Western Michigan University Newsletter, June 1959

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IN KALAMAZOO AND MUSKEGON

55th Summer Session Will Open June 22

Having opened its doors initially to the summer session of 1904, the University will commence its 55th annual summer session program June 22. From the first class of 116 students, it is expected this year to have about 3,000 graduate and undergraduate students.

In addition to those on the campus, the university for the first time will offer a resident summer session program at Muskegon.

Twenty different courses will be available to Muskegon-area residents, including work in eight academic departments—art, education, English, history, industrial education, political science, psychology and sociology.

The Muskegon work will be at the Heights high school, and the University will transport there facilities for a library and a book store.

On the campus the summer program will run from June 22 to July 31, with the commencement service for the session July 30.

Dr. George S. Counts, formerly of Teachers College, Columbia University, will head the list of visiting professors for the summer. He will teach "Foundations of American Education" and "The Challenge of Soviet Education."

For entertainment, the summer session will present news commentator Robert Siegrist June 25, and the Clebanoff Strings ensemble July 16.

Classroom teachers day will be observed July 14, and special exhibits include education books and materials July 6 to 8; educational projects for the classroom, July 28-29; "Books on Exhibit", June 29 to July 3, and fishing clinic, July 15.

A post session program of workshops will open Aug. 3 and continue for two weeks.

Special workshops during the regular session include reading, radio, coaches of athletic sports, librarianship and music camp. Post session will find methods and materials for school health education, driver training and safety education, arts and crafts, teaching of the social studies, teaching of reading, technology and employment, advanced driver and safety education, production of instructional materials, advanced methods in teaching homemaking, and educational leadership.

The new president of the Southwestern Michigan Association of Phi Beta Kappa is Dr. Jean Malmstrom, associate professor of English.
Bowers, Roell
Appointed as New Department Heads

Dr. Robert S. Bowers and Dr. Candace L. Roell have been named as heads of the departments of economics and of physical education for women, effective July 1.

They replace retiring Dr. Floyd Moore and Miss Crystal Worner.

Dr. Bowers came to Western in 1937 and was promoted to full professor in 1952. Labor relations is his particular field of interest. He is a graduate of Kansas Wesleyan University, American University and the University of Wisconsin.

Dr. Roell is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University, who came to Kalamazoo for her first public school teaching position. She served here until 1944 when she returned to the Eastern campus, then spent four years at Illinois State Normal University, before coming to Western as a faculty member in 1956.

She has been president and is currently a vice president of the Michigan Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation. She has also been president of the Midwest Association for Physical Education of College Women. Her advanced degrees were earned at the University of Michigan.

$5,500 Research Grant to Iffland

A $5,500 research grant from the Research Corporation has come to Dr. Don Iffland, associate professor of chemistry.

Under a Frederick Gardner Cottrell grant Dr. Iffland will study the relationship between the shape of biphenyl molecules and both the optical activity and ultraviolet light absorption.

In this case, the shape of the bridged biphenyl molecules is to be changed or distorted by small amounts of a buttressing effect near the bridged part of the molecules. The change in optical properties and ultraviolet spectra caused by this distortion will be observed.

50 Freshmen to Face Challenge of New Honors Program Next Fall

A greater challenge for freshmen of superior ability will be posed in a new program proposed by the Basic Studies division and approved for use next fall.

About 50 freshmen will be offered an opportunity to enroll in the honors version of the basic studies program, which will extend over the freshman and sophomore years and will include 39 hours of work.

Its purpose will be to bring students of superior ability and motivation into contact with each other, and to prevent their "getting lost" as the student body becomes larger.

The program will include three semesters of natural science, two semesters of history, two semesters of social science, a semester of humanities and four semesters of a colloquium.

Emphasis will be placed, says Dr. Robert M. Limpus, director of basic studies, on attempting to stimulate intellectual curiosity and independent achievement, rather than merely requiring "more of the same."

Participating students will be selected from the upper five to 10 per cent of the incoming freshman class. High school records, recommendations of high school counselors, tests and interviews will be used in screening. Participation in the program will remain entirely voluntary for all who are invited.

The University also anticipates establishing upper division honors programs.

Recommends Own Board

Dr. John Dale Russell has told the WMU faculty that the State Board of Education cannot adequately serve the four institutions under it.

"An institution of any consequence has to have its own board," he says, to give the time needed to the multifarious problems of a large institution. Dr. Russell headed the state legislative study of Michigan higher education concluded last year.

Dr. John J. Pruis, director of the summer session, is vice president of the Central States Speech Association.
New General Shop Opened

The University has always been the leading supplier of industrial arts teachers for the state of Michigan. A recent survey shows that more than 50 per cent of the 2,200 industrial arts teachers are graduates of Western. Over half of these teach in a general shop where such areas as drawing and planning, electricity, metal working, woodworking, power mechanics and arts and crafts must be offered.

To help train teachers for this program, a completely new and modern general shop or multiple activity shop has been built in the space previously occupied by two drawing rooms. This new shop incorporates the latest and best thinking on what a good industrial arts program should be. A special feature of the shop is the complete and self-contained teaching center. There is a demonstration bench which includes a sink, gas supply and everything that is needed to demonstrate in all areas of shopwork. Directly behind this is a chalk board with a movie screen and flannel board. The benches in the shop are a multipurpose type so that they can be used for all teaching activities. Each student work station is equipped with a drawing board, an electrical outlet, a metalworking and woodworking vise and storage facilities. The shop is designed to make maximum use of floor space.

It is an ideal learning situation, for the basic principles of chemistry, physics, geography and mathematics can be applied to the real life activities of electronics, metalworking, power mechanics, drafting and woodworking. All equipment, benches and tools are new and of the latest design. Much of the equipment was put in by the manufacturers.

New Chapel Window
Honors Librarians

The memory of Miss Anna French and Miss Florence Fowler is honored in the installation of a seventh stained glass window over the narthex of the Kanley Memorial chapel.

Miss French was head librarian for many years, retiring in 1946, and Miss Fowler was a member of the library staff from 1924 to 1930.

The window was given by Miss Marie Fowler and Mrs. Arthur English.

396 Practice Teachers

A total of 396 students were engaged in practice teaching during the spring semester in preparation for certification as Michigan teachers. About the same number were involved during the fall semester, and there will be still more in the summer session. Dr. A. L. Sebaly, director of student teaching, disclosed that 303 were in secondary areas and 93 in elementary classrooms.
Fourth Social Studies Seminar Planned in 1960

Foreign travel and intensive study will again be offered by the University in 1960, in the fourth renewal of the social studies seminar conducted by Drs. Russell H. Seibert and Leonard C. Kercher.

Oxford University in England will be the first major stop, where the group of students will spend four weeks at Oriel College, founded in 1236.

Leaving New York by air June 14, the first four days will be spent in London, then they will travel to Edinburgh and return to Oxford June 27. Short trips and London jaunts will be interspersed while remaining at Oxford until July 22.

Lectures and discussions on contemporary British life and institutions, the British Commonwealth and Empire and Britain’s changing role in world affairs will feature the academic fare at Oriel. Students may earn six hours of social studies credit for the work there.

Leaving England July 25, the group will fly to Oslo. Then by bus, plane and train they will see such places as Copenhagen, Munich, Salzburg, Vienna, Venice, Milan, Lucerne and conclude with four days in Paris before flying home.

The cost of the trip is $1,198, including foreign instruction, round trip transportation from New York, scheduled trips in England and on the continent, three meals a day and sundry costs. If taken for credit, WMU tuition and fees must also be paid.

Slaughter Appointed

Thomas C. Slaughter, associate professor of physical education, is one of 10 persons throughout the nation to be appointed to the national advisory committee for the Outdoor Education Project of the National Education Association. Slaughter and Archie Potter, director of housing, have been named to a special committee by the American Camping Association to set up a division for family camping in the ACA.

This summer WMU is working with the Pretty Lake Vacation camp, offering six courses for leaders at the camp, in which they may earn six hours of graduate or undergraduate credit.

Mortar Board Sends President For Investigation

An April visitor on the campus was Miss Ruth H. Weimer, assistant dean of women at Ohio State University, and more importantly, president of the national council of Mortar Board.

WMU officials have long been interested in securing a chapter of Mortar Board on the campus, as a logical progression from Arista, the local women’s honor society.

Mortar Board lists its purposes as “to provide for the cooperation between senior honor societies for women, to promote college loyalty, to advance the spirit of service and fellowship among women, to maintain a high standard of scholarship, to recognize and encourage leadership, and to stimulate and develop a fine type of college women.”

Founded in 1918, Mortar Board is the foremost national society for women, with 90 chapters, including those at the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Albion College and Wayne State University.

Last year WMU gained membership in Omicron Delta Kappa, men’s honor and leadership fraternity.

George D. Rankin, a member of the ROTC faculty, has been promoted to the rank of major.