



Sunway and W.M.U.

Commitment to excellence in educational standards

The first "crop" of the Sunway-Western Michigan University program has been harvested. By this, I mean the first enrollment of students, who began at Sunway College in August 1987, are now in their final semester of study at Sunway College. They will begin their studies at W.M.U. in the Fall Semester of this year.

Of this original enrollment of 65 students, 56 are now accepted for study at W.M.U. This is an 86% success rate. Additionally, another 7 students who have transferred to the Sunway-W.M.U. Program from Sunway Australian Programs or other local Colleges have been accepted for study at W.M.U. So a total of 63 students have gained access to overseas education via Sunway College. This is an achievement to which both Sunway and W.M.U. can point with pride.

The transfer process has been handled very smoothly due to the efficiency and cooperation of the Registrar and office staff of the College. With their hard work and help I was able to get the complete academic records and student application forms delivered in Michigan by the first week of February.

Then, at W.M.U., these applications and records were given priority and processed separately before all other applications for transfer. Sunway students are the only students, including transfer students from other Michigan Colleges, accorded this service. As a result, the Sunway applicants were the first names entered into the computer for Fall Semester registration, assuring these students the classes they need for a timely completion of their degrees.

They are also the only students in the world to have their letters of acceptance and visa application forms carried several thousand miles and hand delivered to them by two Deans of the university, Dean Norman Greenberg, International Education and Programs, and Dean Darrel Jones, College of Business.

As a result, the students have ample time to now make the best travel arrangements possible and to complete their visa applications. Also, before this report reaches print, they will have received housing contracts for their choice of living arrangements on campus at W.M.U. On this matter they'll face several tough decisions. For example, they will choose among Residence Halls -

- With or without food service
- With one or three meals per day supplied (WMU's food service has received two awards from the National Association of College and University Food Services)
- Residence in the International Residence Hall with full kitchen facilities available for the student's own "home cooking"



- Private room, or one or two roommates of their own choosing
- The option of painting and decorating the room their own way
- A Health Hall with exercise equipment and saunas available
- A High-Tech Hall for computer "hackers"

Regardless of choice, each room will be computer-ready and interactive with W.M.U.'s mainframe. Additionally, all of the Residence Halls will have planned social, recreational, travel, educational, and community service programs available for the students choice of participation. Twice within the last three years, Western has won "Best Program of the Year" honours from the National Association of College and University Residence Halls.

Of course, the primary goal of a responsible Institution is to provide quality education. WMU does not loose sight of this goal, but especially for students far from home, there is the responsibility of the university to offer a structured living environment that will assure both the comforts and stimulations necessary for effective learning.

A university is classrooms, labs, lectures, textbooks, library, and exams, but it is also exposure to a variety of people and experiences that will ultimately contribute to the students' success in later life.

This is what awaits the Sunway 'pioneers' who are starting their overseas education in August of this year. They will be there first, but in only a few months they'll be joined by the second Sunway enrollment who can begin at WMU in January, 1990. Thereafter, the Sunway-WMU Program will yield three crops per year. In any climate, whether seasonal Michigan or tropical Malaysia, three harvests per year is a sign of success. This has been achieved due to Sunway's and W.M.U.'s shared commitment to excellence in educational standards and student services.

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