More than 1,250 to attend scholarship event

More than 1,250 prospective students and their parents will participate in the third annual Medallion Scholarship Committee event Saturday, Feb. 21, at Western.

During the event, 510 top high school seniors from throughout Michigan and four other states will compete for scholarships valued at $1 million to attend Western this fall. Some 750 of their parents will participate in other activities.

Topping the scholarship program are seven prestigious Medallion Scholarships, each worth $20,000 over four years. They are among the most merit scholarship awards in American public higher education.

The total of 510 students represents a 46 percent increase over the 350 students participating last year and double the number who competed the year before. The states they represent besides Michigan are Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Wisconsin.

"This response is a direct reflection of the quality of Western's Medallion Scholarship Program and, more importantly, on the quality of Western's academic programs," said Stanley E. Henderson, admissions, "Students realize that they can get a first-rate education at Western.

"Students are too discriminating in their choices to be influenced by scholarship dollars alone," he continued. "A college scholarship program simply makes our outstanding academic programs that much more attractive."

To be invited to participate, students had to have been admitted to Western by Jan. 15 and have at least a 3.7 grade point average (GPA) in high school, or at least a 3.5 GPA and an American College Test (ACT) score of at least 30. The selection committee considers grades, courses, test scores and performances in the on-campus competition as well as leadership, recommendations and, in some cases, personal interviews.

Among participants this year are 55 seniors who have perfect 4.0 GPAs and 62 who have ACT scores of 30 or higher, Henderson said. Forty-six students come from high schools in the Kalamazoo and Portage area, twice the number last year.

The event begins at 10 a.m. in the Ballroom of the Bernhard Student Center with a welcome by Henderson and E. Thomas Laxson, chairman of religion and of the Medallion Scholarship Committee.

Activities Saturday will include written testing and oral problem-solving activities of the Medallion Committee on Scholarship and Sports for Athletes with Disabilities. She is a co-author of a textbook, "Adapted Physical Education: A Developmental Approach.

A visiting scholar in the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, she also will speak to several classes while on campus.

The WMU Visiting Scholars Program was established in 1986 as a means of offering more than 330 visits by scholars representing more than 56 academic disciplines. The Visiting Scholars Committee is chaired by James J. Bosco, education and professional development.

Sex-determining technology could cause setback in women's equal rights movement, says expert

The widespread use of new technology that allows couples to determine the sex of their children and alter natural birth orders could deal a devastating blow to the women's equal rights movement, says a WMU professor.

Recently in Italy, a baby's birth marked the 15th anniversary celebration of the unmanned spacecraFt's 1986 encounter with the planet Uranus. Here, he met during an afternoon and evening open house at the SAME Center with, from right, Phillip T. Larsen, coordinator of educational development and director of the center, and Clark W. Bolax, a 1977 WMU graduate and teacher at Mattawan High School. The SAME Center was established 15 years ago this month to provide educational institutions on all levels with consultative services in science, mathematics and metric education.

The program was established in 1984 under the joint sponsorship of J. Michael Kemp of Kalamazoo, a former chairman of the Board of Trustees.

The award is presented to a woman employee of Western in recognition of her commitment and service to students, to the University and to women.

Any person on campus may nominate a WMU woman by submitting a letter to: Shirley Ray, chair, Woman of the Year Committee, Aeneas Student Services Building.

The committee will send a nomination form to each person recommended. If the recipient is considered for the award, she will complete the form and return it to the committee. The deadline for the receipt of the finalists and submit their forms to members of the Committee on the Status of Women is Feb. 27, the final vote.

Previous winners of the award may not be nominated.
Zest for Life

The Love for Life faculty/staff weight loss contest is now in its fifth week and the participants are doing just great! There are 40 teams with six participants each, including a captain who has the role of communicator, motivator and mediator.

The results of the mid-point weigh-in have been calculated and the 240 participants have collectively lost a grand total of 1,359 pounds. This makes an average loss of 34 pounds per team.

Media services

Media services is pleased to announce that the series "The Africans" and "The Brain" are now available for use in direct classroom instruction.

These programs are designed for teachers and students and have been offered in cooperation with the Office of Self Instructional Programs in the Division of Continuing Education. 

"The Africans" was produced by WNET in New York, while "The Brain" is an award-winning series which has won two Emmys. The series "The Africans," consisting of eight one-hour programs, incorporates a word or two of encouragement as these public cafeteria in the Bernhard Student Center. Stop by and see how your favorite team is doing. If you work near someone that's in the contest, please give him or her a word of encouragement as these last few weeks of the contest will be the most difficult.

The team with the most creative name and winners of the contest will be awarded prizes from printing services and the "Pudgy Princess" from printing services are each third place with 58 1/2 pounds.

The running totals are posted weekly on a bulletin board located at the entrance to the Bernhard Student Center. Stop by and see how your favorite team is doing. If you work near someone that's in the contest, please give him or her a word of encouragement as these last few weeks of the contest will be the most difficult.

The team that had to decide if they were going for total pounds lost or percent lost will get two $150 cash prizes awarded accordingly. Looking at the total pounds only (keeping in mind some teams may be going for percent) the "Paper Weights" from the Department of Paper and Printing Science Engineering are in the lead with a total of 646 pounds. The "Ruth A Dub-Dub: A Man and Five Tubs" from the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation are in a close second place with 651 pounds and the "Pudgy Princess" from printing services are in third place with 585 pounds.

The correct hours are: 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

Talks set on research, teaching, priorities

"Research, Teaching and University Priorities" is the theme of a series of presentations and discussions that begins next week under the leadership of the Honors College and the Office of Faculty Development.

The first session, titled "Teaching and Research: The Professoriate and Ideology," will be presented by Stanley Robin, sociology, from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 22, in the Red Rooms of the Bernhard Student Center. Persons are invited to bring a lunch and join in the discussion. Coffee and tea will be served.

Other presentations scheduled for the same time and place are: Tuesday, March 10 — "Research, Teaching and Decisions on Promotion and Tenure" by Peter M. Nelsen, emeritus in management; Thursday, March 19 — "The Assessment of Quality in Research" by Daniel J. Farrell, management; and Thursday, March 26 — "Multiple Perspectives on Quality in Instruction" by Mary Anne Buda, educational leadership and Evaluation Center.

Program to focus on ethical tensions

"Ethical Tensions Between the Individual and Organization" will be the topic of a Center for the Study of Ethics in Society presentation at 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20, in the Faculty Lounge of the Bernhard Student Center.

Philip H. Kramer, social work, will discuss the problems administrators have been having with the activities in which employees are involved on the job that may have implications on the work setting. In addition, James C. Pietrman, sociology, will talk about research on "whistleblowers." He will discuss factors that affect whether or not federal employees talk about wrongdoing in their organizations.

Pamela S. Rooney, assistant dean of the College of Business, will moderate the program.

Brown to discuss midwestern archaeology

"New Directions in Midwestern Archaeology" will be the subject of a talk at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24, by James A. Brown, professor of anthropology at Northwestern University.

An authority on the archaeology and cultural history of the Great Lakes region, Mr. Brown will speak in the gymnasium. The presentation is sponsored by the History Department and the American Historical Association. It is made possible by the College of Arts and Sciences' speakers fund and the Robert N. Lohr Memorial Fund.

The Graduate Studies Council of the Faculty Senate will meet at 3 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, in Conference Room A, Seelbert Administration Building. Agenda items include a discussion of graduate education.
The members appointed were: Professor Gale Newell, Accountancy; Professor Larry Pledger, Physics; Professor Peter Renstrom, Political Science; Mr. Robert Stoddard, Senate Office; and, Professor Mary Taylor, University Libraries. The President did not appoint a chair for the Committee, indicating that they could elect one of their number to work at the level of their committees which exist at Western. The Committee on Committees is charged with the responsibility for determining the composition of the committees and the total faculty hours spent on each committee during the year. The Committee's interest was not only in the number of committees, but also in the amount of time spent in committee work by those holding faculty rank.

The questionnaire sent to the deans of the colleges asked for responses about college-level committee structures with an eye to elimination, consolidation, or retention of committees. The deans were asked to discover how widely about 34% of available faculty time is spent in committee work at the college level, the departmental level, and under the segs of the Faculty (Senate) figures were supplied by the Senate of the University. Included in this analysis needs to consider the extent of faculty meeting attendance. Those who assume full attendance at committee meetings, which often is not the case.

The most commonly used term as "as an 'executive' or a 'curriculum' committee, tenure, promotion, and sabbatical leave committees are active or inactive at the individual in the department and committee level are, essentially, concerned with program. Aside from these instances, it is evident from the tabulation that the number of committees and the committee workload are relatively independent. Decentralization that can be loosened up to a proportion of time that would be expended in committee work at these levels has not materialized.

Taking a 3.0% figure (time spent in committee at University, Senate, departmental level) of the 1,279 faculty members (not large enough 2.9% of total faculty time). University committees tend to have greater numbers of administrators and staff. The number of committee participating and the amount of time spent on university-level committees are less than expected. Committee work is, in terms of proportion of time, not large (about 0.20 Jo). A standing committee should be created only when a regular flow of work is completed. A standing committee should rarely exceed seven persons; other persons occasionally useful to a committee should be elected rather than permanent. This situation should be changed.

The Committee feels it would be unwise to reach into the colleges, departments, and the Senate and make recommendations for elimination of particular committees or for specific modifications. To do so could be viewed as an unwarranted intrusion upon the autonomy of those units. We are prepared to make some general recommendations, however. These appear at the end of this report.

University Committees

For the next phase of our investigations, the Committee surveyed the chairs of University committees (or the persons to whom those committees report). The information was collected in a questionnaire including details about membership (expiration of terms, constituency or office represented); whether the committee is standing or ad hoc; (f) the years during the past 4 years (whether the current constituency is required by statute, regulation, or policy; and, our Committee asked for (5) of the copy of the committee's most recent minutes and agenda.

One of the members (Mr. Robert Stoddard) was at the University. In response to the President's charge, the Committee framed recommendations concerning whether individual university committees have completed their assignments, whether multiple committees are working on the same task, whether committees are working in cross purposes whether their charges are clear, timeliness for the committees were examined and, when appropriate, the Committee recommended for elimination, consolidation, or retention of committees. The Committee on Committees made recommendations concerning the membership of university committees, also. Those recommendations appear at the end of this report.

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HELPING HAND—Making sure students get the aid they deserve is part of the job of Victoria L. Morgan, a financial aid counselor in the Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships. She works particularly with students and aid in the special programs area, including the Michigan Indian Tribal University, the Intertribal Affairs, Michigan Rehabilitation Services and Blind Rehabilitation. She helps these students fill out their financial aid packets and is responsible for keeping track of the accounting, checking on any types of scholarships that might be available. In addition to these students, she works with any others who ask her for a counselor. "A lot of times students have problems and don't know which way to go," she says. "I send them to the people that might be able to help them in certain areas." A Western employee for eight years, Morgan is active in professional organizations, including the American Financial Aid Service, the Michigan Student Financial Aid Administrators, the Michigan Association of Financial Aid Administrators, the Michigan Association of Financial Aid Counselors. Morgan's job at Western also requires some computer work involving data entry, but the part she most enjoys is working with the students. "I look forward to going into work every day," she says.  "My day is made when I can help somebody. I like to help students—and I also learn from them."