Alumni express satisfaction with their experience

More than 95 percent of the graduates of the classes of 1981 and 1986 who responded to a recent survey expressed openness to the idea of joining WMU, the quality of their degree and the breadth of their general education courses.

"Those are particularly strong responses that suggest WMU is performing well in a number of important dimensions," said Mary Anne Bunda, University assessment, who conducted the survey. "These results also suggest a great deal of confidence on the part of alumni in their WMU education."

The survey is part of a larger effort to assess the outcomes of education at the University, including a program to test freshmen and sophomore that is now in its second year. First-year results showed that both freshmen and seniors are above average in a number of subject matter areas. In "each of the two classes, more than 70 percent of the respondents said they were satisfied and another 27 percent said they were very satisfied," Bunda explained.

"Only 9.5 percent of the graduates were dissatisfied," she said. "We express gratitude for that, and caring faculty, Bunda said."

In another key dimension, 52.5 percent of 1986 graduates rated the quality of their degree as above average and another 11.5 percent rated it as excellent. Bunda said. "Some 52.1 percent rate their degree as average for a total approval rating of 93.5 percent. Graduates from 1981 expressed slightly less approval, but with slightly more respondents in the top approval range.

In addition, Bunda said, alumni "had high praise for the skills they gained in their major field of study. A total of 95.3 percent of 1981 respondents strongly agreed or agreed with the statement that they were better prepared in the major and that their skills were better prepared in the major and that their skills were helpful in their current work." About the same 95 percent -- of 1986 graduates responded that way.

The survey results were based on 301 responses from 1981 and 332 responses from 1986 bachelor's degree graduates. Surveys were sent to about 600 members of each class for a response rate of about 50 percent, which Bunda characterized as "very good."

Bunda urged caution in the interpretation of the alumni survey results. "There are challenges with the process," she said. "We don't know why people gave the ratings they did. We only have the ratings that they gave."

"However," she said, "the process keeps us sensitive to a different constituency. Students on campus can make their voices heard in a number of ways. Our alumni need a regular mechanism for giving direction as we seek to improve WMU."

Bunda said she believes it is important to gather data from graduates who have been out of school for at least two years. She hopes to conduct a similar survey in two years.

"If we surveyed alumni immediately after graduation, we'd get a lot of unique, individual perceptions and not enough of a global perspective," she said. "After a couple of years, you can get a good impression of how alumni believe their experience at Western affected their ability on the job, their desire to attend graduate school and their ability to perform in the workforce."

In fact, a majority of graduates -- 55 percent -- either had, currently do or intend to participate in graduate studies, most in master's degree programs. Persons who have attended graduate school rate their preparation at WMU for such study as good," Bunda said.

Grads said they chose Western in the first place because of the "availability and reputation" of the University's academic programs.

The survey found differences between the two classes in two areas, computer skills and international understanding. Bunda noted.

There was "a strong positive shift" in ratings of the adequacy of computer skills between the classes of 1981 and 1986. It was during those years that Western began to require computer literacy of all graduates.

In the other area, graduates in 1986 indicated a stronger understanding of pride in their WMU experience," Bunda said. "A number of others said that Western deserved a better reputation than they thought they had."

(Continued on page 5)

WMU "responsive" to need of blacks, other minorities, says former administrator

"Western Michigan University has been responsive to the needs of African-Americans and other minorities," said Ethridge, a former WMU area coordinator in housing, assistant to the president for equal opportunity and administrative affairs and secretary of African-Americans to the University.

"Ethridge traced WMU's commitment to minorities to James W. Miller, president of the University from 1964 to 1974. "Jim Miller was my mentor," he said. "He was very supportive of me."

"Miller had the vision and foresight to see this place as diverse as it was supposed to be," Ethridge said. "It was important for some of us to be in institutions. "Western has not lost that foresight to see this place as diverse as it was supposed to be," Ethridge said. "It was important for some of us to be in institutions. "Western has maintained that momentum." Ethridge said that individuals must do "a job of foresight to see this place as diverse as it was supposed to be," Ethridge said. "It was important for some of us to be in institutions. "Western has maintained that momentum." Ethridge said that individuals must do "a job of institutional involvement of minorities. We must do some in-service training to assure the upward mobility of minorities here."

"It's not without problems," he assured. "It's where you move to, it's a move within the institution, maintaining the commitment that Jim Miller and others have made."

Ethridge was introduced by Chauncey J. Britt, vice president for development and admissions, and secretary to the Board of Trustees. LeRoi R. Ray Jr., director of the Black Americans Studies Program, served as master of ceremonies. Ethridge was a WMU alumnus, was an area coordinator in housing, assistant to the president and secretary to the Board of Trustees from 1961 to 1974 before going to Emory University in Atlanta, where he is assistant vice president for equal opportunity programs.

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(Continued on page 5)
Faculty members breathe new life into journal

Intent on rescuing an academic journal from the brink of death, a trio of WMU faculty members became publishers two years ago. The result has been a new lease on life for the journal and introduction of the University's name to the far corners of the world.

The Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare, now in its 16th year of publication, has not only been rescued from the brink of death, it is enjoying remarkable health. Subscriptions to the publication are up more than 50 percent during the past two years and the journal, in addition to its timely appearance, timely publication practices and growing reputation, has led to a surge of manuscript submissions from scholars across the country and, recently, from foreign countries as well.

It's a great opportunity for the University," says Thompson, noting that because WMU is now the official publisher of the journal, authors and subscribers will have regular contact with the University name.

"Academics in other countries have a more accurate perception of the University because WMU is now the official publisher of the journal," Pawlak says.

All of this has been accomplished, Leinhug says, while preserving the journal's academic and professional quality, encouraging emerging scholars by offering quick publication and advice on improving research techniques and writing quality.

According to Thompson, the journal promotes the integration of the social sciences and the human services in order to better serve society. It publishes papers that analyze social welfare issues, provide new theories and problems and the operations of the human service organizations. As is the case with all publications under the WMU umbrella, the journal maintains high standards in selecting the papers for publication. Unlike many journals, however, a good idea that still needs work is not apt to meet with a curt rejection in most cases.

"Most journals act as screeners," Leinhug says, "picking out the gems for publication and rejecting everything else. We have a different philosophy. We feel that we can help them polish their rough stones into gems."

Reviews and rejections of papers submited are kept in a file, a departure from the typical short and often cruel rejection letter used by many publications, Leinhug says. Prospective authors have received as many as three pages of feedback giving specific suggestions for improving the submitted work.

Thompson says that such a policy of good ideas and promising pieces of work have been salvaged as a result of that personal touch the journal has offered its contributors. In publication, he says, have been the sum of several academic writing careers. Pawlak agrees and says that has been a source of great personal satisfaction.

"It really pleases me to see something that we've heavily critiqued published and enjoying a successful piece of work," he says.

The journal, published for the first 13 years of its existence at the University of Connecticut, had fallen on hard times before the trio took over. The major cause of the problems lay in the fact that the journal's en-person staff at that university simply did not have the time needed to devote to the business side of the journal's manufacturing, handling of author relations, managing subscriptions.

Production hold-ups that led to late printing dates annoyed subscribers and left accepted authors in limbo wondering when their papers would appear. Since production practices required authors to submit their papers in camera-ready form ready for reproduction, the typeset quality of the finished product varied and the number of typographical errors was high.

With encouragement from Donald E. Thompson, assistant vice president for academic affairs and chief research officer, the trio took a proposal to President Haenicke asking for a developmental grant to revamp the journal format and have each issue professionally typeset and printed.

None of the three had any experience in publishing, but with a grant from Haenicke and further support from the College of Health and Human Services, the College of Arts and Sciences, the Department of Sociology and the School of Social Work, they took over the task.

With advice from faculty members and a similar interest in the journal, Pawlak assumed control of the editorial side of the journal since handling author relations, working with other members of the journal's editorial board and ensuring a professional product. In addition, Thompson has been building up an editorial board and securing a professional copy editor.

Pawlak assumed control of the manufacturing side of the journal taking responsibility for copy and proofreading and ensuring a professional product. In addition, Thompson has been building up an editorial board and securing a professional copy editor.

PUBLISHING TEAM - Behind the effort to rescue the Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare are, from left, editor Leighninger, associate editors Edward J. Pawlak and Danny H. Thompson, both social work.

Submissions to the journal, which had plummeted during the years before publication in WMU, have rebounded and the number and variety of articles received have allowed the editors to group submissions on related topics for use in special issues. The result has been issues devoted to such topics as social welfare history and welfare reform. Additional special issues result when a professional or a group of professionals approach the journal about devoting an issue to a single topic.

This year, three such special issues are in the works and one or more of those issues will be heavily promoted for classroom use. Such issues, Leinhug says, are also very saleable as back issues.

Four-way stop to be installed at intersection

On Monday, March 6, four-way stop signs will be installed at the intersection of North Dormitory Road and Gilsen Avenue.

"Two major problems have existed at this intersection for the past several years: traffic accidents and traffic congestion for west-bound vehicles," said Lanny H. Wilde, public safety.

Currently, there are stop signs on two sides of the intersection: North Dormitory Road and the exit from the Sincere Health Center parking lot. But there were no signs to stop the flow of traffic on Gilsen Avenue.

Wilde said that an analysis of the traffic situation at the intersection was conducted by students from a Cours. in Transportation and Traffic Engineering last fall. He also approached him this past September about doing the study as a class project.

Traffic Control Devices and conducted the necessary traffic survey in November.

The number of traffic accidents and traffic volume through the intersection, this location meets the requirements for a four-way stop," Wilde said.

Stop ahead signs and oversize stop signs will be installed on the two Gilsen Avenue approaches to the intersection. Orange cones may be attached to the two new stop signs to alert drivers to the changes.

"The four-way stop sign approach would provide the safest intersection for campus and Marion to alleviate traffic congestion several years ago and we are confident of the same results at this intersection," Wilde said.

The four-way stop sign approach would provide the safest intersection for campus and Marion to alleviate traffic congestion several years ago and we are confident of the same results at this intersection," Wilde said.

Hoefer biographer to speak

An expert on J. Edgar Hoover, the FBI and the origins of the Cold War will be at Western Michigan University on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 14-15, as part of the Visiting Scholars Program.

Richard Gid Powers, professor of history and American studies in the Graduate Center and College of Staten Island at the City University of New York, will give three lectures.

At 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 14, he will discuss Anti-Communism and American Culture" in 2750 Knauss Hall. His address at 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 15, is titled 'J. Edgar Hoover and the Cold War.' At 2 p.m. Wednesday, he will discuss "Crime and Popular Culture: the FBI in popular culture that year.'

The latter two talks will be in 2015 Bernhard Center.

Powers is the author of a critically acclaimed biography of Hoover titled "J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI," which won the 1994 Popular Culture Association's Ray Browne Award for Outstanding work in popular culture that year.

In "G-Men," he analyzed Hoover's meteoric rise to power and cast him as a major figure in the 1930s and '40s. G-Man films and comic strips, "Secrecy and Power," published in 1987, tells the tale of the rise and fall of Hoover, drawing on FBI files, personal documents, interviews and primary sources.

Powers' visit is being coordinated by the humanities area of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at WMU. Persons may contact Lewis H. Carlson, humanities coordinator.

The Visiting Scholars Program was established in 1990, and has provided more than 800 outstanding scholars representing some 65 academic disciplines.

Ethics workshops to focus on using case studies to teach

The third program in a series of workshops on "Teaching Ethics Across Disciplines" will be scheduled for Wednesday, March 15.

Lee Danielson of the School of Social Work and Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs will present two sessions for faculty members from across WMU who are interested in incorporating ethics courses in their respective disciplines or integrating the study of ethics into other disciplines.

At 1 p.m. in 205 Bernhard Center, he will discuss "Using Case Studies in Teaching Ethics," which is an instructional technique. And at 3 p.m., in 205 Bernhard Center, he will talk with all faculty members about "Teaching Ethics With Case Studies: Elements of Good Case and Discussion Strategies.

The workshops was sponsored by the Office of Faculty Development, the Center for the Study of Ethics in Society and the Office of Instruclional Development. To register for or more information, persons may contact the Office of Faculty Development at 7-5305.
No alcohol, no smoke and limited visitation to be offered as options in residence halls

Beginning in fall 1989, students living in residence halls at Western will have an option to reside in non-smoking, no-alcohol and limited visitation arrangements. These additional options are being offered on an experimental basis at the request of President Haaseneck, who said, "I want to ensure that students who choose a smoke-free, alcohol-free environment, we need to offer this option to the students." The added option will foster greater consideration of the rights of others - roommates and neighbors, especially with regard to clean air and alcohol-free environment, we need to offer this option to the students. The added option will be offered as options in residence halls at Western will have added option will limit the hours of visitation on certain floors may have added option will be accompanied by a hall resident. The added option will limit the hours on these designated floors will be 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 1 a.m. Friday and Saturday.

Currently, students may designate on their housing applications whether or not they smoke and whether or not they want to reside with smokers. However, this means that there are smokers in every residence hall. The new option will offer a smoke-free environment in entire halls of floors.

The current alcohol policy is that students may not drink alcoholic beverages in the residence halls. The new option will offer an alcohol-free environment, we need to offer this option to the students. Goldsworth Valley II complex will be designated as an alcohol-free environment, we need to offer this option to the students.

"Chest's Choice" -- For some people, it's hard to find time to prepare three meals a day. Imagine cooking up some 2,000 meals a week! During a busy time, that's what you'll find Thomas W. House, executive chef. "I cook for the masses," says the executive chef in the Fetzer Center. He supervises the food preparation for the people who attend business conferences or University events at the Fetzer Center, and for events that take place at the president's house. With help from two sous chefs, four prep cooks and a banquet staff of 40 regular and student employees, House puts together meals and provides everything from receptions to lunches to dinners. "The most time-consuming part is the real trend toward the lighter fare and the charbroiler he recently acquired helps the executive chef in the Fetzer Center prepare the food faster. Needs. One of his favorite entrees as a marinade fish dish, cooking up the fish, House does order. He says he can go through 30 cases of chicken breasts in a busy week and 660 pounds of beef tenderloin in eight weeks. Despite all the time he spends with food, he doesn't get sick of eating the dishes he's preparing explicating, the executive chef in the Fetzer Center, "I do work up a good appetite!" he says.
COLD AND CATTAILS -- Though the frozen landscape near Goldsworth Valley Pond definitely tells us it's winter, the cattails on the banks remind us that spring can't be far behind. And no matter what the weather, the swans who call the pond home don't seem to mind bathing in its frigid temperature.

Programs in Institutions of Higher Education," Mary Ellen Brandt, educational leadership, Tate Center, 3210 Sangen Hall, 10 a.m. (and 15) Academic Computer Center micrcomputer workshop, "Introduction to WordPerfect," 12:30, 2202 Sangren Hall, 12:30 p.m. *Togmor* Introduction to Microcomputers," Advanced registration required, call 7-5430.

Three lectures, "Local Government," "Global Reformation," Richard Fiske, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, 1114 Brown Hall, 6 p.m.

Women's History Month films, "Fear Woman" and "Simpleminded Jenny," 2750 Knapps Hall, 7 p.m.

*Performance, Christian illusionists Andre Kele, Miller Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

Alumni survey (Continued from page 87)

different cultures and value systems than their 1981 counterparts. "We've had a requirement for the study of non-Western cultures for a long time," Bouda said. "So it's not at all clear why there's a difference between the two classes on this issue.

Bouda listed several other findings of the survey, including:

- Seventy-five percent of all graduates were involved in at least one extracurricular activity, such as an academic club, a sorority or fraternity, a religious organization, or some sort of media. The most reported activity was a club related to a major.
- The vast majority of alumni -- up to 86 percent -- are employed full time. Of those not employed full time, some have part-time employment, some attend school full time and some are not currently employed.
- Seventy-eight percent are engaged in part-time employment, some have part-time employment, some attend school full time and some are not currently employed.
- Seventy-five percent of all graduates have returned to the campus since graduating.

Volunteerism panel planned

A panel discussion on "Volunteerism and Community Service" will be presented at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 12, in the Fox Hall lounge. Participating will be: Nancy Muldoon, executive director, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Greater Kalamazoo; William Pell, executive director, Gryphon Place, Kalamazoo; and Ruth Parker Sarvadi, director, Retired Senior Volunteer Program at Senior Services Inc. of Kalamazoo; and Margaret Verhoeven, 2302 Sangren Hall, 4 p.m.

Alumni programs (Continued from page 77)

*Admission charged