

Tuesday, December 04, 2007

Volume 03, Issue 13

Jerrie Fiala, Editor: jerrie.fiala@wmich.edu

Social gathering offers welcome to CEAS international students

The College of Engineering and Applied Sciences (CEAS) and the Diether H. Haenicke Institute for Global Education (HIGE) co-hosted the 2007 International Welcome to celebrate the more than 350 students who come to WMU from all over the globe to earn engineering, engineering technology, and other engineering-related degrees.



Dr. Diether Haenicke, retired WMU president who recently served as WMU's interim president, meets and greets several CEAS international students at the 2007 CEAS International Welcome

For two hours, students from South Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe, and North, South, and Central America munched stuffed mushrooms, cheese-topped potato skins, fresh fruit, and crisp vegetables and mingled with professors, staff, administrators, and students.



Enjoying the food and camaraderie of the 2007 CEAS International Welcome are (left to right) industrial engineering Ph.D. students **Fehime Utkan** and **Ilgin Acar**, both from Turkey, and CEAS alumnae **Dr. Claudia Fajardo**, an assistant MAE professor teaching automotive and internal combustion engine classes. She is originally from Cuba.



Coordinators of the 2007 CEAS International Welcome were **Stephen Wood**, ISSA international programming intern; **Kimberly Ritter**, ISSA student activities coordinator; and **Dr. Tim Greene**, the CEAS dean.

The event, held in the Parkview Campus lobby, was arranged by the International Services and Student Affairs (ISSA), which is part of HIGE.

Among those "meeting and greeting" students were **Dr. Diether Haenicke**, retired WMU president who recently retired a second time after serving as WMU's interim president, and **Dr. Tim Greene**, CEAS dean.

Kimberly Ritter, coordinator of student activities for ISSA, was acknowledged for her role in organizing the Parkview Campus welcome. "This is really a great activity out here at Parkview," she said. "Our goal throughout the semester is to introduce the international students to what WMU has to offer."

Stephen Wood, a junior from Traverse City who has a double major in organizational communications and French, served as the international programming intern who worked as a liaison to link the international students, the CEAS, and the HIGE.

Wood said that many ISSA events are specifically aimed at CEAS international students to give them the opportunity to network with other students around campus. "This event is the first of many events planned for this year," he said. "We encourage all WMU students to get involved."

WMU presently has approximately 1,000 international students representing about 80 countries. The top-five countries sending international students to WMU are India, Japan, Malaysia, the People's Republic of China, and Canada. Nearly 10,000 international students representing 110 countries have studied at WMU since 1911, when the University granted its first degree to an international student.

Opinions and ideas, please! Send your thoughts on this article or suggestions for future articles to the editor at jerrie.fiala@wmich.edu Thank you.