Western Michigan University Newsletter, December 1958

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$101,800 IN GRANTS RECEIVED

Science Foundation Summer Institutes Set

Four institutes in three years is the mark of the University in grants from the National Science Foundation, with the recent announcement of two summer institutes for teachers.

Grants totalling $101,800 have come to Western Michigan University, permitting a repeat of last year’s institute for high school teachers of mathematics, and a new institute for junior high school teachers of general science.

A grant of $50,300 will provide a six-week institute for the mathematics teachers, opening June 22 under the direction of Dr. Charles Butler, head of the mathematics department. Again on the staff this year will be Drs. Robert Seber, James Powell and Joseph C. Cully of the WMU faculty, and Dr. H. T. Muhly, University of Iowa.

For the eight-week general science institute the grant is $51,500, and it will begin on the same date. Dr. W. C. VanDeventer, head of the biology department, will serve as director, and Dr. William Brueckheimer, head of the geography and geology department, will be associate director.

Other members of the staff include Dean Gerald Osborn, Dean George G. Mallinson, and W. S. Woodell, head of the department of physical science, Concord College, Athens, W. Va.

The aim of the science institute will be to correct the inadequacies in prior training in the breadth of subject matter ordinarily constituting the general science program.

In 1957 Western had its first institute, a science workshop for senior high school teachers.

Application forms for persons interested in these institutes will be available about mid-December.

Economics Prize Given

The outstanding scholar in economics at the University will be the recipient of a $100 prize, made possible through the thoughtfulness of an anonymous donor, says Dr. Floyd Moore, head of the economics department. The award will be made at the honors’ convocation in May.
Wm. Allen to Join Field Service Staff

Joining the University staff on January 1, 1959, as an assistant director of field services will be William D. Allen, currently associate director of the Community Chest and Council of Social Agencies of Kalamazoo.

Holding bachelor of science and master of social work degrees from Ohio State University, Allen did similar work in Columbus, O., Los Angeles, Calif., and Evansville, Ind., before coming to Kalamazoo.

Allen is a native of Evansville, Ind., where his parents now reside. He and his family live at 1815 Royce Avenue.

He is a board member of the Kalamazoo County Council of Churches and of the local branch of the Michigan Mental Health Society.

In the field service office he will be primarily concerned with the development and organization of on-campus and off-campus classes, and with adult education projects.


7,804 On-Campus Students Enrolled In Fall Semester

On campus enrollment for the fall semester has settled at 7,804, according to Registrar Clayton J. Maus.

By classes: Freshmen, 2,087; Sophomores, 1,477; Juniors, 1,395, and Seniors, 1,217; special, 931, and graduate, 697.

With off-campus enrollments, the total being served this semester by the University is 9,936, including off-campus undergraduates, 1,650; correspondence, 167; and graduate extension, 315.

Last year's grand total was 9,110, with 6,875 on campus.

County totals are: Kalamazoo, 2,402; Wayne, 599; Calhoun, 401; Van Buren, 361; Berrien, 348; Allegan, 315; St. Joseph, 263; Oakland, 259; Muskegon, 189; Ottawa, 170, and Barry, 121. And other states: Indiana, 169; Illinois, 150; Ohio, 35; New York, 19, and Wisconsin, 15. There are 13 from Hawaii, seven from Canada.

Scholars Indicate HS Preparation Good

Is the American high school doing the job that it should in educating our youth?

Dr. Roy Bryan, principal of University high school, presents the following evidence in refutation to much of the criticism of late:

"Articulate gifted youth are not likely to suffer in silence. Thus, to learn if the nations top students felt neglected or deprived in their high school education, the 555 Merit Scholarship winners of 1956 were sent questionnaires after their freshman year at some 160 colleges and universities. One item called for free responses to the question, How would you now evaluate your high school preparation?

"Replies from 535 Scholars, or about 98 per cent of the group, showed:

"Nine out of 10 of the upper one or two per cent of the nation's high school graduates rated their preparation adequate or excellent. The breakdown: 30 per cent submitted evaluations of 'excellent or good'; 25 per cent, 'adequate'; 35 per cent, 'adequate but with some specific defects'; and 10 per cent 'inadequate.'

"Dissatisfaction is greatest in small schools located in communities of 10,000 or less. In larger communities, unhappiness with the small school is less frequent. Small schools in large communities (50,000 or better) were appraised as favorably as large schools.

"Despite the Scholars' general satisfaction with their instruction, several of their comments reveal grievances that are worth citing:

Too much emphasis on competition.

Education geared to the majority. Drill on unconnected facts.

No emphasis on critical thinking. Limited training due to school size. Unpopular theories not discussed.

"On the whole, this group of talented students displayed remarkable satisfaction with their high school instruction.

"If, after savoring the more challenging fare of American colleges and universities, our talented students have few criticisms, surely our secondary schools cannot be gravely deficient in educating the gifted."
Spectrograph Given By Upjohn Company

The Upjohn Company has recently given to the University's physics department a Hilger medium quartz spectrograph, an instrument with accessories valued at more than $6,000.

It is being used by Dr. Stanley Derby, assistant professor of physics, who gained considerable experience with the complex instrument while studying for his doctorate at the University of Michigan.

With a spectrograph it is possible to study the light emitted from a sample of material which is burned between two electrodes. The light, which exposes a photographic film, aids in the determination of the kinds and quantities of metal in a given sample.

Dr. Derby states that the real expense in a spectrograph is the quartz crystal, which must be optically correct and carefully mounted.

Super Marketing New Study Area

Super Market Distribution is the newest curriculum to be approved by University officials, and will appear in the fall as a two-year cooperative offering of the department of distributive education.

It will be similar to the present petroleum distribution curriculum, and has been made possible through the initiative and cooperation of a new food distribution advisory committee, headed by Gerrit Vander-Hooning, president of Van's Food Department Store, Holland.


SUMMER SCHOOLS SUGGESTED

Education of Migrants Study Completed by Research Center

An extensive study of the education of migrants in two areas within Van Buren County, Michigan, has been completed by Dr. Jerome G. Manis, director of the Center for Sociological Research at the University.

Studying 417 migrant families in the Keeler and Grand Junction areas during 1957, Dr. Manis concluded: "Although few families 'like' migrancy and plan to continue, the length of years in migrancy and the amount of moves each year serve to gradually retard school age children."

He has also expressed interest at the high valuation placed upon schooling by migrant families. "Indeed, considering the nature of the handicaps which face the migrant, the retardation of children is perhaps less than might have been predicted. Given the migrant circumstance, it is the dependence upon children's income which seemingly is a fundamental block to educational advancement."

Dr. Manis feels that the favorable attitudes shown by teachers, growers, and businessmen in the areas affected indicates that there is a distinct possibility of operating a summer school program for a part of the children, particularly the younger groups. Although, here the sociologist warns that a summer school program, to be successful, must be tailored to the local conditions.

"As education becomes increasingly important to the individual as well as to the society as a whole, migrants may be expected to desire, rather than merely approve of, education. The community which provides these opportunities to its children, permanent residents or migrants, will aid those children, the community itself, and the nation," says Dr. Manis.

Financial support came from the U. S. Office of Education and the Division of Field Services, Western Michigan University.
Third Annual Pulp, Paper Conference
Set Jan. 14, 15

“Size Press and Calender Treatment” is the theme selected for the third annual Pulp and Paper Conference in the University’s Paper Industry Laboratories building, and scheduled to take place Jan. 14 and 15, 1959.

Technical sessions will begin at 2:15 on Wednesday afternoon, Jan. 14, and will be concerned with size presses, calender treatments, and practical calender box treatments.

Dedicatory rites for the University’s new Fourdrinier paper machine will be held at 8:30 Wednesday evening.

At the Wednesday dinner F. E. Bahrenburg, vice president of the Watervliet Paper Company, will speak on “Two Challenges,” and Thursday’s luncheon speaker will be Harry Weston, Chicago, who is executive secretary of the American Pulp and Paper Mill Superintendents Association. He will discuss “Refresher Courses in Pulp and Paper.”

The Johnson award in chemistry, a $500 grant, has been given this year to Robert J. Brunner, a senior from Birmingham. The grant comes from the S. C. Johnson and Company, Racine, Wis., makers of wax finishes.

Paper Students Win Two Graduate Awards

Two senior paper students at the University have accepted fellowships for graduate study, beginning in September, 1959, at the Institute of Paper Chemistry, Appleton, Wis.

The Institute, which offers only graduate study towards the MS and PhD degrees, will have five former Western students on its campus next fall with the addition of Thomas C. Elias, Potsdam, N.Y., and Earl Malcolm, Menominee.

Malcolm has a 3.79 average, out of a possible 4.0, and Elias, a 3.63.

New Opportunities in Philosophy, Religion

New opportunities for an academic major in philosophy and a minor in religion will be offered to University students next fall through the new department of philosophy and religion, headed by Dr. Cornelius Loew.

New courses added will be Great 19th-Century Thinkers and Great 20th-Century Thinkers. Dr. Loew states that these two courses will deal with non-positivist and non-existentialist thinkers, and that in 1960 two more courses will be added on positivist and existentialist thinkers.

Miss Eunice Kraft, associate professor of language, is the first president of the Michigan Classical Conference.

A new, engraved plaque has been created to be given each spring to the senior selected as the year’s outstanding scholar-athlete. Robert Mason, ’58, Sault Ste. Marie, football and baseball player, is the first recipient of the new award. Formerly a small medal was given.