Innovative program for 'undecided' students honored by national advising organization

A program aimed at easing the entry of students whose major is "undecided" into the academic advising process has been honored by a national organization of evaluation and academic advising professionals.

WMU's University Curriculum recently was selected to receive a 1988 Certificate of Merit from the American Academic Advising Professionals. The award will be presented at the group's national conference in February in Miami. WMU's program was judged "outstanding" by the organization's five-member selection committee following a review of program descriptions submitted by colleges and universities across the country. The award is given by the organization "in recognition of innovative and/or exemplary practices" in the field of academic advising.

According to Lynne C. McCauley, director of University Curriculum, the committee's judgment was based on the program's design, goals and objectives, methods of evaluation and potential for adaptation, as well as on support data provided to show how successful the program is in reaching its goals.

Other considerations included size of the institution and details on programs logistics such as funding, staffing and reporting structure.

University Curriculum was begun at WMU four years ago to respond to the growing numbers of students who enter the University with "undecided" major status. Such students are considered at risk and typically have a higher attrition rate than those who make an immediate major selection. The retention rate for University Curriculum freshmen, however, has been higher than the rate for WMU's freshman class as a whole.

The program offers academic advising, training, skill development, academic support services, career planning information and referral services to about 25 percent of the freshman class each year.

The program also encourages students to enroll in several courses specially designed for the student who is in the academic exploration process.

This year, WMU has expanded one such offering to accommodate larger numbers of students from all programs. Doing so has meant a commitment to teaching in the program by a broad array of University faculty and administrators, including President Haenicke. Students enrolled in "University 101; Freshman Seminar," a recommended curriculum "core" class, may find the University president, provost or a department chairperson leading the class.

Corporate Olympians

Competing in everything from a tug-of-war to running to cheerleading, the 123 members of the WMU-Zest for Life teams captured second place in their division in the Kalmaroo YMCA Community Corporate Olympians last weekend. Here, members of the tug-of-war team try to pull to victory, while fans in the stands cheer them on. For more details on the results for Western's three teams, see the article on page three.

Center named external evaluator for Kellogg program

Western's Evaluation Center has been awarded a three-year contract with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Mich. Distinguished by the national evaluation of the foundation's new Kellogg Youth Initiatives Program.

The evaluation contract was awarded $191,526 to the Evaluation Center for the first year of the project which will focus on implementing evaluation plans designed by the center earlier this year. These plans were developed under a $74,947 grant announced by the foundation in April. The starting date of the new project is July 1.

The Kellogg Youth Initiatives Program is a long-term commitment by the foundation to assist three areas of Michigan in addressing the needs of youth. The target locations are Calhoun County, a section of urban Detroit and Marquette and Alger counties in the Upper Peninsula.

The primary goal is to strengthen positive environments in which young people can best develop and grow. The program involves a partnership between the foundation and selected communities willing to make a commitment of human and financial resources. The communities will identify youth-related needs and present proposals to the foundation for projects to meet those needs. After reviewing proposals, the foundation will make grants to projects that meet program objectives.

Under the direction of Jack Mawdsley, a foundation program director, the Kellogg Youth Initiatives Program includes specific efforts to improve the quality of life for Michigan youths. Foundation officials have pledged to sustain those efforts for a long period of time so that lasting results can be achieved in addressing youth problems that are common across the nation.

According to Daniel L. Stufflebeam, Evaluation Center's director, the staff's part in the foundation's program will have three major components. The center will prepare an in-depth study of program activities at each site and will employ and train a person at each site to act as resident researcher. The center also will prepare an overall evaluation of the program, analyzing such aspects as the program's effectiveness in helping communities identify and collaboratively address the needs of youth. Finally, the center will provide technical assistance and training in evaluation methods for communities to use as they assess the impact of programs developed and implemented at the local level.

Local initiative and collaboration among community groups, Stufflebeam says, are the hallmarks of the Kellogg Youth Initiatives Program. The foundation is making a major investment in terms of funds and investment of time, but it is also being very careful not to be prescriptive. The intent is to promote leadership and foster creative responses to youth needs within the communities.

Stufflebeam says he and his staff will employ an evaluation approach that is compatible with the community-based collaborative thrust of the program.

We will use evaluation procedures and instruments that are responsive to the evolving nature of the program," he says. "We will not impose rigid methods and standards that presuppose the objectives to be pursued at each community. Like anthropologists, we will closely observe and record what each community does and achieves through the program.'

He expects in use one-on-one observation techniques the center has developed over the years, but sees the need to develop (Continued on page four)
When the space shuttle Discovery takes off, a WMU faculty member will be watching and thinking forward to the day when instruments he is working on now may be a real part of a new generation of spacecraft.

As a developer of small, lightweight aircraft and automotive engineering, has just been awarded $25,000 in renewal funds from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to continue research he began last year with $97,039 in NASA funding. The project focuses on the development of small, lightweight sensor modules capable of quickly and accurately transmitting flight information back to an aircraft's central computer system.

The instruments he is developing can measure such vital information as altitude, rate of rotation, acceleration, pressure and strain at any location in the aircraft where they are placed. The information is then transmitted back to a central computer through a multi-computer hub at the node by using a laser transmitter.

A National Teleconference on Sexual Harassment Planned

A national teleconference on sexual harassment will be held at Western from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 21.

Titled "Sexual Harassment on Campus: Current Concerns and Controversies," the teleconference is part of the National University Teleconference Network. Its showing in 3760 Knauss Hall will be handled locally by the Affirmative Action Office and Women's Center.

Malott wins Fulbright

Richard W. Malott, psychology, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to spend two months this fall lecturing at the Catholic University in Montevideo, Uruguay.

The grant, announced by the Council for International Exchange of Scholars, is one of about 1,000 awards that will take American scholars abroad this year under the auspices of the federally-funded program named for former Sen. John W. Fulbright of Arkansas.

This is the second Fulbright Scholar Grant awarded to Malott, a professor of psychology.

Rhodes' paper wins award

A research paper by Steven C. Rhodes, communications, has won an award from the International Listening Association for the third consecutive year.

Rhodes has received the Ralph G. Nutt Award for the best three-year accumulation of data-based research presented at the organization's 1988 convention. His paper, titled "Gender Differences in Listening Skills," focused on the differences between men and women in their ability to listen and to remember different types of data.
Experts on discipline in the schools, education, and the role of Visiting Scholars

A national expert on discipline in the schools and an authority on nuclear physics and education, will participate in the Visiting Scholars Program.

Professor V. F. Jones, professor of education and director of teacher education at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon, will have a free public address at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 3, on "Working Effectively with Troubled Children and Adolescents - as Teachers and as Parents." In Red Rooms A and B of the Bernhard Center.

He will also present several seminars for faculty, students and administrators and teachers at 10 a.m. Monday in Red Rooms A and B of the Bernhard Center on "Comprehensive Classroom Management;" at 11:30 a.m. Monday in 3110 Sangren Hall on "Reaching the Area of Discipline;" and at 3 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 4, in 205 Bernhard Center on "Assessive Discipline as a School-Wide System: Are There Other Approaches?"

Hugh T. Richards, professor and chairman of the Department of Physics at Western Michigan University, will present a technical talk on "Probing the Nuclear Structure of S" at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 4, in 1110 Reed Hall.

Jones' visit is being coordinated by the Department of Education and Professional Development, while Richards' is being arranged by the Department of Physics.

The Visiting Scholars Program was established in 1960, and has provided more than 365 visits by scholars representing among 65 academic disciplines. The Visiting Scholars Committee is chaired by James J. Bosco, education and professional development.

Corporate Olympians take second in division

The WMU-Zest for Life teams earned a second-place finish in the women's division during the Kalama YMCA Community Corporate Olympians last week.

The three teams comprised of 12 WMU employees earned second-place finishes in the women's and second-place finishes for a total of 12 place finishes. The team consisted of 12 athletes, a spirit competition, barrier competition, women's 4x100-meter relay, men's 4x100-meter relay, men's 4x100-meter mixed relay, women's 4x100-meter mixed relay, and 1-mile mixed relay. The team participated this year, but would like to be on a team for the 1990 Corporate Olympians should call the Zest for Life office as soon as possible at 7-3762.

Meeting set for University 101 faculty

Faculty members teaching University 101 courses should plan to attend a meeting at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 5, in 2110 Rood Hall.

The meeting will discuss topics such as strategies for coping with the short-term effects of physical smoker, but for a smoker's household. The meeting will be led by Gary R. Hanson of the University of California at Los Angeles. Bennett says the teleconference is less oriented toward classroom learning and more oriented toward learning that takes place in students as citizens on campus.

Teams from each of Western's colleges and from the Undergraduate Studies Council and the Administration, Financial Aid and Student Services Councils have been invited. More information, persons may contact Benda at 7-3031.

Zest for Life

Two Zest for Life health enhancement programs have been announced.

At noon Mondays, Oct. 10 to Dec. 5, a 45-minute weight management program will be offered. The program will focus on helping participants develop skills in thought management, stress management, behavioral strategies, nutrition and exercise for successful management of obesity. Participants will be taught how to maintain healthy weight. The program begins Oct. 10.

Participants will meet for six weeks. Interested persons may call 7-3031 for more information.

The Quito for Life stop smoking program will begin at 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, Oct. 5 to Dec. 7.

The program is designed to help participants succeed in quitting smoking. Participants are taught how to identify risk factors for sudden cardiac death and increases health risks not only for a smoker, but for a smoker's household members.

This seven-session workshop helps participants assess their own smoking habits and develop strategies and skills for quitting and staying off cigarettes. Sessions include strategies for coping with the short-term effects of physical withdrawal, identification of situations in which participants encounter difficulties, stress management, weight management and building a self-image that focuses on healthy non-smoking alternatives.

Both programs require advance registration by calling the Zest for Life office at 7-3762.

Media

Jack T. Humbert, consumer resources and technology, discusses the fashion trends of the future on "Focus." The five-minute radio interview produced by the Office of Public Information. "Focus" is scheduled to air Saturday, Oct. 1, at 6:10 a.m. on WKPR-AM (1420) and at 6:45 p.m. on WKZO-AM (560).
Rodriguez named to position in admissions

Diane M. Rodriguez, a human resources staff member in the Office of Admissions, has been named its new assistant director.

Rodriguez began working in the Office of Admissions in 1985 as a counselor, and in 1986 was approved to serve as assistant director.

"Ms. Rodriguez brings to this position a great deal of experience in interpersonal skills, enthusiasm, a can-do attitude, a proven record of working with various constituencies, on and off campus, and three years of admissions experience," said Stanley E. Henderson, admissions.

"I believe she has the combination of skills and the background necessary to provide the leadership our office must have at this time."

Before joining the staff at Western, Rodriguez was a service coordinator for the Hispanic American Council in Kalamazoo for two years.

At the University of Florida and her master's degree in anthropology from WMU.

Information Center now part of admissions

The Information Center in the Seibel Administration Building has become the "Campus Visit and Information Center."

The center has shifted from being part of the Office of Public Information to being the responsibility of the Office of Admissions. Its student staff provides information to other students, faculty and staff members and University visitors.

"We do everything from giving out brochures to processing numbers, answering calls, handling phone calls, and doing tours and special events," Ms. Rodriguez, admissions, who manages the center.

"To be successful in our job, we must rely on resources from throughout the university. The center must be able to provide information we need to serve our clients, and so we need to develop "centers" for departments to send us whatever they feel would be helpful."

The center's hours for the 1988-89 academic year are 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and noon to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

Kellogg continues to provide services to students

"Working Effectively with Troubled Teenagers and Children -- as Teachers and as Parents," Red Rooms A and B, Bernhard Center, 7:30 p.m.

PLANS BEING FINALIZED - This new sketch of the renovated Waldo Library, on the right, and the new Computer Center, on the left, was unveiled during the Sept. 16 Board of Trustees meeting.

According to architects from the WBDC Group in Grand Rapids, planning is in the final design stage. An interesting development in the plans is the 76-foot clock tower that will be part of the walkway connecting the two buildings at the second and third levels. Pedestrians will be able to pass under the bridge and into a courtyard that is being designed to serve as a center focal point for the campus.

Groundbreaking for the project is expected to take place later this fall.

Admission charged