



Outgoing President John DiBiaggio (second from left) and Nancy DiBiaggio (in white jacket) greet well-wishers during an Aug. 26 farewell reception at Wharton Center. DiBiaggio, who left MSU Aug. 31 to assume the presidency

of Tufts University, was honored by the Board of Trustees with a resolution of tribute. Students and alumni also presented the DiBiaggios with remembrances.

MSU News Bulletin/Bruce Fox

## New faculty get acquainted at orientation

When asked why he selected MSU from among 11 universities that offered him a position, Michael Lambert, new assistant professor of psychology, said, "One of the reasons was the University's land-grant mission."

"As a clinical psychologist I'm interested in teaching people," he said, "but I also want to give something back to the community."

Lambert and some 50 other new faculty received a thorough grounding in MSU's land-grant tradition — from its historic beginnings to its present-day applications — at an Aug. 27 New Faculty Orientation held at the MSU Union.

About 80 new faculty members have joined the University since Oct. 1, 1991, according to officials in the Office of the Provost, which sponsored the event.

The orientation included an address by President Gordon Guyer, who emphasized the University's land-grant tradition and the importance of continuing to focus on teaching, research and service.

The orientation also included presentations by Office of the Provost officials, a luncheon, information fair and video tapes.

A highlight, however, was a resource panel, "Diversity and Platforms for Change at MSU," in which eight faculty members representing various councils, committees and constituent groups discussed recent University initiatives.

"This year we're trying to give the new faculty a sense of the various platforms and initiatives," said Lee June, assistant provost for student academic support services and racial, ethnic and multicultural issues. "We're trying to give them a sense of the changes and the reasons for the changes."

Lambert, who came to MSU from the University of Mississippi, was not alone in his interest in the University's tripartite mission and its effort to integrate knowledge.

"I want to give something back to my profession and to students," said Gregory Baker, new associate professor of chemistry. "My specialty in chemistry is interdisciplinary, so I was looking for a place that welcomes interdisciplinary programs."

"The situation here struck me as having that sort of potential."

## Board approves presidential search plan

The Board of Trustees at its July 24 meeting approved a two-phase plan for the selection of MSU's 19th president.

In the first phase, the board, which will serve as the Presidential Search Planning Committee, will define parameters of the search and then create a Presidential Search Committee.

In the second phase, the search committee will carry out its responsibilities in soliciting nominations, screening candidates and completing the search process.

In a related action, the board appointed trustees Russell Mawby and Barbara Sawyer co-chairpersons of the planning committee. It also gave the group blanket approval for actions needed to expedite the search.

"No duty or responsibility of the Board of Trustees is more important than the selection and installation of the president," Mawby said when introducing the plan, which was proposed by the Presidential

Selection Procedures Committee. The committee is composed of trustees Mawby, Sawyer, Dolores (Dee) Cook and Robert Weiss.

"With the resignation of President (John) DiBiaggio effective Aug. 31, 1992, it is essential that the Board of Trustees move expeditiously to identify a permanent president," Mawby said.

DiBiaggio, who resigned to assume the presidency of Tufts University, is succeeded by Gordon Guyer until the search is complete.

The presidential search plan reflects six assumptions:

- the search should proceed with deliberate speed on a time schedule to be established during the planning phase;
- the process should provide for appropriate participation of various University constituency groups, including students, faculty, staff, alumni, MSU

supporters and the public;

- the process should conform with the Open Meetings and Freedom of Information acts;

- all board members should be involved in the development and execution of the plan;

- to the extent possible, candidate confidentiality should be exercised and respected by the process and board; and
- final selection should be the sole responsibility of the board.

In addition to developing a charge for and creating the Presidential Search Committee, the board in the first phase of the search is called upon to develop an updated list of priorities and expectations for the position.

The board is also charged to identify qualities, traits, experience and other criteria to be considered in seeking candidates and reviewing their qualifications.

## MSU makes 'big switch' to semester calendar

With the convening of classes Sept. 2, MSU made "The Big Switch," as it has been called on campus, to a new academic calendar.

The switch was from a quarter system, which MSU has used for the past 86 years, to one based on semesters.

Here are some major points regarding the transition:

- While the length of the academic year remains the same, under the new system students attend two 15-week semesters, rather than three 10-week terms. Students enroll — and take finals — only twice a year.

- Semester courses are expected to be less hectic than quarter courses, allowing students more time to absorb material and work on independent projects. Because the semester year ends earlier in the summer, students may find it easier to obtain summer employment.

- The schedule also provides greater opportunities for coordination and cooperation among universities and colleges throughout the country, as many operate on semesters.
- Most majors require 120 credits to

graduate, allowing a student taking 15 credits a year to earn a degree in four years. Under quarter terms, students need 180 credits to graduate, or 15 credits per term for four years.

- MSU did not change to semesters to save money, although there may be some marginal savings in the institution's administrative costs.

- While tuition per credit increased by one-half, costs for classes under the new system remain the same because students pay for one-third fewer credits in one academic year.

- Twelve credits are required for full-time student status.

- Class size did not increase as a result of the transition to semesters, although some classes may be larger due to changes in enrollment patterns or changes in departments' instructional models. Some classes are smaller.

- Each student's credits were converted to the semester system accounting on a two-thirds ratio. For example, 45 credits on quarters converted to 30 credits on semesters. No students lost credits in the transition — all counted toward graduation

### 1992-93 Academic Calendar

#### Fall Semester 1992

First day of classes  
Labor Day holiday  
Thanksgiving recess  
Commencement  
Final examinations

Sept. 2  
Sept. 7  
Nov. 26-27  
Dec. 12  
Dec. 16-18, 21-23

#### Spring Semester 1993

First day of classes  
Spring recess  
Final examinations  
Commencement

Jan. 12  
March 1-5  
April 30, May 3-7  
May 7-8

#### Summer Session "A" 1993

First day of classes  
Memorial Day holiday  
Final examinations

May 17  
May 31  
June 29-30, July 1

#### Summer Session "B" 1993

First day of classes  
Final examinations

July 6  
Aug. 17-19