Western Michigan University Newsletter, June 1958

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Graduate Chemistry Program
Added to Science Offerings

The master of arts degree in chemistry will be offered at Western Michigan University beginning next September.

Although some graduate courses have been offered previously in this area, this new program will offer advanced work in analytical, physical, organic, inorganic and biochemistry. Thirty credit hours selected from these and closely allied fields are required, including the successful completion of a research problem under the supervision of the graduate faculty.

Those on the graduate faculty for chemistry are Drs. Robert Anderson, Paul Holkeboer, Don Iffland, Lawrence Knowlton, Lillian Meyer, Robert Nagler, Gerald Osborn, Elizabeth Tuller and Elaine Zimmerman.

The facilities have been developed to permit individual research and include modern laboratories and instrumentation. Research grants are being obtained from various sources. Areas of research which are underway, or being developed, include reaction mechanisms, and organic syntheses, free radicals, electrochemistry and other aspects of physical chemistry, studies of metalchelate complexes, and problems in biophysical chemistry related to amino acids and proteins.

A limited number of research and teaching fellowships are available.

Coeds Leaders
In Publications

Publications by students on the campus at Western next year will be in the hands of coeds.

Miss Karen Gernant, Kalamazoo, is the new editor of the Brown and Gold, yearbook; Miss Kay Higbee, Grand Rapids, editor of the Herald, weekly newspaper; and Miss Sally Vykydal, Farmington, Student Council publications director.

Business manager for the annual is Donald Yerxa, Rochester, and for the newspaper, Charles Lynch, Highland Park.
Paul Griffeth
Appointed First
Dean of Students

Paul L. Griffeth will become dean of students at Western Michigan in August.

Griffeth is now dean of men at the State University of Iowa, a position which he took in 1956. Before that he had been assistant dean of men at Iowa for four years.

He is a native of Sturgis, and earned his AB degree at Michigan State in 1941 and then spent four years as a Navy lieutenant. After his return, Griffeth was in business at Harbor Springs for six years, moving to Iowa in 1952.

Griffeth succeeds Dr. George H. Hilliard, who retires as director of counseling. In addition to heading the counseling bureau, Griffeth will also work to coordinate various aspects of student personnel work. He will receive his doctor of philosophy degree at Iowa in August.

Dean and Mrs. Griffeth have two children.

National Science Institute Opens

This month Western welcomes to its campus some 50 students who are participating in a summer institute for high school mathematics teachers, a program made possible through a $44,600 grant from the National Science Foundation.

Dr. Charles Butler, head of the mathematics department, is heading the program, and is being aided by Drs. Joseph C. McCully, James H. Powell and Robert Seber of the WMU faculty, and Dr. H. T. Muhly of the State University of Iowa.

Worner Honored

Miss Crystal Worner, head of the WMU women's physical education department since 1927, was presented an honorary degree of master of education on June 14 by Eastern Michigan College, her alma mater.

Vernon J. Brown, the first man ever to receive an honorary degree from Western Michigan University, has retired from state service after more than a half century in Lansing.

In 1944 Brown was called to the WMU campus to receive an honorary degree of master of public administration, the only person to be so honored that year.

Brown, now 84 years of age, has been a legislator, auditor general and lieutenant governor, and resigned early this month from the State Civil Service Commission. From his farm near Mason he has frequently been called upon for counsel by both Democrats and Republicans.

First Physics Grant

Michael Steven Matyas, a June graduate of Kalamazoo Central high school, is the first recipient of the $500 John E. and Edwin S. Fox Scholarship in physics at the University. The grant honors father and son, both onetime members of the WMU physics faculty. The late John Fox was for many years head of the physics department, and Edwin Fox taught from 1947 until his death in 1955.

ODK Recognizes Growing Stature Of University

New recognition of the growing stature of Western Michigan University came in May with the institution on the campus of a chapter of Omicron Delta Kappa, top honor society for men students in the United States.

Western Michigan was one of only three institutions selected for membership this year, others going to the Universities of Oklahoma and Hawaii.

Charter members for the organization last year formed as Hesperus, a local honor society, and they are: Richard Barnhill, John Berryman, Donald Brems, Robert Geiger, Thomas Goldsberry, Jeremiah Halbert, John Milnes, Robert Peterson, Thomas Rowley and Spencer Smith.

Added to the group later were Philip Barber, Curtis Butters, James Egers, Richard Forde, Timothy Lewis, Charles Lynch and Robert Morsink.

The newest class includes William Dok, Robert Kinning, Philip Adams, Robert Disbolis, James Wilder, Jack Fox and Thomas Elias.

Membership selection is based on academic achievement, campus leadership and participation in activities.

Faculty sponsors are Charles Starring, Dr. Oscar Horst, Dean J. Towner Smith and Robert Wetnight.

Biology Field Trip Planned in August

Field Studies in Biology is a trip sponsored by the department of biology and the division of field services between Aug. 18 and 28, and under the direction of Dr. Harriette Bartoo will explore the Illinois Ozarks and the Bloomington, Ind., areas.

Included will be visits to the annual foray of the Central State section, Botanical Society of America, and the meetings of the American Institute of Biological Sciences.
Five New Department Heads Named, Two New Instructional Areas Added

Growth and time are the background reasons for the recent appointment of five new department heads at the University by President Paul V. Sangren.

Two new departments are being added to the academic scene: philosophy and religion, and business education.

The former, in the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences, is another step forward in a program begun several years ago at the suggestion of a faculty committee working through the teacher education and religion project of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education.

Dr. Cornelius Loew, who came to Western in 1956, will serve as head of the department. He is a graduate of Elmhurst College, holds BD and STM degrees from the Union Theological Seminary and his Ph. D. degree from Columbia University. Dr. Loew has also taught at Lake Forest College.

Business education, in the School of Business, is the second new department, and marks further the development of specific areas within this school. Last year a department of accounting was organized.

George K. Cooper, a member of the faculty for 10 years, will head the department. He is a graduate of Western Illinois University and Indiana University, and is completing his doctoral studies at the University of Michigan.

Named to head the department of geography and geology, replacing the late Dr. William J. Berry, is Dr. William R. Brueckheimer, a three-year veteran on the faculty. Dr. Brueckheimer has studied at Wabash College, the University of Chicago and the University of Michigan.

He is currently chairman of the East Lakes division of the Association of American Geographers.

Miss Rosalia Kiss moves to the headship of the department of occupational therapy, as successor to Miss Marion R. Spear, who retires at the end of the spring semester. Miss Spear had headed OT work in Kalamazoo since 1923 and at Western since 1944.

Miss Kiss is a Wayne State University graduate who earned her OT credits at Eastern Michigan College, and she completed her master’s degree at the University.

Assuming all duties as head of the

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16 Members of Faculty Receive Rank Promotions

In addition to the naming of five new department heads, 16 other WMU faculty members have been promoted for the next year. By academic schools, they are:

School of Applied Arts and Sciences: Dr. Don W. Nantz, professor of industrial technology; Miss Betty Taylor, professor of home economics, and John L. Bendix, associate professor of industrial arts.

School of Education: Elmer Christensen, Miss Anita Tedford and Sam Reuschlein, assistant professors in the campus school; Mrs. Roberta Westra and Milton Zoschke, assistant professors in the Paw Paw school; and Miss Margaret Large, associate professor of physical education for women.

School of Liberal Arts and Sciences: Thomas Fulton, assistant professor of music; Dr. Joseph C. McCully and Dr. Robert Seber, associate professors of mathematics; Mrs. Jean Malmstrom and Dr. John Freund, associate professors of English; Dr. Chester Hunt, professor of sociology, and Dr. George E. Bradley, professor of physics.

Credit Given for Prison Courses

Much credit has been given to Western Michigan University and Eastern Michigan College for the courses which they have offered cooperatively at Jackson for guards and other personnel of the Southern Michigan Prison.

Ken McCormick, writing in the Detroit Free Press of June 1, reported a new atmosphere at the prison, much of it the result of the classes.

Dr. Stanley Kuffel, head of the WMU psychology department, has been credited with getting things started after a talk with Warden William Bannon, a WMU alumnus. Dr. Frank Fatzinger and William Yankee, also of the psychology department, have instructed courses in psychology.

Cooperating in the venture has been the division of field services.