www.wmich.edu/hr/job.htm.

(R) Administrative Assistant Senior, Department of Geosciences, 06/07-5223, 08/31-09/11/06 R-Replacement, WMU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.
A message to the campus from Interim President Haenicke

Dear Colleagues:

Little did I expect to be addressing you as president of this University again. I consider it a great privilege to do so, and I look forward to the important work of the coming months.

Enrollment and retention will be the two issues upon which we must focus in the near term. There is not a single person at the University who will not be expected to play a role in making this campus a place that is attractive and welcoming to students and an environment that is both civil and challenging. My personal focus will be on doing whatever it takes to regain our position as a school with a growing and happy student body. When we are successful on that front, our financial difficulties will not be as serious as they are today.

Two major initiatives—one on branding and a second on Web redevelopment—will help us address the enrollment and retention issues. Both have been in the works for many months and were awaiting only the start of the semester and the return to campus of many of our University community members to formally begin. Both will have the highest priority and my support.

The branding initiative will be introduced in detail at this evening’s meeting of the Faculty Senate. On Friday morning, a Web site will be available that will carry the Faculty Senate presentation and further details about the effort.

The branding work will be focused on research to determine perceptions about the University among our most critical constituents. It also will involve in-depth internal discussions designed to help us define and better convey the key messages that describe the quality of this wonderful institution. Faculty, staff and students from across the University will be involved in this lengthy process. I urge you to take every opportunity to become involved and voice your views.

In the coming weeks, the Web redevelopment work will formally begin. Again, this work will be done by tapping the expertise, opinions and hard work of those who know this University and its needs best—the students, faculty and staff.

Please be ready to take an active part in both initiatives and be prepared to lend your support. Our enrollment figures in coming years will depend on the success of these critical efforts.

Warmest regards,

Diether H. Haenicke

Numerous appointments fill key administrative vacancies

A wide range of appointments have been made during the past few months.

• Earlie Washington, has been named dean of the College of Health and Human Services, effective June 19. Washington will serve in the post while the national dean search continues. She has been a member of the faculty and director of the School of Social Work since 2000.

• W. Wilson “Bill” Woods Jr. has been named interim dean of the Haenicke Institute for Global Education, effective July 31 pending approval by the Board of Trustees. Woods, an affiliate history professor, has directed operations for the University’s initiatives in the international higher education arena since 1986.

• James Gilchrist has been named vice provost for academic operation, effective July 1. Gilchrist, a faculty member since 1980, had served since 2005 as director of student academic and institutional research. He also has served as associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and in other high-profile posts.

• Tracy Branson has been named associate vice president for development, effective April 3. A professional fund-raiser, Branson has nearly 20 years of higher education management experience. Most recently, she was vice president for institutional advancement at McMurray College.

• Bassam Harik has been named vice provost for budget and personnel, effective July 31 pending approval of the Board of Trustees. Harik, who joined the faculty in 1979, has served as chair of the Department of Economics and since 2004, as associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Exchange


PSSO elects new leadership

Carrie A. Soule, student financial aid and scholarships, has been elected president of the Professional Support Staff Organization for the 2006-07 year, which began July 1.

Other officers elected were vice president, Janet Liebendorf, electrical and computer engineering; secretary, Dori LaChance, registrar’s office; and treasurer, Nancy Johnson, investments and endowment management.

In addition to the officers, five members-at-large were elected to the group’s executive board. They are: Nancy Armeson, Environmental Studies Program; Celeste Glassock, human resources; Sally Laws, customer account services; Michelle Lodeman, publications coordinator, customer account services; and Vicky Meinema, accounting services.

Fore information about the PSSO, visit its Web site at www.wmich.edu/pssso.

Obituaries

Alba F. “Polly” Pollard died Aug. 30. She was 92.

Pollard was a financial aid officer in the Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships from 1973 until her retirement from WMU in 1984.

She was born in Detroit and was a long-time Kalamazoo area resident, holding membership in St. Catherine of Sienna Catholic Church. Services were held at St. Catherine’s Sept. 1.

Peter Renstrom, political science, died Sept. 4 in Kalamazoo. He was 63.

Renstrom, who joined the faculty in 1969, was an expert on constitutional law and U.S. elections and taught courses in the American judicial process, criminal justice, civil liberties and civil rights.

He was honored by the College of Arts and Sciences in 2002 for his role in preparing students in his department’s public law concentration for professional roles in government and the law. He had coached WMU’s successful mock trial team since 2000.

Renstrom was the author or co-author of 10 books on constitutional law, including the 1993 edition of “The Constitutional Law Deskbook,” which he wrote with retired WMU Professor Ralph C. Chandler and retired federal Judge Richard A. Enslow.

On campus, Renstrom was active in the Faculty Senate and the WMU chapter of the American Association of University Professors. In the community, he had a long history as a campaign consultant for local races and served on a number of boards, including the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners and Board of Public Works.

Renstrom earned a bachelor’s degree from Macalester College in 1965, and his master’s and doctoral degrees from Michigan State University in 1968 and 1962, respectively.

Additional summer obituaries are available online at www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/obituaries.
On Campus 
with James Wiseman

Fresh produce, thicker ketchup, palatable peanut butter—the list goes on and on. But Jim Wiseman knows what to look for and where. “The food industry is an unusual field. It’s not like buying nuts and bolts,” says Wiseman, purchasing agent in WMU Dining Services. “Fresh items are grown year round somewhere in the world. We get it from here to here at the right price, so I guess you could say our job has become a logistical nightmare.”

Wiseman came to WMU in 1981, armed with a business degree and sales experience at a food company. His main role now is helping feed more than 4,000 students by procuring high-quality, reliably consistent ingredients for the University’s dining and catering units.

Aided by a finance assistant, Wiseman sets up contracts with some two dozen food distributors, making sure WMU’s six-week menu cycle never skips a beat—in the residence halls or campus cafes. He also works on processes—bids, issues purchase orders on a weekly basis, buys equipment, and assists in doing surveys to determine what students like and don’t like.

“The most enjoyable part of our work is satisfaction in a job well done,” Wiseman says. “The most challenging part right now is controlling costs, given the high cost of fuel and petroleum-based products like plastic cups.”

Student tastes keep changing, he adds, prompting WMU to expand six-week hours and menus and last year, to introduce a meal plan for off-campus students.

“I started out regularly purchasing 500 ingredients and that’s increased to 1,500,” he says. “There are more options for students to eat as well as healthy as they want to.”

Wiseman, a New England transplant, is a self-proclaimed golf addict whose favorite “vacation” was traveling to Scotland and playing on the courses there. When not golfing, he says he spends as much time as he can with his daughter, who started graduate school at WMU this fall.

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WHAT CAN BROWN DO FOR YOUR—Renovation of Brown Hall got off to a “green” start this summer when teams from Habitat for Humanity in Kalamazoo and Battle Creek comb through the site in search of materials that could be salvaged and resold to support future Habitat houses in both communities. The long-planned renovation of Brown, a nearly 40-year-old classroom building, is being financed largely through state funding. The project gave WMU the opportunity to have Habitat for Humanity salvage materials the organization can sell in its Restore operations in Kalamazoo and Battle Creek. Items Habitat saved from becoming landfill fodder included interior doors, cabinets, cubicles, and bathroom and lighting fixtures. (Photo by Mike Lanka)

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WMU symposium to focus on U.S./Canadian ‘shared waters’

A September symposium and photo exhibit at WMU will focus on U.S.-Canadian relations and protection of the natural resource that serves as the critical tie between the two nations—the Great Lakes.

WMU’s Canadian Studies Committee will present “Shared Waters: A Symposium on the Great Lakes” along with the companion photographic exhibit, “The Great Lakes Close Up: Spirit and Science,” Thursday and Friday, Sept. 14-15, at the Fetzer Center and Waldo Library.

“The Great Lakes make up 95 percent of the freshwater in the United States and 84 percent in North America,” notes symposium coordinator Lynne Heasley, history and environmental studies. “Therefore, it’s no wonder that the symposium has generated tremendous excitement across campus, with five WMU colleges and 15 academic units sponsoring speakers and sessions.”

For details about the symposium and all its related events, visit the Web site at http://international.wmich.edu/canadianstudies or call the Canadian Studies Program office at 387-4666, the program’s chair at 387-4666 or Heasley at 387-2778.

SPAM continued from page 1

ing the system carefully over the next few weeks to ensure prompt delivery of e-mail is maintained while incoming mail is subjected to the extra screening. Such problems should be reported to IT by notifying the Help Desk at 387-HELP or helpdesk@wmich.edu.

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“We’ve had faculty and staff involvement from the very start of the firm selection process, and we’re developing advisory teams to ensure broad campus representation and participation. Now it’s time for everyone at WMU to be aware of and ready to become part of this undertaking.”

The Simpson/Scarborough team has already been on campus to conduct in-depth interviews with a number of staff and faculty members directly involved in student recruitment efforts.

This month, they will be working with faculty research experts in marketing, and the University’s Evaluation Center and Kercher Center to finalize the survey tools the University’s Evaluation Center and Kercher Center to finalize the survey tools that will be used to collect data. They expect to begin data collection in October.

“We’ve been working hard over the past 18 months to build a strong enrollment management team and put other key resources in place,” Rosine notes. “The competition in higher education is fierce, but our University has incredible attributes to offer. This research and the Web redevelopment work we’re undertaking will provide the information we need and the tools we can use to catapult WMU forward.”

Beginning Friday, Sept. 8, a Web site will be available that will be devoted to news about the branding initiative. The site, which will be found at www.wmich.edu/branding, will include the Faculty Senate presentation and links to all news and events involving the work.

The University’s long-planned Web redevelopment work also is set to begin later this month. A campuswide team will work with mStoner, a national firm that conducted a review of WMU’s Web presence last year.

GROCERY GURU

(PHOTO BY JEANNE BARRON)