Western Michigan University Newsletter, December 1959

Western Michigan University
President Sangren Announces His Retirement Next June

Dr. Paul V. Sangren has announced his retirement as president of the University, effective with the close of the present academic year June 30.

The University has been most fortunate in having been guided in its first 56 years by only two men, giving a continuity to its program and an unusual vitality to its development.

Dwight B. Waldo came to the campus from Northern Michigan College to direct the institution from its beginning until 1936, at which time Dr. Sangren assumed the reins of office at a period in its development when the University had 1,800 students. It was then known as Western State Teachers College. Through three other names, a world war, and a tremendous boom in student population Dr. Sangren has guided the institution to new heights of glory and usefulness.

The University this fall has 8,303 students on its campus, and reaches another 1,500 in its field services work off campus. The campus area has more than tripled, and the increase in buildings has been almost astronomical.

All of this has come about in a manner reflecting the highest credit upon Dr. Sangren.
8,303 Enrolled for Fall Semester; Double 1952 Registration

Final official enrollment figures for the fall semester of 1959 show 8,303 students on the campus, an increase of 6.4 per cent over the previous year.

This is a 100 per cent increase since 1952, when 4,145 were registered.

At the graduate level there are 705 students, a 104 per cent increase in seven years.

By classes the undergraduate enrollment is: freshmen 2,301, sophomores 1,672, juniors 1,491, seniors 1,243 and special students 891.

Ninety per cent of the students are from Michigan, nine per cent from other states and less than one per cent from foreign countries.

Twenty-three per cent call Kalamazoo County home, and other leading counties are: Wayne 772, Kent 382, Oakland 341, Berrien 322, Calhoun 251, Van Buren 250, Muskegon 219, Allegan 208, St. Joseph 166, Ottawa 146 and Macomb 104. There are 78 of Michigan's 83 counties represented.

Enrollment by schools is: Education 2,770, Liberal Arts and Sciences 1,826, Business 1,258, and Applied Arts and Sciences 949.

Muskegon Educators Appreciate Program

A recent resolution of the Muskegon County Education Association commends the University: "... for the opportunity afforded the educators and students in our community through the summer program which was inaugurated last year. Many people have been able to supplement their education through the establishing of a summer school.

"Desiring to keep abreast of the educational picture we value the additional opportunities you have made available, and resolve to give the program and the University our continued support."

National Geographic Magazines Presented

The geography department has been recently enriched through a gift of National Geographic Magazines from 1926 to the present by the Fred Higbee family, formerly of Grand Rapids and now of Park Ridge, Ill.

Rather than move the magazines to their new residence, another home was sought for and then offered for the valuable publications by Dean George G. Mallinson. They were bound by the School of Graduate Studies and then housed in the geography department as an addition to the complete collection already in the Dwight B. Waldo Library.

The collection was originally started by Prof. Fred Higbee, now retired from the University of Iowa, and whose granddaughter, Miss Kay Higbee, is now a senior WMU student.

Study Cooperative Venture

A major cooperative venture for field service units of three universities serving Grand Rapids is now being considered in the development of a joint classroom and office building. Officials of the University, Michigan State University and the University of Michigan are discussing the possibilities. Over 100 field ser-

Nisbet Retires From Gerber Post

Stephen S. Nisbet, president of the State Board of Education, controlling body for the University, retires at the end of the year from his post as vice president in charge of public relations for the Gerber Products Company, Fremont.

Nisbet has now served 17 years on the State Board, and will complete his present term June 30, 1961.

Before joining Gerber in 1945 he served as superintendent of the Fremont public schools for 23 years.

He will continue as a member of the Gerber board of directors and as a trustee of the Gerber Baby Foods Fund.

Homer Earl, school bus driver coordinator, has been appointed to the board of control of the Michigan Safety Conference.

Service courses were conducted during 1958-59 in which students of two or more of the institutions were enrolled.
Band Gets 1960 Invitation for Chicago Show

We can't run another picture this issue of the University Marching Band, but our hats are off to the fine organization.

This November they appeared for the halftime show of the Chicago Bear-San Francisco Forty-Niner game in the Windy City, and completely captivated the crowd and the newsmen on hand.

In addition, Director Leonard V. Meretta and the more than 100 students were enthusiastic at the reception accorded them. The bus ride, hot chicken lunches and other items paid for by the Bears were a great treat.

As they left the field a verbal invitation to appear another year was given Meretta, and within a week a letter came from the Bear organization confirming this.

Michigan fans of the Broncos were disappointed in the failure of any TV coverage in the area of the band, but more than 90 stations across the nation carried the halftime show and countless alumni were given a fine introduction to the band.

$400 Gift for Books

Negotiations are underway to add at least 10 volumes of the Zoological Record to the collection of the Dwight B. Waldo Library, through a $400 gift from the junior class of last year. These volumes are each some five inches thick and annually abstract most of the world’s literature in zoology. They date from 1864, and it is hoped to purchase the first 10 volumes through the London offices of the Record.

The Chicago Tribune, in commenting on the show (reportedly the first comment they have ever made on such halftime entertainment) said: “As entertainment, the afternoon’s presentation was matchless. Western Michigan University’s Bronco band lent an air of professionalism to the halftime ceremonies, completing its polished performance on schedule.”
WMU Ranks 100th in College Teachers, AAC Study Shows

In the origins of college and university faculty members, checked in 284 junior colleges, liberal arts colleges, teachers' colleges and universities across the nation, Western Michigan ranked 100th, according to the Association of American Colleges, with 1,000 schools providing teachers for these schools.

In the calculations excluded were schools in the same state as the institution considered, the study being designed to learn of the undergraduate sources of college faculty members.

The report states: “The Association of American Colleges has been deeply concerned for many years about the adequacy of the supply of teachers... It is generally assumed that for the purposes of an aggressive program of recruitment, able teachers of undergraduates are in the best possible position to present a good case for college teaching and to urge larger numbers of able students to enter graduate schools with at least this possibility in mind.”

With 34 faculty members provided, Western ranked fourth in Michigan behind the University of Michigan 8th, Michigan State University 56th and Wayne State University 85th.

In a recent report to the faculty Vice President Russell H. Seibert said that the major sources of doctorates for WMU faculty members were: Michigan 24, Columbia 13, Wisconsin 12, Ohio State 10, Northwestern 9, MSU 9, Illinois 8, Minnesota, Missouri and Purdue, 7 each.

Half of the Western faculty has been appointed since 1954, but the two oldest members date from 1916.

Campus Stores Manager Changes

An important personnel change on the University campus occurred in November, when the duties as manager of the Campus Stores changed from John M. Thompson to Kenneth R. Hawkins.

Thompson came to the campus 20 years ago to head the store, replacing the late Miss Sara Ackley. A WMU graduate, he had been a teacher and superintendent, and then spent eight years in business.

A former student of Thompson at Cedar Springs, Hawkins came to Western as a student, graduating in 1931. He taught in Sparta, Cassopolis and Flint and joined the Campus Stores staff in 1947.