Western Michigan University

Alumni Magazine (1938-1942)

Alumni Magazine Vol. 4 No. 4

Western Michigan College
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Captain James Woodbury Boynton
(Alumnus and Faculty Member)
Mobilization Calls Many Western Michigan Alumni
The Influence of Conference... 

This number of the Alumni Magazine is written and edited with the influence of an Alumni Conference prevailing. After consultation with many others who are engaged in a similar work it is always interesting to make comparisons and spread the general pattern of endeavor over local practices. Western Michigan College's alumni secretary is chairman of the fifth district of the American Alumni Council at the present time, and the Chicago meeting of that group was held this month. This conference of alumni secretaries of eight states in the Great Lakes area considered the problems of mobilizing the 6,000,000 college and university graduates in the United States. They discussed field work and the regional organization of alumni clubs and spent an evening hour reviewing visual aids in alumni work. An effort was made to define a good alumnus, President Sangren, guest speaker at the All-Conference luncheon, spoke on the subject "The College and the Alumni" and one of the papers read at one of the sessions was titled "Creating the Giving Habit."

It is always customary at regional conferences to have the national president of the AAC deliver an address. On the occasion of this year's conference Mr. George F. Heighway of Indiana University had come from a week's stay in the national capitol. Excerpts from his address follow:

Mobilizing 6,000,000 Alumni

Higher education, to put it briefly, is on the spot. This is no sage observation on my part. I have heard it repeated in the last two weeks by high government officials, top ranking officers, influential business men, and yes, even by college and university presidents and administrators. To get off the spot higher education is going to have to do some fast but sound thinking and acting. To their credit, many colleges are already effecting emergency programs. Some have not yet emerged from a philosophy as usual, which is more than unfortunate. But colleges must go beyond "emergency programs," which are considered merely as something temporary to be abandoned for a "return to normal" at the conclusion of the emergency. Certainly, for example, there will never be a return to the isolationism of the 1920's and 1930's, which we once considered normal... Higher education in America must lead—not follow. To accomplish this objective, college administrators must utilize every available resource. One of the richest of these resources is the great body of 6,000,000 college-trained men and women—the alumnis of America!

The Average Alumnus

Let's examine these alumnis for a minute from several viewpoints. The average alumnus is, to the general public, a hazily defined person, possibly a professor, perhaps a bond salesman, either a reactionary or a radical, maybe a struggling young man or a pompous oldster. It just depends on what book the general public has most recently read, or which movie it has seen.

The alumnus has had a colorful history and a colored reputation. Twenty-five years ago he was considered quite a man, respected, admired and envied. Fifteen years ago he was a chap who went to football games well dressed and in high society. Eight years ago he may have walked the streets looking for a job. At any of these periods he might have muttered, "What did college ever do for me?" For all we know he still may be muttering the same thing. But we strongly suspect that he is the leadership of America, and mostly because of—and not in spite of—his college education. We suspect that he is the engineer, the doctor, the lawyer, the dentist, the scientist, the musician, the business executive, government official, artist, economist, and military officer. We suspect that he is the most potent force in democracy, but we couldn't specifically prove it. In fact, our lack of knowledge about him is exceeded only by his lack of knowledge of his responsibility to his unique position.

One Statistical Study

Indicative of this situation is the fact that there is only one statistical study of the college graduate bloc among the millions of volumes on the shelves of the Library of Congress. And this one, lonely little volume is only three months old. I refer to a competent sampling survey conducted by Time magazine and assembled by F. L. Babcock. In the preface to this study appears an indictment too challenging to ignore. I quote: "When the student finishes at college he seems to disappear into a kind of statistical anonymity and to lose (Continued on Page 3)
Mobilization Calls Many Western Alumni

As is suggested on the cover page of this first issue of the Western Michigan College 1942 Alumni Magazine, graduates are answering the call of mobilization. Captain James Boynton being one of the first. As early as a year ago last December he was ordered to active duty. Very soon after, Merrill Wiseman, also of the science department announced his intention of returning to his military duties, and this month the announcement comes that Frank Noble, B.S. '37, and for the past several years State High coach, is leaving the campus to be a junior director of physical training at the Air Corps Recreation Center, Lowry Air Field, Denver, Colorado.

Editorial Continued

Identity as a member of an important population group. There may be books about him. There are certainly plenty of suppositions, such as the one that he is a person vaguely distinguished from his fellows by the intangibles of culture acquired at college. But there is no sound documentation for the popular assumption that education is the hope of democracy. There is no sure proof of the thesis that through higher learning a person is better fitted for the business of living and for a role of individual responsibility in the workings of American society. End quotation.

Education Is the Hope of Democracy

We must not only assume that education is the hope of democracy, we must be firmly, but not blindly, convinced that this is a fact. The general public accepts the assumption, just as they are inclined to accept any platitude sufficiently and authoritatively circulated. The college alumnus dispassionately agrees with the proposition, but he has never considered himself as a living, substantiating argument in its favor.

According to the Time magazine study—and notice it was an outside agency that first investigated the situation—the average living graduate is 36 years old, four years younger than the national average. In comparison with the non-college man, he is more likely to be married, less likely to be divorced, is more likely to own his own home, is much more likely to be employed, and earns about twice as much income.

But whatever he may or may not be, he is most certainly one specific thing—the product of a system of higher education. This system is based on the past and present philosophy and skill of professional educators. Whether this system is inadequate, or whether it is perfect, no one can say, for it has never been examined in the light of its product. With the emergency problems which education now faces, such as the depopulation of the student body, the falling off of finances, and the streamlining of instruction, it also faces a greater, a more permanent problem. As the Time study puts it: “The urgencies of these critical times demand of learning that it also prove itself an instrument of practical democracy, a tangible aid to a higher level of living in which culture may thrive and perpetuate itself out of its own vigor.”

Colleges to Re-Examine Themselves

Now is the time for higher education, the colleges, the universities to re-examine themselves, their philosophy and program, and to courageously and wisely re-order their houses. To conduct this examination, they must rely on fact, as well as on theory and thought. They must call in the alumni, seek their counsel, request their support. Curiously, they must sell education to their own alumni, and then the alumni must sell it to the American public. This will not be accomplished until educational administrators and college alumni cast

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WMC Campus Emergency Measures

These days the magazines from college and university campuses are all carrying articles describing special training plans, accelerated programs and emergency courses. Our magazine is no exception.

Western Michigan College has taken steps to adapt its instruction to the needs of the nation at war.

For seniors who will graduate in February 1942, June 1942 or at the close of the regular summer session this year there is a possibility of electing one or more emergency courses, but members of the other classes will have to make more fundamental decisions. They must decide whether they will remain on the two-year or four-year normal program, as the case may be, or enroll in the accelerated scheduling. There is no doubt that the regular courses as worked out on the two or four year basis are educationally more desirable for undergraduates than the shortened courses. Under present conditions, however, shortened courses offer some very obvious advantages. A probable shortage of teachers is commencing to appear due to the fact that many of the young men and women are being absorbed in defense industries or military activities. These shortages extend to almost every field, but particularly in the elementary and special fields of training. An accelerated program will make it possible for people now in college to fill these teaching positions at an earlier time. Again, young men who are liable for military service can through the accelerated programs not only prepare themselves for better military activity, but can probably complete all, or a major part, of their college education before going into such service.

Students who decide now to enter an accelerated program will be free at the end of any semester or summer session to return to the normal program. On the other hand, anyone who decides to remain on the normal program whose college experience is interrupted by call to military service shall after the war is over, be welcomed back and everything will be done that is possible to assist him to resume his regular education. The hope now is that everybody may

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200th Anniversary of Writing of Handel's Oratorio

Many Alumni Included in Director Maybee's Group

The seventh annual presentation of the Messiah Festival of Southwestern Michigan was participated in by more than a thousand persons this school year, December 12, 1941. A review of the roster discloses that of the entire number more than seven hundred of the group came from church choirs and choral groups. Two hundred were college students and another hundred included young people from the Holland a-cappella high school choir. Unaffiliated with any organized group were representatives from Battle Creek, Hastings, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Lawrence, Paw Paw, Plainwell and Three Rivers. Among the listed organized groups are the following: Roy Adrianson’s First Methodist Church choir; Mrs. Alice Stewart Beer’s First Presbyterian Church choir; Paul Eichmeyer’s First Congregational Church choir, of Battle Creek. Robert Cavanaugh’s Holland Choral Union, Mrs. Harry Fowler’s Berrien County Choral Union, Benton Harbor; Mrs. Ward Mitchell’s First Presbyterian Church choir, Buchanan, and Harper Stephens’ Central Methodist Church choir, Lansing.

Included in Director Harper C. Maybee’s planning are many alumni who are working with musical organizations all about Southwestern Michigan. Donald Carpp, A.B. ’32, is at Lawrence; Dorothy Wiles Gipson, A. B. ’32, Sturgis; Blanche Oliver Hatch, ’20, Jackson; Arthur Lower, A.B. ’35, and Jean Glenner Lower, ’37, Hastings; Virginia Moore, B.S. ’40, also of Hastings; Trixie Moore, ’25, Holland; Max Newkirk, B.S. ’37, Battle Creek; Harriet Stears Pascoc, ’15, Buchanan; Clarence Roth, A.B. ’31, Niles; and Robert Wing, B.S. ’37.
Grand Rapids. Robert Doerr who is still a student on campus was accompanied by his choral club of the First Reformed Church. Added to the above listings should also be included the names of Dorothea Sage Snyder, Leoti C. Britton, Mary Doty and others in the department who assist from year to year, including alumni who are in the augmented college orchestra.

It is Mr. Maybee's observation that in the present chorus are persons who have been singing the Messiah for many, many years, a large number.

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Faculty Council Invites Alumni Office to Report Public Relations Activities

The alumni of Western Michigan College are entitled to know as much of the activity in the Alumni Office as is possible to report. Space will not permit details but some of the paragraph captions are suggestive:

(1) Banquets, luncheons, and headquarters arranged for and maintained at M.E.A. district meetings in October. Under this caption it is interesting to note that Detroit, Saginaw, Lansing, Grand Rapids, Petoskey, Escanaba, and Battle Creek were centers for WMC headquarters and luncheons or banquets. Three hundred twenty came to meals and 647 visited headquarters.

(2) The alumni secretary is district director and a national board member of the American Alumni Council. Much correspondence is involved in this relationship and a bit of travel, including trips to Madison, Wisconsin, two to Chicago and one to Hot Springs, Virginia. In the 1941 report of the American Alumni Council, Western Michigan College has citation on sixteen pages.

In cooperation with the M.E.A. and the N.E.A. Western Michigan College maintains an organization called Future Teachers of America, this institution having charter number one in Michigan, which was issued in 1839. Reference to this organization appears on page 88 of the addresses and proceedings of the Boston Meeting of the M.E.A., and also in a first yearbook issued in 1841. The Alumni Secretary has sponsored this organization from the beginning.

Other topic references include chairmanship of the Education Committee of a downtown service club, the presidency of the Better Citizens Council of Kalamazoo, and membership in the Inter-Church Council Board of the city.

Public relations in the office of the alumni secretary also include acceptance of invitations from Parent-Teachers Associations, high school assembly committees, Mother's clubs, garden clubs, etc. The count in this particular is approximately forty a year. The above review does not include the phase of public relations evidenced in this magazine, in the daily mail in the alumni office, in the promotion of alumni club organization.

Mechanical Trades Building Dedicated

The new mechanical trades building which was dedicated November 1, is in use 24 hours a day. Realizing the need for the training of the hand as well as the mind, those responsible for this structure on the campus have definitely heightened morale by providing avenues of training designed to increase the possibilities of employment for youth. Elmer Weaver, industrial arts graduate of the class of 1916, who is the director of the Department of Vocational Mechanics pledges his staff "forever to consider the needs of youth, keeping in mind to see that every boy gets his chance to serve on the basis of his ability."

1942 Michigan Education Directory . . .

It is always fun to scan the pages of the new directory issues and pick out the names of Western Michigan College graduates who are superintendents of schools in Michigan, high school principals, junior high and intermediate school principals, county normal critics, and county commissioners of schools. The volume just off the press lists 68 alumni in the superintendent's section. There are 59 high school principals; 33 are in charge of intermediate buildings and junior high schools, 8 are county normal principals, and 10 of the 83 counties in Michigan have W.M.C. graduates as county commissioners.

Birth Announcements

Birth announcements coming to the Alumni Office of late do not lack at all for originality. Fred Adams, A.B., '32, and Mary Grace Adams send one in the form of a tax exemption. It the column under name of dependent and relationship is CHARLES FREDERICK ADAMS. The column "under 18 years old" is checked, and in the column captioned "credit claimed," $400 are written in. Charles Frederick Adams was born January 11, 1942.

From 7714 South Shore Drive, Chicago, comes a large pink sheet announcing "the 1942 Milan Model Number One" named RUTH ANNA MILAN and the announcement goes on to say that the model was released January 7, 1942. Mrs. Milan was Mable Naomi Moore, A.B., '32. The announcement goes on to say "headlights are blue."

From Athens, Ohio, 226 E. State Street, to be exact, comes an announcement captioned "The Voice of Freedom." It further goes on to say "the Kelly Publishing and Broadcasting Corporation announces the establishment of a 'New Short-Rave Radio Station. The head announcer is DANA PERRY KELLY II. The opening broadcast came on January 20, 1942. Dana Kelly, A.B., '36, and Mrs. Kelly, who was Charlene McConnell, are the proud parents.

Professor Foley Writes For School and Society

The January 10 issue of School and Society has an article written by Louis Foley titled "The Philosophy of the New Education; A Reply to Professor Kilpatrick." Dr. Kilpatrick's article had appeared in the same publication November 29 and is titled "The Philosophy of the New Education." This reply to Dr. Kilpatrick's article by Mr. Foley is causing comment in the press as well as in conversation. To those who are interested in what is being said and written concerning so-called "new education," in contrast with education called "formal," "conventional," "traditional," etc., the article provides stimulating reading.

Mr. Foley prepared an article for this number of the magazine but space will not permit the printing of it in this issue.

Messiah Continued

of whom have sung in all seven of the annual presentations. On this 200th anniversary of Handel's writing of the oratorio it is fitting indeed that the presentation of this year exceeded all others on this campus. Handel's Messiah has survived the test of time, is the best loved and most frequently heard of all oratorios, and continues to be more thoroughly enjoyed by more and more people as they sing and hear the lovely arias, the stirring and majestic choruses, and share the feeling expressed by the author when he said, "I did think I did see all Heaven before me, and the Great God Himself."
The Western Michigan Undefeated Football Team of 1941

Left to right: Back Row—Coach Gary, Backfield Coach Gill, Delmar Firme, Max Evans, William Hillborg, Jack Olson, Jack Striedl, Joe Lynd, Bob Jenkins, Horace Coleman, Trainer James MacDonald, Manager Joe Nagel.
Middle Row: John Eggertsen, Jack Matheson, William Yambrick, Robert Metzger, Ken Stillwell, Leland Gabe.
Front Row: Art Macioszczyk, Jack Marks, Fred Stevens, Bob Mellen.

Emergency Continued

know of all the possibilities available and make their decisions to most readily facilitate planning by those responsible for the administration of the curriculums.

President Sangren is making it very clear that when this country is again at peace we shall certainly plan to return to the longer and more satisfactory planning of programs.

Off campus comment is also of interest at this time. Governor Van Wagoner is quoted in a recent speech as saying that it is just as patriotic to stay in college as long as possible and continue essential training as it is to join the armed forces now. He is quoted as saying further that America is going to need professional men and advises students as follows: "Look at yourself objectively. Guide your patriotism with intelligence. Remember, when the armed forces need you badly they will call for you."

Basketball Schedule
1941 - 1942

*Nov. 29 - Olivet
*Dec. 6 - Defiance
Dec. 8 - Northwestern
*Dec. 11 - Manchester
Dec. 16 - Calvin
*Dec. 19 - Calvin
*Dec. 22 - Iowa
Dec. 23 - Chicago
*Jan. 6 - Hope
*Jan. 10 - Wayne
*Jan. 17 - Ball State
Jan. 23 - Manchester
Jan. 24 - Indiana State
*Jan. 29 - Wabash
Jan. 30 - Alma
*Feb. 12 - Loyola
*Feb. 17 - Alma
Feb. 21 - Ball State
Feb. 28 - Wayne
*Mar. 2 - Indiana State
*Home Games

Editorial Continued

off their indifference toward each other... While the alumni have unquestionably been extended a formal invitation to lend their suggestions and criticisms to the colleges, they have rarely availed themselves of the opportunity. They consider that the problems of education are problems only for educational administrators. But perhaps the most pertinent reason that they have failed to cooperate actively with higher education is because they have not been informed of the problems that exist... Higher education and its product must get together in a common front. The colleges and their alumni must merge their interests and pool their efforts, or answer to the future for their failure.

We strongly feel that the responsibilities, problems, and opportunities of higher education must be brought more forcibly and continually to the attention of all college and university alumni, and to the American public.
Kalamazoo Alumni Club Sends Representative to Chicago...

The local WMC club sent Henry Ford Jr. to the District conference of the American Alumni Council at Chicago, where he read a paper descriptive of the activities of the organization. Mr. Ford's paper presented a cross-section of the experiences of the group and mentioned meetings, programs, attendance, projects, etc. Eight dinner meetings were held during the year. Four kinds of programs were enjoyed: two travel talks; three talks connected with the college itself, to-wit, one on football, one on the curricula, and one on defense work; two business sessions, and one, a dinner followed with games. This was a corn-beef and cabbage meal held off-campus where it could be properly enjoyed. To this occasion tickets were sold with the idea of making money. The main project of the year was the raising of money for scholarships. Other activities included a ladies' night banquet, a card party when 400 tickets were sold at 25c each, assistance with the homecoming party, the football banquet, and a recognition dinner. The president of the club also presented a talk relating to alumni on the college's radio time over a local radio station.

Signatures Charter Members, Delta Chapter, Alpha Beta Epsilon, Kalamazoo...

Fifty-eight WMC alumnae in Kalamazoo are charter members of the Delta Chapter of Alpha Beta Epsilon. Other chapters are located in Benton Harbor-St. Joseph, South Bend, Indiana; and Grand Rapids. Adeline Blakeslee Nelthorpe, president of the Alpha chapter in Benton Harbor read a paper at the Chicago conference emphasizing details of organization with women's groups and suggesting activities most needing the attention of sorority planning.

The Delta chapter in Kalamazoo has divided itself into smaller groups with a variety of interests prevailing. Interior decorating, sewing and knitting for the Red Cross, art workshop projects, choral groups and book review membership are some of the mutual interests already organized. The immediate planning in which all members of the organization are at work is a Valentine party. A good orchestra has been employed, tickets are being sold and many committee details have been assigned to sub-committees including the entire membership.