1903-2003 Centennial History: Arts & Sciences

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College of Arts & Sciences
WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

1903
2003
Dear Friends,

The College of Arts and Sciences has played a dynamic role in the growth and development of Western Michigan University. Many of the College's 20 departments and 6 interdisciplinary programs are foundation stones upon which the University was built and were present at the establishment of Western State Normal School in 1903.

The College of Arts and Sciences’ roots originate with the Divisions of Language and Literature, Social Sciences, and part of the Division of Science and Mathematics. In the 1956-57 school year, these divisions were grouped together to become the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences. For a little over a decade, the School retained this name until 1970 when it was changed to the College of Arts and Sciences.

Today the College of Arts and Sciences is the largest of the six academic colleges at WMU with over 6,500 undergraduate students and 1,500 graduate students. The College enrolls half of the student population and holds appointments for over 350 faculty members.

The College is committed to the support and enhancement not only of undergraduate education but also graduate education demonstrated in its 18 doctoral programs. Dedication to research and public service, diversity, collaboration, and social responsibility distinguish the College of Arts and Sciences. It is sustained by the continuous development and recognition of the efforts of faculty, advising personnel, support staff, emeriti, and alumni.

The vision for the College of Arts and Sciences is to "create a challenging and intellectually vital learning community. Such a community engages students and faculty alike in a continuing discourse, providing focus for being active, informed, productive, creative, open-minded, and ethically responsible citizens in a complex, multicultural, and rapidly changing world."

With this vision in mind, the College of Arts and Sciences enters into the University's centennial year with firm resolution to move forward with the same growth and development that have characterized its history at Western Michigan University.

Best Wishes,

Dr. Leonard C. Ginsberg, Interim Dean
Deans: Past & Present

Gerald Osborn
1956 - 1968

Cornelius Loew
1968 - 1977

James P. Zietlow
1977 - 1978

A. Bruce Clarke
1978 - 1989

David O. Lyon
1989 - 1990

Douglas P. Ferraro
1990 - 1996

Elise B. Jorgens
1996 - 2003

Leonard Ginsberg
2003 - present
Asian and Middle Eastern Languages

The Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Languages is both the newest and the smallest department of WMU's College of Arts and Sciences.

Established in 1997, it continues WMU's long-standing effort to bring students access to societies outside the realm of Western and European culture.

Efforts to promote the study of non-European languages at WMU first began during the early 1970s, when Professor D.P.S. Dwarikesh of WMU's then-existing Department of Linguistics instituted a course called "Critical Languages." This course was replaced during the late 1980s by a series of Japanese language courses offered through the department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. Ably developed by temporary Instructor Mr. Takanori Mita, and later also by his wife Etsuko, this fledgling offering in Japanese grew into a seven-course Japanese Language Program, with the option of a minor in Japanese.

Wishing to stabilize this program with permanent staffing and to build additional programs in Chinese and Arabic, WMU Provost Timothy Light and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Elise Jorgens appointed an all-University committee in 1996 to develop a proposal for a new department. The seven-member committee defined four principal purposes for the department:

1) To offer regularly, undergraduate instruction in Arabic, Chinese, and Japanese.

2) To help other departments secure temporary non-European language instruction needed by their programs and to house, train, and supervise such temporary instruction.
3) To connect students of the languages it offers with opportunities for advanced study through study-abroad programs or intensive summer programs.

4) To conduct and promote research by its faculty into language with language acquisition, and applied linguistics with the aim of improving pedagogy of non-European languages.

Headed by the College of Arts and Sciences Associate Dean James Peterson, followed by Professor Nancy Falk, the committee for department development later became the search committee that hired the department's first members, Dr. Hideko Abe and Dr. Xiaojun Wang. Dr. Abe, who headed the Japanese Program, served as the department chair from 1997-1999; Dr. Wang, head of the Chinese Program, served as the department chair from 1999-2003.

Dr. Abe was able to secure a Japan Foundation Grant of $85,000 supporting the hiring of an additional full-time Japanese language specialist for three years. In 1998, beginning with temporary instructors, the department also offered a first year of Arabic as a search for a full-time, tenure track professor was in progress.

The department has worked diligently to fulfill several charges since its inception. To improve pedagogy of non-European languages, Dr. Wang has published two books and served as co-author of a Chinese textbook series, which has become the most popular Chinese textbook worldwide in recent years.

A minor in Chinese language was added to the program along with the development of courses in Chinese, Arabic, and Japanese culture. An umbrella course in world languages was also instituted along with the development of courses in business Chinese and Japanese, aided by a $120,000 award from the U.S. Department of Education won jointly by Dr. Abe and Dr. William McCarty of WMU's Haworth College of Business.

In part, through the efforts of Dr. Wang, WMU students have studied since 1998 in a WMU Study-in-Beijing program. For many years, WMU has sponsored United States/Japan student exchanges; Dr. Abe has worked to facilitate and extend those exchanges.

The fall semester 2003 marks the beginning of a new organizational structure for language teaching and research as the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures and the Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Languages together become the new Department of Foreign Languages which will house Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Latin, and Russian. Spanish will be housed in the new Department of Spanish and will include the new Spanish Ph.D. program.
The origins of WMU's Department of Comparative Religion date to 1953 when the Danforth Foundation, in cooperation with the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, selected WMU as one of fifteen teacher training colleges to become a pilot center for a project on teacher education and religion.

Dr. E. Thomas Lawson, former chair of the Comparative Religion Department, was instrumental in the development of the "religious studies" curricular model.

A committee of faculty members and administrators, including Russell Seibert, Samuel Clark, and Robert Friedmann, undertook the task of studying the relevance of religion to WMU's undergraduate curriculum. The committee quickly concluded that the establishment of a department of philosophy and religion was essential to the educational mission of the institution. A faculty line was created, and, on the recommendation of Reinhold Niebuhr and Paul Tillich, Cornelius Loew was hired to chair the new department.

Courses in religion and philosophy were first offered in 1957 through the History Department. The following year, the Department of Philosophy and Religion began operation. The religion minor was launched in 1959 and the religion major in 1963.

Student response to the department's offerings was immediate and overwhelming. Enrollment in courses in religion climbed from 115 during the first year of Loew's appointment to approximately 1,000 in the 1963-64 academic year. So successful was the department in terms of its enrollment and growth, that it was one of ten chosen to be part of an investigation of the academic study of religion at state universities conducted by Robert Michaelsen for the Society for Religion and Higher Education. Michaelsen's enthusiasm for the religion program's innovativeness brought national recognition.
In June of 1967, Religion and Philosophy became separate departments. Through a series of special meetings, the faculty of the newly formed Department of Religion decided that the goals of liberal education would be better achieved through the study of all religions on the same terms, and not by privileging Christianity as was the norm in all religion departments at the time. In so doing, WMU's religion department was the first in the United States to build a program that paid as much attention to non-Western religions as it did to those of the West.

The example of the religion department and the work of then department Chair Thomas E. Lawson promoting it were instrumental in the acceptance of the WMU "religious studies" curricular model that soon became a mainstay at most state universities. When Diether Haenicke came to Western as president in the late eighties and began promoting new WMU graduate programs, Comparative Religion was an obvious candidate for development.

The master's program began accepting applications in 1990, and the doctoral program began accepting applications in 1995. Since the inauguration of these programs, the department has graduated 45 master's students, and produced its first doctoral graduate in 2002.

The faculty has also remained committed to furthering interdisciplinary and international studies at WMU. To better indicate the critical and cross-cultural nature of the academic study of religion, the department changed its name to Comparative Religion in 1994.

The Department of Comparative Religion today is one of the oldest departments of its kind at a state university in the United States. Over the last nearly half-century, its faculty have trained thousands of students and produced scholarship that has become classic in the field.

As the department looks ahead to the coming decades, it remains committed, in the words of its mission statement, "to raising critical questions about the present and future significance of religious thought at practice." Given global events in the past years—and especially in light of September 11th—it is clear that the investigation of such questions about religion is now more important than ever.

For a more complete history of the department, please visit www.wmich.edu/religion.
Communication

The Department of Communication was first formed as a supplement to Western State Normal School's teacher training curriculum.

Courses in the Department of Expression, as it was initially called, were introduced in the school's 1906 catalog as electives for students in the Life, Graded School, and Rural School courses.

During the 1918-19 academic year, the Department of Expression was renamed the Department of Speech. Seven years later the first references to a speech major and minor were included in the Western State Teachers College catalog, and the list of courses expanded to eighteen.

In 1921, Laura Shaw was named the first head of the Speech Department. She led the department through the Great Depression era during which time the Speech Department saw little growth except in the area of speech disorders and speech correction. The speech pathology and audiology program separated from the Speech Department in 1965 and became the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology.

In the post-war era of the 1950s, radio became a point of focus and specialists in media and broadcasting also joined the department. In 1958, Vice President Russell H. Seibert established the Center for Communication Research and appointed Dr. Charles T. Brown as the first director. Brown went on to pursue course offerings within the department that became increasingly focused on intra- and interpersonal communication as a more scientific approach to communication and began to shift away from the performing arts and public speaking. This led to the department's name change in 1970 to the Department of Communication Arts and Sciences.
By 1970, the department offered its first general master's degree in communication which eventually evolved into two master's programs, interpersonal communication and organizational communication, under the direction of Dr. William Buys.

The early 1970s also marked the establishment of television production and performance as a new departmental branch. In the mid 1980s, film courses were added as electives in mass communication; and by the late 1990s, traditional distinctions among radio, television, and film were becoming less clear. By 2000, the wide use of personal computers and digital media placed a new emphasis on multi-media.

In 1976, faculty interested in the performing arts separated from the Department of Communication Arts and Sciences to form the Department of Theatre. This same year, Dr. Richard Dieker was appointed as the new chair of the department. Under his leadership, the primary changes in the curriculum included the continued development of interpersonal communication courses, the addition of courses related to organizational communication, and the addition of an interdisciplinary public relations major in 1981.

When Dr. Shirley Van Hoeven replaced Dr. Buys as director of the graduate program in 1979, the department expanded its organizational faculty. Course offerings and graduate school enrollment increased significantly due to the department's extensive course offerings in organizational communication. A new telecommunication's master's degree program was added in 1994.

The Department of Communication Arts and Sciences became the Department of Communication in 1987. By 1993, the general communication major was dropped and six new majors were added bringing the total number of undergraduate majors to eight.

As the department enters the 21st century, exciting changes are on the horizon. A doctoral program in communication has been developed during the past year and is on its way through university committees for acceptance by Michigan's Presidents' Council in 2003 with anticipation to admit the first students to the program in fall of 2004. The department has also worked diligently to create a structure to become a School of Communication within the College of Arts and Sciences. This latest proposed change would more accurately reflect the quality, size, and complexity of the department as it enhances the education of a new generation of WMU students.
English

The development of the English Department dates back to the arrival in 1909 of George Sprau, A.M. Harvard University. Although the department's initial roots can be traced several years earlier to the hiring of faculty members Mary Lowell, A.M. and later Bertrand L. Jones, Ph.D., it is Sprau who spearheaded the department's curriculum development with the introduction of the first specialized departmental course, a semester's study of Anglo-Saxon, using as his text the classic Bright's Anglo-Saxon Reader.
Over the next few years, several more specialized courses were added, mostly concerning major authors like Chaucer and Shakespeare and genres like the novel and the ballad. In 1917, George Sprau became head of the department, a role he would play for the next 29 years. He set about reshaping the curriculum and added courses that included History of English Literature, Literature for Children, and Literary Criticism to name a few. A year later the groundwork for hiring English staff was completed with the entrance of Dr. William Brown, who also completed his master's at Harvard. He later succeeded Sprau as department head from 1946-56.

With the addition of four-year degree programs and the growth of the student body to over 2,500, Sprau, Brown, and their colleague Eleanor Rawlinson needed more staff. Under the leadership of Dr. Brown and later Dr. Frederick Rogers from 1956 to 1966, the number of faculty increased steadily to match the continuing growth of the college. As the institution changed from a teacher's college to a comprehensive university, graduate work leading to an M.A. in English was added to the curricu-

lum. This changed the dynamics of the department and made posses-
sion of a Ph.D. degree and empha-
sis on research and scholarship the standard rather than the exception.

The 1960s witnessed unprec-
edented growth of the undergradu-
ate student body and the addition of new tenure-track faculty every year to meet increased student enrollment.

The 1970s saw the development of general education offerings. Later, under the leadership of the department’s first woman chairperson, Clare Goldfarb who served from 1978-82, the creative writing course offerings were expanded in order to offer first an undergraduate major and minor and, beginning in 1981, a master of fine arts degree. At the same time, a new emphasis on “practical writing” needed in the commercial and professional worlds developed, leading to undergraduate majors and minors and a unique M.A. in professional writing.

Journalism also became more prominent with the creation of major and minor options. As a result of such curricular change a much leaner and more diversely focused department had come about by 1985.

In the 1980s, the graduate Teaching Assistant (TA) emerged as a new phenomenon in the department. Under department Chair William Combs and later Edward Galligan, the availability of TA stipends inevitably spurred growth in graduate programs and made feasible the decision in the 1990s to offer a Ph.D. in English. In its first decade, the program has produced 20 doctoral degrees, and currently enrolls over 40 students. Changes in journalism offerings eventually led to the transfer of that curriculum and its faculty to the Department of Communication.

As the English Department’s first century drew to a close, current Chair Arnold Johnston found himself presiding over close to fifty full-time faculty and close to fifty part-time instructors teaching and nearly seventy teaching assistants and doctoral associates. New M.A. and Ph.D. programs with emphasis on the teaching of English, building on the success of the summer session Third Coast Writing Project, extended the appeal and significance of the graduate programs. In summer 2002 the addition of the Prague Summer Program in Creative Writing made the department a truly international operation.
Dr. Wayne Wonderley served as head of the Department of Language during the 1960s.

Foreign Languages and Literatures

The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures has been a department of change over the past century as its name, structure and offerings have been altered frequently.

Beginning in 1904, the Department of German and Latin was formed. Seven years later, in 1911, the department separated into the Department of Modern Languages and the Department of Latin. French was added to Modern Languages in 1915 and Spanish in 1919. In 1939, the two departments reunited to form the Department of Languages.

By the 1950s and 1960s, there were strong major programs in French, German, Latin and Spanish. In 1956, the Language Department consisted of six full-time faculty and a part-time secretary who worked diligently to offer basic language courses, as well as majors in French, German, Latin and Spanish, with average teaching loads of sixteen hours.

The faculty had increased to nine during Mathilde Steckelberg's tenure as department chair during the late 1950s, and by the time Wayne Wonderley completed his role as chair in 1966, that number had increased to seventeen. During 1968, the department changed its name to the Department of Modern and Classical Languages. In 1970, under then department chair Clifford Gallant, the department had added a master's in Latin and had grown to thirty-one faculty.

During the decade of the 1970s under the leadership of Chair Roger Cole, the department was characterized by a new emphasis on faculty research. Teaching loads averaged 10 to 12 hours and allowed faculty more time for
Mathilde Steckelberg served as head of the Language Department during the late 1950s.

Under the leadership of Chair Robert Palmatier, courses in translation managed to begin in 1984 as part of the new Translation Studies Program, directed by Peter Krawutschke who later served as department chair from 1987-92. A full program in Latvian appeared in 1985. By 1990, there was a new M.A. program in English as a Second Language, as well as the reappearance of the M.A. program in Spanish.

In 1994, the department's name was changed to the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. Enrollments in Spanish, which had doubled in the 1980s, doubled again in the 1990s. Enrollment increases in the Spanish master's degree were also significant, leading to a proposal for a Ph.D. in Spanish, scheduled to commence in fall 2003, a clear recognition of the growth of non-English language teaching and research at WMU.

By the end of the twentieth century the department which had begun in 1904 with German and Latin, was now home to ten different courses of study. The process of mergers began to reverse itself in 1997 with the separation of Chinese and Japanese. Together with Arabic they formed a small department named Asian and Middle Eastern Languages.

The fall semester 2003 marks the beginning of a new organizational structure for language teaching and research as the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures and the Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Languages together become the new Department of Foreign Languages which will house Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Latin, and Russian. Spanish will be housed in the new Department of Spanish and will include the new Spanish Ph.D. program.
The Department of Philosophy and Religion was founded in the late 1950s by Cornelius Lowe when it broke away from the history department and began to offer courses separately.

The department was originally headquartered temporarily in the Oaklands, but upon the arrival of Jim Miller as president in 1962, the department moved to the basement of Ellsworth Hall, where it remained until moving to Friedmann Hall in 1971 and finally Moore Hall in 1989.

The first professors were Bill Emblom in philosophy, and Tom Lawson and Otto Grundler in religion. The first graduate of the philosophy department was Charles Lewis in 1959. In 1962, Joe Ellin and Dale Westphal were hired, followed in 1964 by Arthur Falk. When Cornelius Loew became associate dean, he retained the title of chair of the department.

In June of 1967, Religion and Philosophy became separate departments. Lawson was appointed the chair of religion and Westphal was made the acting chair of philosophy. Joe Ellin was elected the first permanent chair of the department in 1969, and remained chair until 1975. In the early
For many years there was no classroom building to which the philosophy department was assigned. Once the Friedmann-Dunbar-Knauss complex opened in 1971, most classes have been held in Dunbar, with others taught in Sangren, Wood, Brown, and Schneider.

At the beginning, faculty members were expected to teach part-time in General Studies, typically in a course called Arts and Ideas.

The typical teaching load was three to four credit courses, with three preparations. When Dr. Cornelius Loew became dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences, he suggested the department reduce its teaching load by converting most of its courses to four credit hours, making a normal load only three classes a term! This was the standard arrangement until the 1990s, when the teaching of large sections and the introduction of an M.A. program altered the typical teaching load.

During the 1960s and 1970s, the department continued to expand when several new faculty were hired. During the decade of the 1980s, Mike Pritchard served as chair until 1987 followed by Arthur Falk until 1993. Mike Pritchard served again until 1996 when Kent Baldner assumed the position.


The department began a master of arts program in 1989 with original students, David Paul, Peggy Vandenberg, Chris Thompson, and Francis Shugar. By 2002, the department had over 25 active M.A. students and the program was ranked in the top 10 terminal M.A. programs in philosophy in the country.
Anthropology

The Department of Anthropology was created in 1962 in response to Western Michigan University’s need to expand the student body’s knowledge of other ethnicities and cultures. Through the 1960s, WMU had been primarily a regional university drawing its student population from the southwestern corner of Michigan. During the late 1950s and 1960s, with the advent of the Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam War and the resulting anti-war movement, the turbulence in U.S. society was directly reflected on WMU’s campus.

In an effort to ensure that students were educated about cultures of non-European origin, Dr. Bob Maher was hired in 1958 by Dr. Leonard Kercher, chair of the Sociology Department, to aid in the establishment of an anthropology department. Four years later, Dr. Maher became the Department of Anthropology’s first chairperson. His vision would provide the primary direction for the department for its first fifteen years.
Dr. Maher placed a strong emphasis on teaching and firmly believed anthropology had a strong place in helping students to understand other people and cultures. This led to his involvement, along with Claude Phillips and George Kleim, in the curriculum development and lectures of the newly created Non-Western World Program.

A four-field anthropologist, Dr. Maher had worked among the people of New Guinea and the Ifugao of the Philippines and had practiced archaeology, cultural/social anthropology as well as physical and linguistics anthropology. His insights were foundational in the development of the department.

The faculty within the anthropology department have also been active within the community in local projects for the City of Kalamazoo to help determine public opinion for road rerouting and conducting archaeological surveys for the state. Winrock International also hired Dr. Alan Jacobs to complete a social soundness assessment in Kenya for the USAID. Others followed his example in doing applied anthropological work in the United States and abroad.

In recent years, the Department of Anthropology has taken a new direction under the direction of Chair Dr. Robert Ulin, a senior socio-cultural anthropologist.

In addition to his administrative skills and vision, Ulin brought to the department an outstanding reputation as a theorist and ethnographer of Europe. As a whole, the department has revised its curriculum and identified Ethnobiology and Race, Class and Gender as subject matters to enhance the education of undergraduate and graduate students.

The department has also moved away from a generalist approach to anthropology to one that is more in tune with critique and cutting edge scholarship. Current department faculty have made significant contributions to the repertoire of anthropological research including Drs. Michael Nassaney and William Cremin's excavation of the Fort St. Joseph site and Dr. Allen Zagarell's work on rock art in India.

Members of the department have also been contributors to publications including Dr. Arthur Helweg's editing of the "Discovering the Peoples of Michigan" an important series on ethnicity in Michigan and Dr. Laura Spielvogel's recent book, *Working Out in Japan*, that explores Japanese attitudes towards work, leisure and the body.

To date, the department is larger and more distinguished than it has ever been as it continues to make significant contributions to the field of anthropological research.
The Department of Economics finds its early roots in the History and Civics Department, but its name was later changed to the History and Economics Department in 1919 and in 1920 to the Department of History and Social Sciences. Floyd W. Moore began teaching economics courses at Western in the fall of 1919.

In the year prior to his arrival, the offerings in economics were comprised of only a two-course sequence in political economy. Within a span of six years, Moore, as the sole full-time professor of economics, expanded the department to include five new economics courses. In 1925, Howard Bigelow joined the department and became the second full-time economist and professor.
The subsequent years included several name changes including the Social Sciences Department in 1932 and the Division of Social Sciences in 1945. During this division, Economics, History, Political Science, and Sociology became separate departments.

Dr. Moore served as chair of the Division of Social Sciences in 1945 as well as head of the Department of Economics. Dr. Robert Bowers joined the department as a full-time economist in 1937 and later assumed the role of department head when Moore retired in 1959.

During that time, the department offered introductory economics courses and about twenty different intermediate and advanced courses. In 1941, two courses were deemed master’s-level courses and were opened to seniors and graduates.

By 1959, this list had expanded to thirteen courses for which students could earn graduate credit, and the department was authorized to offer an M.A. degree. The first graduate of the M.A. program, David Zinn, later returned to WMU as a faculty member in the department where he remained until his retirement in 1992.

During the 1960s, many of the faculty hired helped shift the department to a more research-focused orientation. Under Bower’s leadership the department made several hires that helped to expand the department and propel the master’s program forward.

Dr. Raymond Zelder assumed the role of department chair in 1974 and guided the flourishing M.A. program until he stepped down from that position eleven years later. Dr. Werner Sichel became chair in 1985. Sichel continued the emphasis on the economics master’s program, which in the early 1990s became the largest in the state of Michigan. Under his leadership, the department planned and implemented its doctoral program. The program was a somewhat differentiated product, composed of a Ph.D., that began in the 1963-64 academic year funded by a grant from the Sperry & Hutchinson (S&H) Foundation. Werner Sichel attained the grant and directed the series. It was a great campus success, attracting over 1,000 people to each lecture.

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When Western State Normal School was founded in 1903, one of its twelve original departments was the Department of Politics and History, the forerunner of today's WMU History Department.

At the time of the school's first semester in 1904, Shattuck O. Hartwell, Superintendent of the Kalamazoo Schools, taught history classes in the Kalamazoo High School building. At the end of the semester, the department name was changed to History and Civics.

Beginning in the 1905 academic year, after WMU had moved into the building then known as the Western State Normal School Building (East Hall), the History and Civics Department offered a number of courses taught by Hartwell, WMU's President Dwight B. Waldo, and new faculty members, Ernest Burnham and W. E. Conkling.

In 1912, the University revised its degree requirements, integrating history into the mandatory curriculum for the "three-year certificate" for teachers. In 1919, Smith Burnham, who had played an instrumental role at WMU for...
several years, was named head of the newly christened History and Economics Department.

By 1924 the department, now called history and social sciences, had ten full-time faculty, among them Margaret Macmillan, who was affiliated with the department for forty-nine years. The State Board of Education authorized the then-teacher’s college to award the bachelor of arts in fields other than education for the first time in 1934, making it possible for students to seek a liberal arts degree in history.

In the years following the Second World War, both the campus facilities and the curriculum of WMU grew. In 1952, WMU established a new master of arts program in education that focused upon the teaching of the social sciences. By 1958, it had gained authorization to award the M.A. in disciplines besides education, including history. The following year, the first M.A. in history was awarded to Kenneth J. Buck.

The 1960s was a period of new prosperity for the History Department at WMU. During Willis Dunbar’s tenure as department chair from 1961-68, the faculty roster continued to expand, as the department emphasized recruitment of scholars with doctoral degrees from nationally known universities.

Dunbar is well known as a historian of the state of Michigan, and in 1961 the department established a regional history program, led by Alan Brown, focusing upon the Midwestern U.S., particularly West Michigan. Following Dunbar’s retirement, Ernst Breisach, a renowned scholar of European history and historiography, became chair of the department and served in this role until 1989. He remains an active researcher and scholar today.

In 1980, the department created its Public History Program under the leadership of Peter Schmitt, in order to train students for careers in museums and other institutions that interpret history to public audiences.

Today, WMU’s Department of History remains true to its early heritage as a training center for future history teachers. In connection with this objective, it maintains a diverse curriculum, helping majors and non-majors alike gain experience in the heritages of multiple cultures. A faculty of over thirty nationally and internationally known scholars bring expertise into the classrooms to educate future teachers, future academic historians, and liberal education students.
Political Science

Political Science at Western Michigan University, originally known as the Western State Normal School, began in 1904. The department was listed as History and Civics in the summer of 1904 course book. In these early years, courses in civics were primarily focused on citizenship and civil affairs and many of these courses were taken by education students.

By 1919, the History and Civics Department was renamed History and Economics, which later changed in 1920 to History and Social Science when courses in political science were first offered. Political science courses expanded to include American federal government, state and local government, and comparative government.

Throughout the 1920s other courses were added. D. C. Shilling began his career in political science at WMU in the 1920s. A distinguished scholar whose tenure at the University lasted 30 years, Shilling taught all of the courses offered throughout the course of the semester in the department’s early days.
In 1945, the Department of Social Sciences was divided into four separate departments: history, political science, economics, and sociology. The Political Science Department continued to be a small one with Professors Shilling, Weber and Santoro.

In 1955, the department began an M.A. program. By 1960, the department had grown to 11 professors and by the 1970s that number had increased to more than 20. The department established the Institute of Public Affairs in 1963, to encourage research and to provide opportunities for faculty and students to become actively involved in public affairs.

In 1964, Milton Greenberg became the first elected chairperson of a department at WMU. Many other departments subsequently changed from appointed heads to elected chairs. In 1974, the Center for Public Administration was created and later became the School of Public Affairs and Administration. The master's in development administration followed in 1985.

The department has historically been a strong advocate of experiential education and its internship programs have been a key avenue for this type of learning. In 1991, the department in cooperation with the Lee Honors College, established a Capital Internship Program. This program allows up to fifteen students each spring semester to complete an internship in Lansing. To date, more than 180 students have been capital interns. This program has showcased WMU's students to the Lansing political community to the benefit of the University and the students.

In recent years, students in the department were twice recipients of the major national Truman Scholarship and the Udall Scholarship. A number of students actively participate on our Mock Trial Team and in Model Arab League. To date, the department has almost 500 students majoring in political science.

In 1992, the department established a doctoral program to prepare students for careers in teaching, policy analysis, and applied as well as academic research. The department has awarded eight Ph.D.s.

The faculty in the political science department has a daunting publication record of books and numerous publications in the leading professional journals in the field. In recent years, several members of the faculty have received National Science Foundation grants.

The department's Institute of Government and Politics (IGP) continues to be an active focus of intellectual stimulation. Programming in the academic year 2002-2003 included brown bag lunches, evening lectures, assorted panel discussions, and guest speakers. The programming, organized by IGP, is open to students, faculty and community members.

Not surprisingly, the department has had its share of political office holders in elected positions at the local, state, and federal level including the U.S. House of Representatives. The department has prided itself over the years in its contributions to serving the community.
School of Public Affairs and Administration

The Master of Public Administration (MPA) emerged through the collaboration of Associate Dean Richard T. Burke of the Graduate College, Dean Leo C. Stine of the Division of Continuing Education, Dean Cornelius Loew of the College of Arts and Sciences and the Department of Political Science.

A Board of Deans drawn from across the University governed the Center for Public Administration and agreed to its Memorandum of Understanding. The board appointed Richard McAnaw as the center’s director and Peter Kobrak as the deputy director. The master’s of public administration (MPA) program, approved in 1974, began as an interdisciplinary program for a small cadre of on-campus, pre-career students. The program’s optimistic five year plan projected an increase from 12 to 60 MPA students by 1979. Just one year later, however, 200 mid-career students were taking courses in Lansing and Muskegon as well as Kalamazoo.

In 1974, Richard L. McAnaw approached Marvin Ray, the training director of the Michigan Civil Service Department in Lansing about internships. The response was that internships could be arranged, but the real need was for an MPA program for state employees. Within a year, an unpredictable event had transformed a “pre-career” MPA program to a “mid-career” MPA program with more students off-campus than on-campus.
By 1975, the Center was offering MPA courses in Kalamazoo, Lansing, and Battle Creek, and soon added Muskegon. In less than five years, the MPA had become WMU's sixth largest graduate program with over 400 students. By 1978, it had moved to expanded offices and added Ralph Chandler and Frederic Mortimore who would serve the school for many years.

In 1978, the doctoral program in public administration (DPA) was proposed, largely at the instigation of the Michigan Civil Service Department, which wanted a public administration doctoral opportunity for state executives. The Board of Trustees approved the program in September 1979. The DPA was one of the few doctoral programs managed off-campus in Lansing under the joint auspices of the College of Arts and Sciences and the Division of Continuing Education. A Lansing Regional Center was authorized as part of the doctoral program, and a year later, Gus Breymann, was hired as Lansing Director.

In 1980, another two-year MPA degree site was established in Battle Creek which originally was crafted to the needs of Federal Center employees working for the Department of Defense. By 1990, the MPA on- and off-campus and the DPA had become one of the largest public administration programs in the Midwest.

Under Director Frederic Mortimore's leadership, the center became the School of Public Affairs and Administration (SPAA). His successor, David DeShon, contributed not only a more sophisticated computer system but also space to the School, through its move to Walwood Hall.

Robert Peters, who became director in 1999, first joined the school in 1993 as SPAA's resident expert in budgeting, finance, and political economy. In 1998, largely thanks to Kathleen Reding, the necessary committees authorized the School to convert its DPA to a Ph.D. program. This shift reflected the national trend toward greater emphasis on a doctoral research degree. By 2002, 55 DPA and Ph.D. candidates had graduated since doctoral programming began in 1979.

Since 1995, the school has expanded its programming and experienced growth in its faculty size. Two faculty members who previously served as WMU administrators, Barbara Liggett and James Visser, joined the School. Four new faculty members—Matthew Mingus, Brent Smith, Eric Austin, and Keon-Hyung Lee—have signed on.

These six faculty members will play key roles in the school's new undergraduate public administration major and minor degrees, in the on-going MPA health concentration, in a partnership with the Thomas M. Cooley Law School offering a JD/MPA degree, and together, with Janice Maatman, in the school's undergraduate and graduate-level nonprofit programs. With a larger faculty, an expanded mission, and more programs underway in more sites than ever before, the school is entering a new era, well-positioned to meet a wide range of professional and community needs.

Six WMU students were the first in the state of Michigan to receive certification in the American Humanics program for nonprofit professionals. L to R: Kirstin Grieser, Sarah Krueger, Casey DeLong, Danielle Peterman, Lesley Williams, Emily Penphrase.
Dr. Donald Bouma with John Peters, one of the first Sociology Ph.D. student to graduate from WMU in 1969.

Dr. Leonard Kercher headed the Sociology Department at WMU from 1945-1972. The Center for Social Research was named after him following his death in 1985.

Sociology

Shortly after Western State Normal School was established in 1903, students in rural education created a Rural Sociology Seminar in 1905 that marked the first mention of Sociology at WMU.

The next significant event in the history of the department occurred in 1936, when Leonard Kercher was hired in the Department of Social Science. He would become the founder and chief architect of the Department of Sociology. Elected as department head in 1945, he had one of the longest periods of service for a department head at WMU.

Under Kercher, a social work curriculum was established within the department in 1952, which included a major in sociology or social science and a minor in social work. The M.A. degree program in sociology was introduced in 1955. The very next year, the Center for Sociological Research was established "to provide research facilities and supporting resources for students and faculty interested in research and to enable the Sociology Department to do research work in the community." Leonard Kercher and another faculty member in Sociology, Jerome Manis, began as co-directors.

The M.A. program, which had been introduced two years before, was officially authorized in 1959. In 1960, the name of the department was changed to the Department of Sociology and Anthropology to reflect the growth in the number of anthropologists that had joined the faculty. The sociology
Ph.D. program was approved in 1965. This was one of only four doctoral programs that were initially offered by WMU. The North Central Association granted accreditation to the Ph.D. degree program in sociology in 1966.

The following year, an independent Department of Anthropology was established, and in 1968, the faculty in social work also formed a separate department. The result was simply the Department of Sociology. The department granted its first Ph.D. degree, to Donald G. Williams, in 1968, the same year that Western's first Ph.D. was granted.

In 1971, Lewis Walker was the first of what were to be four sociology faculty who received the Alumni Teaching Excellence Award. The following year, David Chaplin replaced Leonard Kercher as department chair. An undergraduate major in criminal justice was established as a second major in the Department of Sociology in 1977. Criminology was also added as an area of concentration in the Ph.D. program.

During the first two decades that the M.A. program operated, the department granted a total of 114 M.A. degrees. In 1985, following the death of Leonard Kercher, the Center for Sociological Research was renamed the Leonard C. Kercher Center for Social Research in his memory. Tom Van Valey was the director.

In 1998, Leonard Kercher's wife Dorotha passed away. She left a substantial endowment to the department in her name. Tom Van Valey succeeded Lewis Walker as Chair in 1999. It was also in that year that Van Valey was given the Award for Distinguished Contributions to Undergraduate Education by the ASA's Section on Undergraduate Education. As of 2002, the department has granted more than 125 Ph.D. degrees.
The Department of Biology was formally established in 1908 with the appointment of Dr. LeRoy H. Harvey as chairperson. In addition, Ms. Catharine Koch (B.S.) was also hired to serve as the assistant to the rural school courses. These two individuals taught a total of nine courses in botany, zoology, nature study, bacteriology, physiology and agriculture. In 1913, a bill granting $75,000 for a new science building was passed by the Michigan legislature. In that same year, the Western State Normal School Bulletin described the Biology Department as having “rapidly developed” and that “working equipment was accumulating.”
In 1914, ground was broken for the new science building and the facility was formally dedicated as West Hall during the 1915 spring commencement. The new science building was "equipped with laboratories and classrooms for several fields of science including education, psychology, geography, chemistry, and physics."

The leadership of the Biology Department passed to Dr. Leslie A. Kenoyer in November of 1922 after Dr. Harvey suffered a fatal heart attack. Dr. Kenoyer served as the chair of the Biology Department until his retirement in 1953. By 1935, the Biology Department "possessed laboratories for special work in physiology, hygiene, general biology, botany, zoology, nature study and agriculture."

The department was described in the School Bulletin as being "very thoroughly equipped with instruments and apparatus necessary for high-grade work in biological study." A small greenhouse was constructed in 1940 that housed over two hundred plant species. The decades of the 1950s and 1960s were accompanied by expanded course offerings and the addition of more faculty.

By the 1970's, the department had moved to Wood Hall and "possessed laboratory equipped with radioactive tracers and X-ray technology for teaching and research." It was also reported that "the Clarence R. Hanes Herbarium now contained thousands of vascular plant specimens, which were available for research."

Dr. Richard W. Pippen was appointed chair of the Biology Department in 1975. During his tenure, the WMU administration split the Biology Department into two separate departments but later recombinined them in 1985. The department name was officially changed to the Department of Biological Sciences in 1987.

In 1993, Dr. Leonard Ginsberg became chair of the department until he was appointed associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. In 1997, Dr. Leonard Beuving became chair of the Department of Biological Sciences — a position he held until 2001.

In 1997, ground was broken for a new $42 million science building adjacent to Wood Hall. The building was formally dedicated in April of 1999 and named Haenicke Hall in honor of former WMU President Diether H. Haenicke.

In 2003, the Department of Biological Sciences now offers three major undergraduate programs of study that include biology, biomedical science and secondary education, a master's degree program that includes high throughput screening biotechnology, and a doctoral degree program. The department serves approximately 800 undergraduate majors, 250 undergraduate minors and 60 graduate students.
Chemistry

The early roots of the Chemistry Department trace back to the first inorganic and organic chemistry courses taught during the 1904-05 school year, but it was not until 1911 that the Department of Chemistry was officially established. Prior to this, the administration placed a strong emphasis on the natural sciences taught by Leslie H. Wood and E. N. Worth. In 1907, President Waldo brought Dr. William McCracken from Northern Michigan Normal School to teach physical sciences. The 1910 bulletin listed four science departments, biology, chemistry and physics, geography, and psychology.
By 1915, twelve courses in chemistry were listed in the bulletin. The first bachelor of science degree was awarded in 1924. For much of the 1920s and 1930s the chemistry faculty remained fixed with Dr. William McCracken, Robert Eldridge, and James W. Boynton. Gerald Osborn was transferred from Eastern Michigan University where he had taught chemistry for thirteen years, and appointed to the position of chairperson of the Chemistry Department.

During the 1940s, teaching loads were high and instrumentation was limited. The need for more space also became apparent with the advent of World War II and the participation of the institution in the V-12 program that brought some 900 Navy and Marine students on campus, all of which were required to take at least one semester of chemistry. Following the war, chemistry enrollments doubled. By the late 1940s, construction was begun on a new classroom and laboratory building completed in 1949 and named in honor of Dr. William McCracken.

In 1948, a course in Paper Technology was introduced in the Chemistry Department. This resulted due to petitions made to President Sangren by the paper industries of the Kalamazoo Valley. The program later evolved into the Department of Paper Technology in 1954.

In 1952, WMU was authorized by the State Board of Education to award master's degrees. By the mid-1950s, the department clearly anticipated launching a graduate program leading to the M.A. degree. This led to a period of rather rapid growth in the department for the next twelve years with final approval for the M.A. program achieved in 1958 and the first degree granted in 1961.

Planning and preparation to initiate a Ph.D. program in chemistry were begun in 1964 with the strong support of the Chemistry Advisory Committee. The State Board of Education gave its final approval in January 1966. During the period of 1966 to 1982, 24 doctoral degrees and 33 master's degrees in chemistry were awarded.

During the early 1980s, the Chemistry Department was instructed to cease accepting new doctoral students, but to retain the M.A. program. The doctoral program was later reinstated in 1998 due to the success of graduate programs during the 1990s.

Since 1998, the department has graduated eight doctoral students, and more than 25 master's students. In 1999, construction of Haenicke Hall was completed and the Chemistry Department was able to occupy a portion of these new state of the art research laboratories adding to its highly active approach to research and quality education.
Leslie Wood was responsible for founding the academic study of geography at WMU.

Geography

Geography at WMU has evolved in a correspondingly parallel way with the University. In 1909, there was no Geography Department. Instead, there was a Science Division headed by Leslie Wood, who himself was a geographer. Professors Wood and colleague Lucia Harrison were instrumental in founding the academic study of modern Geography at WMU, since the structure of this academic discipline was only then coalescing in the United States.
As early members of the Association of American Geographers, Professors Wood and Harrison participated in current debates and established the geography curriculum. By 1905, 11 different geography courses were offered. This paved the way for the creation of the Department of Geography in 1924.

By the early 1950s, Geography as a professional degree for purposes other than teaching had yet to emerge. Principles of Cartography had been introduced in 1939, soon followed by Field Geography, Land Use Problems of the Northern Peninsula, and Military Use of Maps and Aero-photography. The new fields of photogrammetric Air Photo analysis and Urban Geography appeared in the curriculum by 1960, and by 1967 the first course in quantitative methods was offered.

In the mid-1960s, the application of statistics and mathematics to geography was integrated into the curriculum with the first calculating lab created in 1967, an NSF-supported computational lab with five electronic calculators followed. With further NSF support, the department developed interactive computer graphics and mapping with state-of-the-art Tektronix equipment in the early 1980s, and “geo-data handling and mapping” appeared in the catalog.

By 1998, the Geography Department occupied the newly renovated Wood Hall, equipped with computer laboratories dedicated to geographic information science, digital remote sensing, urban and regional planning, and meteorology and climatology. The Geography Department is today one of the best equipped in the United States.

The department also has its own Geographic Information Systems Research Center, founded in 1992 by Dr. David Dickason and has received about $1 million in grants. Its efforts have largely been focused on issues of land and water management in Michigan. The center has provided an excellent training ground for students in geographic information science and environmental resources analysis and management.

Based on the foundations built over the last 100 years and with the constructive partnership of the department, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the University—the Department of Geography will continue to offer high quality instruction, to produce innovative research, and to provide valued expert service to the people and State of Michigan in the University’s second century.
Faculty members at the dedication of the rock in front of Rood Hall to celebrate WMU’s 75th year.

Geosciences

Geology has been taught as a subject at WMU since the opening of the Normal School in 1904. The instructor of the first course was Leslie H. Wood in whose honor Wood Hall is named. During the first few years, Wood was the only instructor in the Department of Geography.

By 1925, the Geography Department had grown to four faculty members, and its name had changed to the Department of Geography and Geology.

Dr. Lloyd Schmaltz served as one of the pioneering members of the Department of Geosciences and as a former department chair.
During the 1931-1932 academic year, a major transition in geology instruction began as Dr. Wood retired and the leadership transferred to Dr. William J. Berry. The modern era of the Geology Department began in 1959 with the hiring of Dr. Lloyd J. Schmaltz, who became the advisor for a new major in geology.

A major and a minor in Earth Science were added in 1963, and on July 1, 1965, the Department of Geography and Geology formally split into separate departments of Geography and Geology. Dean George Mallinson was instrumental in this transition and also helped Dr. Schmaltz establish two very successful NSF funded summer institutes for high school earth science teachers.

Graduate programs began in the late 1960s with a master's degree in earth science education. Soon after, a master's in geology (1970-1971) was initiated, and the department's research activities were brought to the forefront.

The 1970s was a decade of continued expansion in faculty and programs. One of the first research concentrations in the department was Rocky Mountain tectonics initiated by Professors David Kuenzi, Ron Chase, and Chris Schmidt, which has been the recipient of many NSF grants over the years as well as Lake Michigan coastal erosion studies that continue to the present.

In the early 1970s, Dr. William Harrison arrived as a paleontologist, but quickly developed an interest in the petroleum geology of the Michigan Basin. He established the Michigan Basin Core Research Laboratory, which gradually grew over the years to become a major resource to the petroleum industry in Michigan.

This department's creation of a Master Plan for Development in 1973, led to a new emphasis on environmental geology and the subsequent publication of Kalamazoo County: Geology and the Environment in 1978. In 1979, the department was awarded approximately $600,000 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to investigate the aquifers of Michigan in relation to underground injection of hazardous wastes.

This project culminated in the publication of the Hydrogeologic Atlas of Michigan, which still serves as the most significant statewide reference on aquifers in Michigan. This and other research programs developed under the environmental master plan were spearheaded by Drs. Lloyd Schmaltz, Tom Straw, and Dick Passero.

New strengths in environmental geophysics and geochemistry were made possible by the addition of several new faculty members. A Ph.D. program in hydrogeology was introduced in 1990. A new name, the Department of Geosciences, was chosen in 1997 to reflect the broader, interdisciplinary, approach to the earth sciences.

As the University Centennial year dawns, the Geosciences Department is strong and continues to produce graduates that achieve success in a wide range of fields. The need for earth scientists becomes even more critical to our society as we confront global problems involving climate change, natural resources and the environment.
Mathematics

Mathematics has played a central role at WMU, from the University's humble beginnings in 1903 training rural elementary school teachers, to a century later as a national university with a Carnegie Foundation classification as a Doctoral/Research University-Extensive. The Department of Mathematics is one of the twelve departments listed in WMU's first bulletin, published in 1904.

Western State Normal School began offering bachelor of arts degrees through the University of Michigan in 1913 and independently in 1918. This necessitated an expanded mathematics faculty and an expanded mathematics curriculum. John P. Everett, the first Ph.D. on the mathematics faculty and head of the department, led the development of mathematics at Western for over 30 years.

Enrollments at Western State Normal School increased steadily in the post World War I period. In 1924, there were roughly
1,900 students on campus. The subsequent Depression years were very hard on WMU. Enrollments dropped, as did funding from the State.

The post World War II era brought a new surge of students, including many veterans who enrolled in college under the G.I. Bill. New mathematics faculty members were hired to meet the increased demand for mathematics courses. In 1957, Jack R. Meagher taught the first courses in computer programming ever offered at the University.

As a direct response to the Sputnik rocket launched by Russia in the late 1950's, there was an urgency to improve mathematics and science education throughout America that resulted in the National Science Foundation (NSF) supporting grants to the department to improve the mathematics education in secondary schools. This was the beginning of a solid relationship with the NSF, and the first of many grants the department would receive from NSF to work on curriculum development projects.

Major changes in the department occurred under the leadership of James Powell, who was appointed department head beginning in the fall of 1960. Under his guidance, the faculty became more research focused, and a M.A. in mathematics was introduced in 1962.

A. Bruce Clarke accepted the position of head, effective July 1, 1967, after Powell was appointed associate dean. The department made huge strides during this period. The Ph.D. in mathematics was approved in 1967, and the first Ph.D. in mathematics was awarded to Kenneth Pothoven at the December 1969 Convocation.

In 1970, a PDP-10 computer was installed in Rood Hall shortly after the building was completed, allowing for a major expansion of academic computer services to the University and leading to the formation of the Department of Computer Science in 1979.

Also constructed in 1970, Everett Tower was named after the department's first head, John P. Everett, and houses the department's offices. The computer revolution impacted the department with the addition of the M.S. in applied mathematics in 1982 and the hiring of several faculty members with research specializations in applied and computational mathematics. The M.S. in computational mathematics was approved in 1994.

The role of statistics in the department increased greatly through the years with the development of several master's programs dating from the late 1960s and the approval of the M.S. and Ph.D. in statistics in 1998. On July 1, 2001, the Department of Statistics was formed. The Ph.D. in mathematics education was approved in 1989 with the first Ph.D. in mathematics education being awarded the same year. The concentration in collegiate mathematics Education in the Ph.D. in mathematics was approved in 1998.

Through the years, the department has played an instrumental role in the University's mission to train teachers, has developed strong programs in pure, applied, and computational mathematics and in mathematics education, and has nurtured fledgling programs in computer science and statistics.

A more detailed history of the Department of Mathematics is available on-line at http://www.wmich.edu/math/alumni/history.

Physics has been a part of WMU since the summer of 1904, when instruction began at Western State Normal School, in temporary quarters in the Kalamazoo High School building. Physics and chemistry were taught at that time under the auspices of the Science Department by Mr. Earl N. Worth of the Kalamazoo Public Schools.

Mr. Worth was joined in the summer of 1906 by John E. Fox, who organized physics laboratories in the basement of the newly completed Administration Building (East Hall) on Normal Hill.
Fox taught physics courses from 1906-1910, until he took a leave of absence during the 1910-1911 school year to finish his A.B. degree at the University of Chicago. In his absence, Dr. William McCracken, head of chemistry and physics, and Mr. Will J. Sprow taught physics courses. Upon Fox's return in 1911, physics split from chemistry to form a separate department, with Fox as its first chairperson. He would remain the head of the Physics Department until his mandatory retirement at age 70 in 1944, by far the longest term held by any physics chair at WMU.

Paul Rood joined the department in 1916. He would eventually take over as head of the Physics Department on the retirement of John Fox in 1944 and continue in that position until his own mandatory retirement in 1964.

The war years were a critical time for the department as well as for Western Michigan College, as the school was then known. In 1943, WMU took on the V-12 Officer Training Program for the U.S. Navy. Two terms of physics were required of the approximately 700 trainees enrolled at any given time, placing quite a strain on the small faculty, even with the addition of temporary instructors.

During the 1950s, grants from the fledgling Atomic Energy Commission made possible the acquisition of some apparatus and 80 grams of the rare, man-made element, plutonium. Research grants were first obtained from the Research Corporation and the National Science Foundation in 1958 and 1959, and both organizations have continued to fund physics research in subsequent years. WMU physicists operated a subcritical nuclear reactor in the basement of then-new McCracken Hall.

The master's program in physics was authorized in 1960, and the first two M.A. degrees were awarded in 1962. By 1972, the graduate program had granted 38 master's degrees. The construction of Rood Hall and Everett Tower in 1970 was made possible by grants from the state and federal government elicited by George G. Mallinson and included roughly a million dollars to equip a new tandem Van de Graaff accelerator facility for atomic and nuclear research.

In 1989, a doctoral program in physics was established. That year, John Tanis succeeded Gene Bernstein as department chair. The department's traditional areas of research strength in atomic, nuclear, and condensed matter physics, were augmented and revitalized. The first Ph.D. in physics at WMU was awarded to Konstantinos Zaharkis in 1995.

The most recent development of historical significance occurred in 2001, with the disbanding of the Department of Science Studies, and the retirement of its chair, Dr. Larry Oppliger, who had also chaired the physics department.

Faculty from this department were integrated into the various science departments, including some who came to physics. It was soon decided to establish a new research area within the Physics Department that specialized in physics education, and new faculty were hired to collaborate with those who had moved over from science studies. As a result, the department now has twenty full time faculty members, the highest number in its proud 92-year history.
Science and Mathematics

Psychology
The Department of Psychology was established in 1940 when a small group of faculty members separated from the Department of Education. During its first eight years, the department offered a small selection of courses that allowed students to obtain a Psychology minor. By 1948, the range and number of courses had expanded and the department established a curriculum that allowed students to major in Psychology.

Dave Lyon served as chair of the Psychology Department during the 1970s.
Dr. Jack Michael was a key player who helped WMU become a leader in behavioral psychology.

The number of faculty and the range of courses continued to grow during the 1950s and the department established a master's degree program in school psychology. In the early 1960s, the department was quite eclectic in its theoretical orientation. Most of the faculty members devoted their time to teaching and applied work, clinical and industrial psychology, but did little research—a academic priorities that were probably a carry over from the university's early history as a teacher's college.

WMU was in a transition period, aspiring to become a major state university with an active research program. In an effort to bolster the research activities in the Department of Psychology, Gerald Osborn, Dean of the School of Libera...
Statistics

Although the Department of Statistics at Western Michigan University officially came into existence on July 1, 2001, statistics has had a strong presence among the University’s programs since the middle of the twentieth century.

In 1959, the Department of Mathematics hired Dr. James H. Powell. Powell was the first faculty member to hold a doctorate in statistics and the first person to envision the creation of statistical education at WMU. In the early 1970s, Professor Powell designed and created undergraduate degrees in statistics. These undergraduate programs in statistics were among the first in the nation. His career at WMU lasted over 30 years, during which time he also served as chair of the department.
The beginning of the 1970s brought great changes to the pharmaceutical industry and produced a need for statistical expertise. The Federal Drug Administration began to require statistical evidence for the effectiveness and safety of new drugs before it would allow them onto the market.

The local pharmaceutical company, Upjohn, soon discovered it needed a special kind of statistician—one already trained in biology and chemistry. Upjohn approached Dr. Stoline about the development of a special master's program for pharmaceutical statisticians. This resulted in the nation's first biostatistics master's degree program created in WMU's Department of Mathematics in 1976. This marked the beginning of a long and fruitful relationship between Upjohn and statisticians at WMU. The landmark of this new program was the requirement of a statistical internship at a pharmaceutical company.

In 1978, Dr. Joseph McKean, a graduate of the statistics program at Penn State University was hired. He quickly established himself as an international leader in the development of Robust Statistical Methods. By the late 1990s, he became a fellow in the American Statistical Society and directed dozens of doctoral thesis.

In the fall of 1986, the name of the Department of Mathematics was officially changed to the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. During that same fall, Dr. Daniel Mihalko, a graduate of Purdue University left the School of Aerospace Medicine to join the faculty of the newly named Department of Mathematics and Statistics. Three years later, a doctorate in statistics proper was developed by Professors Michael Stoline, Gerald Sievers, and Joseph McKean and approved by the board of trustees in 1989.

By the early 1990s it became clear that the mission of the mathematicians and the statisticians had diverged. Professor McKean earnestly campaigned for a separate Department of Statistics. His efforts were rewarded in the summer of 2000 when College of Arts and Sciences Dean Elise Jorgens convinced President Floyd and incoming Provost Fred Dobney of the wisdom of creating a separate Department of Statistics.

At this time, WMU created a high throughput screening program for training biologists and chemists to deal with the new microarray technology. The Department of Statistics became a partner in this program with the Departments of Biology and Chemistry.

Dr. McKean's years of hard work were also rewarded during the summer of 2000 when he put together a partnership between Pharmacia (formerly Upjohn) and the College of Arts and Sciences to fund a statistical computing laboratory that would serve as a resource to students and be contracted out to industries. After many years of hard work by faculty members, the Department of Statistics became an official entity at Western Michigan University on July 1, 2001.
The annual music lecture and performance series called Minifest features music genres from gospel, to blues, to jazz, to hip hop. The Boyer Brothers perform at Expo VII entitled "Traditional Gospel: The Old Landmark."

Africana Studies Program

The newly merged Africana Studies Program at Western Michigan University, formerly Black Americana Studies and African Studies, was founded in 1972 in response to the demand from students and concerned faculty for a space within the academy in which issues of race and cultural connections between Africa and the Black Diaspora could be explored.
Shortly after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s death in 1968, African American students at WMU demonstrated. Their demonstrating included the seizure of the newly constructed Bernhard Center. Their concerns were for establishing a dimension within the university specifically for African American students.

WMU’s president at the time Dr. John Miller met with concerned faculty and students. Their meetings resulted in the development of the Martin Luther King Program and the establishment of an academic component, Black Africana Studies. Former directors of the program were Drs. Carlton Lee, LeRoi Ray Jr., and Earl Washington.

The primary role of Black Studies faculty was to research the distortions in the various disciplines, investigate the norms and values of the University, examine the disciplines and their omissions, bring the black perspective to each discipline, and monitor the effects of each on racism. From the outset, the faculty has emphasized its commitment to taking education and service directly to the community.

The specific aims of Africana Studies (APS) are to develop a greater appreciation of the rich variety of Africa and the Diaspora cultures and their achievements; to stimulate acquisition of languages spoken in Africa and the Diaspora and knowledge about contemporary global affairs; and to provide a forum for the exchange, analysis, and evaluation of information and ideas concerning Africa and the Diaspora.

The program aims to engender an appreciation of diversity and emphasize the ways in which Africans, the people of African descent in the Americas, have constructed and interpreted their own lives and cultures.

Africana Studies is the study, research, interpretation, and the dissemination of knowledge concerning African American, African, and Caribbean affairs and culture. Using the tools of social sciences and humanities, Africana Studies at Western Michigan University examines the structure, organization, problems, and perspectives of Blacks in Africa and the African Diaspora.

Africana Studies also stresses the analytical interpretations and policy prescriptions for social change in African American communities and various African and Caribbean nations.

With a strong interdisciplinary thrust, Africana Studies is committed to producing liberally educated men and women, with a lifetime dedication to working on African American, African, and Caribbean affairs.

For years WMU has stated in its mission: “The institution should be a place for the creation of knowledge, the analysis of and debate of important issues, as well as the exploration of new ways to address critical issues confronting all human life as our world/globe shrinks and our population expands.”

Hence, Africana Studies prepares students to think critically, to express themselves creatively, to respect cultural diversity, and to make independent contributions to the intellectual, cultural, and spiritual growth of the world community.

Not pictured above: Dr. Amos Beyan, Associate Professor of Africana Studies and Dr. Mustafa Mirzeler, Assistant Professor of Africana Studies
American Studies Program

The American Studies Program was designed to be an interdisciplinary program to train undergraduate students to think broadly about the world across departmental curricula. Peter Schmitt, a professor in the History Department, initiated the first American Studies Program in 1967.

The program offered American Studies 500, a course that set out an interdepartmental theory and method of studying the culture of the United States. Students completed the degree by taking classes in American literature, philosophy, religion and the social sciences. The program attracted intellectually curious students who were eager to move beyond traditional models of learning.

In the fall of 1971, Lewis Carlson, also a professor in the History Department, joined Peter Schmitt as an academic advisor. Schmitt and Carlson helped to create American Studies 399, a course that offered credit for field experience, especially for participation in community efforts and organizations. This course of study encouraged WMU students to experiment with learning outside the confines of the University.

In 1979, Carlson became the director of the American Studies Program. He expanded the program to offer Continuing Education classes off campus and a bachelor's degree for undergraduate students. In 1987, James Ferreira, a history professor, joined Lewis Carlson as an advisor to students in the program, and the two men added a minor to the program.

In November of 1997, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Elise Jorgens created an American Studies Committee to discuss the history of the program and the potential for new growth in American Studies. Several committee members from the Departments of Anthropology,
find one that would be useful to WMU students.

By the fall of 1998, the committee had constructed a new interdisciplinary course of study that would offer both a major and a minor in American studies. The program as it exists today includes classes in American history and culture from three perspectives: regional, national and global. The program brings together WMU faculty from many departments and programs within the College of Arts and Sciences who are scholars and teachers specializing in aspects of American Studies.

During 1999, 2000, and 2001, Dr. Katherine Joslin, current director of the American Studies program, worked with Brian Wilson and John Saillant to conduct Fulbright Summer Institutes for international faculty, bringing dozens of professors from around the world to WMU for seminars in American Studies.

Faculty in the program are working to expand beyond the United States to include other countries and cultures in the Americas. The Program in American Studies hired two joint-appointed faculty in 2002 and 2003, one with the History Department and the other with the Spanish Department. Current undergraduate students are adding internships and study abroad to their course work. As in the past, the Program in American Studies offers students flexibility of study and encourages participation in the world beyond the classroom.

Lewis Carlson, Professor Emeritus in history and former director of the American Studies Program, lectures on American culture to Carol Haenicke, Ed Meader, Seamus Cooney, Diether Haenicke, and Tom Bailey.
Wil Reding, local environmentalist and part-time instructor in the environmental studies program, plays a vital role in educating WMU students about environmental issues.

Environmental Studies Program

The Environmental Studies Program emerged out of the widespread interest and concern about the environment fostered by the first Earth Day in 1970.

From 1970-1976 a wide range of exploratory efforts were conducted and the basic philosophy and structure of the Program was established.

The first meeting of what soon became the Committee on Environmental Programs (COEP) was called February 1970, by Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences James Zietlow to explore setting up University-wide programs in environmental pollution. This narrow focus was gradually broadened as COEP inventoried existing courses, interested faculty, and discussed the development of a curriculum. Dr. Robert W. Kaufman was elected as the first director of the Environmental Studies Program (ENVS) housed in the Institute of Public Affairs (IOPA), also directed by Dr. Kaufman.

In the Spring of 1972, the University Curriculum Committee approved a degree program in environmental studies with both a coordinate major and two minors. The curriculum was organized around the concepts of ecology, evolution, and culture which required dialogue and integration among the natural sciences, the social sciences, and the humanities.

With no faculty, little budget, and much collaboration, there was a great deal of work for both the director and the first program coordinator, Dan Bement. In 1974, Vice President for Academic Affairs Stephen Mitchell created a University Advisory Council on Environmental Programs.
Robert Kaufman made the case for the first set of proposed revisions to the curriculum that included the exposure of students to ethical issues involved in private and public decision making and the expansion of students' understanding of the political process. He also argued the need for institutional arrangements to support and compensate faculty and to better link the academic world to community service, and the revised curriculum was implemented.

In 1978, the University Advisory Council on Environmental Programs completed a comprehensive plan for integrating teaching, research, and community service under one umbrella organization. As part of these curriculum proposals, ENVS also spelled out to the dean its budget, staff, and space needs. After a series of negotiations lasting more than a year, WMU's Provost and President approved most of these proposals in May of 1990 that made staffing provisions for the ENVS program.

In 1992, Dean Ferraro of the College of Arts and Sciences included the program in his proposal to move ENVS, the Department of General Studies, and Center for Science Education into a new Department of Science Studies. After the proposal was approved in early 1992, the dean appointed Dr. Larry Oppliger of the Physics Department as chair.

The Spring of 1992, Director Dave Hargreave proposed, and later spearheaded, the development of the integrated curriculum which culminated in the approval of 12 hours of ENVS courses to count towards meeting University general education requirements.

In 1997, the College of Arts and Sciences created an Environmental Research Center in response to President Haenicke's "Jump Start" initiative. A search was conducted for a Director, and Charles Ide was hired. Dean Elise Jorgens of the College of Arts and Sciences decided that there should be a new Environmental Institute to house both ENVS and the newly formed Environmental Research Center. The institute was approved in the Fall of 1998.

During the 2001/2002 academic year there were several administrative changes. Charles Ide, director of the Environmental Institute, was also appointed ENVS director. He asked Dave Hargreave to serve as associate director, which Dave did until his resignation in late fall 2001. Tom Bailey followed Ide as director in August 2002.

As a result of the program, many of our former students have brought an environmental perspective into their professions. The success of the program is also evidenced by the achievements of ENVS students Heather Gott, Jacquelyn Styrna, and Benjamin Appleby—who were the only Michigan students to win a prestigious national Udall Scholar Award.

Dr. Michael Swords was instrumental in the development of the Environmental Studies Program and helped develop a curriculum for the Senior Seminar in 1978.
Graduate science education at WMU began in 1948 under a cooperative plan with the University of Michigan that allowed students to take courses for a master of arts in education at WMU and be awarded a degree by the University of Michigan.

The degree offered a specialization in several fields including the "teaching of science and mathematics" for which Dr. George Mallinson served as faculty advisor. Soon Mallinson became chair of Graduate Advisors; then director of Graduate Studies when WMU began offering master's degrees in 1952.

He later became dean of the School of Graduate Studies, which became the Graduate College when WMU was elevated to University status.

Throughout his tenure as dean, Mallinson maintained a strong alliance with his major field of interest, science education. In the 1960s, the master's degree in the "teaching of science" was greatly strengthened by the impact of approximately fifty National Science Foundation sponsored Institutes for Teachers held at WMU and directed by Mallinson. From 1952-1965, about 200 master's degrees were awarded in
“teaching of science and mathematics.” In 1965, the two fields began offering separate degrees. From 1965-75, there were about 200 additional master’s degrees conferred in the “teaching of science.”

The development of the Science Education doctorate was in part due to Mallinson’s interest in this field and his insistence that the graduate program in science education should lead to a doctoral degree with a strong emphasis on scientific content.

In May 1965, the Board of Trustees authorized the development of doctoral programs, and in December of 1965, the State Board of Education approved the proposals. The first doctoral degree in Science Education was awarded to Dr. Thomas VanKoevering in 1969. The second doctoral degree was awarded to Dr. Robert H. Poel in 1970, who accepted a faculty position at WMU. Dr. Poel developed the Center for Science Education as an outreach program for professional and curriculum development. Since then, a total of 46 additional Ph.D. degrees in science education have been awarded by Western Michigan University. This makes WMU one of the most productive and respected Science Education doctoral programs in the United States.

In 1994, the science education graduate programs were assigned to the newly formed Department of Science Studies, chaired by Professor Larry Opplinger, a physicist. The new unit also had the responsibility to design a new science education curriculum for elementary education students. The process was partially supported with a three-year grant from the Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education (FIPSE).

In 2000, the Department of Science Studies was dissolved and the Graduate Programs in Science Education were reorganized under the auspices of the Institute for Science Education. The focus of the program returned to its initial mission as an interdisciplinary program – the original vision of Dr. George Mallinson.

The institute is the host to two important service units. The first is the Center for Science Education, formed in 1987 and designed to provide professional development for science teachers and curriculum development expertise for K-12 schools. In addition, the center provides opportunities for research into the impacts of content, curricula, and teacher education on student learning. The second, Science and Mathematics Program Improvement (SAMPI), is designed to help improve educational programming and evaluation for schools, colleges, and other educational entities with a science or mathematical education mission.

The official name of the unit became the Mallinson Institute for Science Education in August 2002, in honor of the lifelong professional commitment to Western Michigan University by George and Jackie Mallinson. Joseph P. Stoltman, faculty member at WMU for 31 years, was named the first director of the institute. The Mallinson Institute for Science Education is committed to the quality graduate programs envisioned by George Mallinson, and the faculty members are dedicated to this mission.
The Medieval Institute

The Medieval Institute ranks within the top ten of the some 90 institutes, centers, and programs focusing on medieval studies in North America. The institute’s reputation primarily rests on its now annual International Congress, the largest professional meeting in the field, and Medieval Institute Publications, which has published well over 150 books, journals, and series in its quarter century. The master’s program in medieval studies and several research programs have made significant contributions to the reputation of the institute as well.
The idea for a Medieval Institute came about when John Sommerfeldt and John McNally were exploring plans for a new academic program at the University. Their first step was to enlist colleagues to identify a core of courses that could be used to support both undergraduate and graduate degree programs. The new degree programs were announced less than two years later in May 1961, and plans also were set in motion for an undergraduate minor in medieval studies.

In 1962, the program became the Institute of Medieval Studies with Sommerfeldt as director working with a board drawn from the supporting departments. Crucial in the development of the new institute was its sponsorship of its first medieval conference in March 1962.

The conference was at first to be a biennial affair until it became an annual event in 1970. That same year Assistant Director George Demetrakopoulos was appointed to manage conference organization and related responsibilities.

University support, particularly for library collection development, has been central to the growth of the program. Waldo Library has very substantial holdings in the Middle Ages and Early Modern period, including the Pollard and Redgrave series of early English books. A substantial boost to library holdings also came from the founding of a new Institute of Cistercian Studies, also headed by Sommerfeldt, in 1972.

The growth of the May conference both in prestige and size in the late 1970s and 1980s may be traced to the appointment in 1975 of Otto Gründler, first as associate director and then in the following year, as Sommerfeldt's successor as director of the Medieval Institute. Through Gründler's skillful organization and innovative ideas, the board of the institute voted to rename the conference the International Congress on Medieval Studies. By May of 1984 the number of registrants had exceeded 2,000.

The teaching programs, the original impetus for faculty cooperation, have continued their growth. Since its founding in 1961, more than 80 students have been granted master's degrees in medieval studies.

The Medieval Institute is a scholarly success story because of the determination of administrators and faculty that it should be one of the most visible components of the university nationally and internationally. In the last decade new faculty and staff have demonstrated the initiative to continue the growth and development of the institute.

Research and publication programs have been a key part of the institute's history. Medieval Institute Publications (MIP) grew out of a journal entitled *Studies in Medieval Culture*, which conceived as a selective publication record of the Congress. In January, 1995 Paul E. Szarmach came from the State University of New York at Binghamton to succeed Gründler, who retired. Editor and publisher of the *Old English Newsletter* and *Subsidia*, Szarmach capitalized on the base offered by the Rawlinson Center for Anglo-Saxon Studies and Manuscript Research, a force in Anglo-Saxon Studies through its research, teaching, and congress programs.

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The Center for Women’s Studies

Women’s Studies developed as a result of changes in society during the 1960s and 1970s regarding the roles of women and the consequent changes in the needs and interests of students.

A minor in women’s studies was first offered in the 1975-76 academic year. The stated purpose of the minor was to inform students of a broader view of their cultural heritage through the study of women, their writings and accomplishments, and how the world has viewed women throughout history. It also sought to prepare students to deal with others in a non-stereotypic fashion.

Laura Manis, from the Counseling Center, was named coordinator and academic advisor of the new program. At that time, no courses were offered directly by the program but were chosen based on a list of approved electives. Two years later, General Studies 222: Status of Women, became a required course and served as an introduction to the minor.
Studies Program used the prefix WMS. Significant to the program's growth was the addition of the course *Readings in Women's Studies* so that students could independently read and research various issues regarding women and gender.

In 1987, President Diether Haenicke appointed a Task Force to Advise the President on the Future of the Center for Women's Services. That committee was chaired by Dr. Shirley Van Hoeven, associate professor of communication, and included among its members Dr. Barbara Havira, director of women's studies, and Dr. Louise Forsleff, associate vice president for Student Services.

Dr. Gilda M. Greenberg was named director of the Women's Studies Program in 1983 during which period the number of classes increased. Dr. Ruth Ann Meyer followed during the 1986-87 academic year. Dr. Barbara Speas Havira became the next director in 1987 and continued until 1991. During Dr. Havira's sabbatical leave in 1990, Dr. Suhashni Datta-Sandhu took over as director for the year. Dr. Havira did much to develop and update the program, rewriting the description of the program and making a number of changes in the electives list that enhanced the Women's Studies Program. The program's goal was the examination of "diverse experiences, perspectives, and contributions of women."

In 1991, the Women's Studies Program moved from the General Studies to the Department of History. During this time, the first courses offered by the Women's Studies Program had a budget substantial enough to allow it to function as an independent unit.

Dr. Gwen Raaberg became director of the new Center for Women's Studies in 1992. She developed a new coordinate major in women's studies, reorganized the minor, and redesigned the curriculum. The new program, which became a model for other interdisciplinary programs, was inaugurated in 1993.

During the late 1990s, the Women's Studies Program became one of the fastest growing undergraduate programs in the College of Arts and Sciences and accommodated graduate students through an independent readings course.

The goal of women's studies is to encourage "a spirit of inquiry" and to teach "approaches to thought and action that will prepare students to function effectively in a diverse and rapidly changing society."

The Center for Women's Services had been active in the community during the 1970s and early 1980s, but changes in the number of women re-entering the University required a change in focus.

In 1992, women's studies joined with the research wing of the Center to become the Center for Women's Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences. This move greatly enhanced the possibilities for developing the Women's Studies Program. For the first time, the program had a budget substantial enough to allow it to function as an independent unit.

Dr. Gilda M. Greenberg was named director of the Women's Studies Program in 1983.
Dear College of Arts and Sciences Faculty and Staff,

I would like to express my appreciation to each and every person who helped make possible the College of Arts and Sciences Centennial Publication. I am especially indebted to the department chairpersons, faculty, emeriti, and alumni who wrote the history of their respective department. There is no question that this has been a collaborative venture from the beginning, and I count it a privilege to have worked with each one of you.

A special thanks also goes out to Neil Simon for sharing his design expertise and his willingness to produce the cover when my creative juices had ceased to flow. Thanks also to John Winchell, Dr. Sharon Carlson and the staff in University Archives who tirelessly helped gather photographs and other historical material for this publication.

Finally, a special thank you to Dr. James Gilchrist and Dr. Leonard Ginsberg for providing me with the opportunity to complete this publication for the College of Arts and Sciences. I consider it an honor to compile a history for a college so committed to academic excellence and to the personal and professional growth of its faculty and student body.

Western Michigan University's success over the past century can only be attributed to the faithful service of men and women who gave selflessly of themselves to invest personally in the growth and development of the student body. Their thirst for knowledge, their commitment to higher education, and their dedication to convey that same thirst and commitment to their students have been the building blocks that have propelled WMU forward.

I hope and pray continued success at WMU as it prepares to enter its second century.

God Bless,

Kirstin Beth Grieser
Editor

To view a copy of this publication online, go to www.wmich.edu/cas. Click on the link for centennial publication.