



John and Carolyn DiBiaggio entertaining University of Connecticut guests in their home last month.

By MARIL STRATTON

Nearly nine months to the day after President Cecil Mackey announced his intention to resign from the MSU presidency, the Board of Trustees has named the University's 17th president.

John A. DiBiaggio, currently the president of the University of Connecticut, will become MSU's chief officer July 1, 1985 — the unanimous choice of the 12-member presidential search committee.

The committee, named last June, considered 202 nominations and applications for the post. Candidates came from 42 states and the country of Colombia.

Of the 202, 61 were currently presidents or chancellors; 96 were vice presidents, provosts, deans, chairpersons or professors; 45 came from nonacademic settings. Twenty-two candidates were women; 14 were minorities.

The search committee was composed of seven of the eight trustees (Trustee Peter Fletcher resigned from the committee Oct. 15 after he learned he had not been informed of a meeting); faculty members G.J. Karabatsos, chair of the chemistry department, and Patricia Barnes-McConnell, director of the Bean-Cowpea Collaborative Research Support Program; Richard Lewis, dean of the College of Business; Janet M. Topolsky, special assistant to the director of the Michigan Department of Commerce and a 1976 alumna from James Madison College; and Charles Krupka, student board chair of Associated Students of MSU.

THE COMMITTEE'S TIMETABLE:

The anatomy of a search

- June 16-30 — Solicitation of nominations by contacting presidents of land-grant and AAU universities, presidents of Big Ten universities, presidents of Michigan universities, presidents of Washington-based higher education associations, presidents and directors of national-level women's and minority organizations, presidents of women and minority dominant colleges and universities, and by placing a notice in the June 20 Chronicle of Higher Education.

- July 25 and 30 — Screening of candidates by two subcommittees.

- July 30, Aug. 14, Sept. 21 — Screening of candidates by search committee.

- Oct. 4-5 — Screening of candidates by subcommittees.

- Sept. 21-Oct. 8 — Telephone reference-checking of finalists.

- Oct. 10 — Winnowing of candidates to an interview list of eight.

- Oct. 12-29 — Interviewing of finalists

by all members of the search committee divided into two teams.

- Oct. 29 and Nov. 12 — Discussion of final recommendations to the Board of Trustees.

THE CRITERIA for candidate consideration included:

- Develop a vision for MSU through presidential leadership that will lead the total University to higher levels of quality, achievement, and service for the remainder of this century.

- Articulate this vision to the various constituencies of Michigan State University (faculty, students, staff, alumni, and general citizenry) so that all may understand and support the changing role of the University.

- Strongly support both the Land Grant and AAU thrusts and philosophies of the University in moving towards greater excellence.

- Maintain and strengthen the international dimension of MSU in both off-campus foreign programs and on-campus international studies.

- Emphasize improving the external relations of MSU, but not lose contact with the faculty, their needs and aspirations, and their significant role in meeting the academic mission of the University.

- Through outgoing, personal leadership efforts, develop a trust and understanding among the various constituencies that will stabilize external and internal relationships leading to more effective achievement of the mission and goals of MSU.

- Develop an effective line administrative team to which various tasks and responsibilities can be effectively delegated that will support the President, and University community, in improving the image and productivity of this world-class University.

- Be firmly committed to developing and implementing strong affirmative action goals and results.

- Exhibit strong leadership in better relating Michigan State University to the economic, political, and social environment and needs of Michigan.

- Develop institutional priorities and assist the University in further growth (quality and quantity) in all essential areas where we are strong, or should be strong.

- Be conscious of the needs of students, and work with them in an open manner in reacting to their needs, and relate to them, both personally and in a policy sense that will facilitate their education at MSU.

- Exhibit ability in managing large financial resources, complex budgetary procedures and demonstrate leadership in major capital fundraising.