Women no longer funneled away from pursuing engineering careers

Until recently the engineering profession has been viewed as a profession dominated by men. But that's changing, according to three former WMU women students who now are in the professoriate. "Women students are breaking through the traditional barriers," said Elizabeth E. Blunden, assistant professor of geology at Western. "Many women are now achieving excellence in the fields of science and engineering so there's no longer any reason for women to feel they can't compete." She said that women have come a long way, but there are still "a few doors that are pushed slightly open to them." Blunden said that women should not be afraid to pursue a career in engineering. "I've always been told that engineering is a man's field," she said. "But I've never felt that way. I've never felt that I'm doing anything different than what a man is doing."

Seven more Medallion Scholarships established and awarded

Seven new Medallion Scholarships, each valued at $20,000 over four years, have been established and awarded this fall. They bring to twenty the number of Medallion Scholarships created since the program, one of the largest merit scholarship programs in American higher education, began in 1984. Including interest, the total value of the scholarships is now over $5.9 million. Each Medallion Scholarship is established in the name of a donor or honoree for four years, after which it expires unless renewed or endowed by the donor. Recipients are selected on the basis of academic excellence, leadership potential, and financial need.

Bean said the site chosen should be the least costly of the three considered because utilities are readily accessible and the University already owns all the land needed for the building. Construction of the building is expected to take about twelve months and could begin as early as the spring of 1987, Bean said. The preliminary design for the building was approved by the legislature in December of last year and by Gov. James J. Blanchard in January of this year.

The business building site selected

A site north of the John E. Fetzer Business Development Center and west of the Center has been selected as the location for the new $2.1 million College of Business building. The site, approved by the Board of Trustees in April, is one of three that were under consideration. All three are in the vicinity of the Fetzer center on the campus.

"We've been involved in an extensive site selection and consultations," Robert M. Bean, vice president for business and finance, said. "Every group involved in the internal consultation process has recommended this site."
Tour group from Western reflects on Russia trip, radiation leak

Anger, concern, and relief are some of the sentiments expressed by members of a WMU tour group that was in the Soviet Union during what has been called the world's worst nuclear accident.

The sixteen-member group returned to Kalamazoo May 4 after a ten-day cultural tour of three Russian cities, which included two and a half days in Kiev, Kiev is located eighty miles south of Chernobyl, where a nuclear power plant suffered a possible reactor "meltdown.

The tour group was never given detailed information, members came to believe they were in no danger—although as test results later revealed, much seemed to depend on which way the wind blew. Participants said they considered leaving early, but elected as a group to stay together and complete their itinerary as scheduled. As it turned out, there was the last American group to leave Kiev. Dr. John R. Cooley, a professor of English who led the tour and was the group's primary spokesperson, said he and other ordinary X-rays. Some personal effects, including a pair of shoes, showed unexpectedly high levels of radiation, though none more dangerous than a Coleman lantern mantle. The tests, made with a self-tethered stainless-steel whole-body counter, also confirmed that there had been at least a partial meltdown at Chernobyl and that a radioactive plume had blown over Kiev while the WMU tourists were there.

Data from the counters were fed directly to Dr. Louis Helgeson in Pleasanton, California. Helgeson is a Consumers Power consultant and invented the counters, which are considered the most accurate in the world. Tour group members gathered in a Paladines office to hear him confirm by telephone that radiation was far below dangerous levels.

Some members said they wished to be tested once more to obtain additional data, and some said they hoped their data would be shared with the scientific community.

Relatives were kept informed

While the group was in the Soviet Union, hundreds of telephone contacts with relatives of tour members and from news media around the country were handled by WMU's Office of International Education and Programs, which had arranged the tour.

"The relatives of each tour member were kept constantly up to date," said Dr. Norman C. Greenberg, dean of International Education and Programs. "Each time we had new information, we initiated another round of calls."

Were group members scared while in Russia? "Oh, yes," Cooley said. "But we never knew how scared we should be. We had a kind of dual consciousness, with Western news media telling us of a disaster, and the elephant in the room was that we were going for it. We had a chance to experience, first hand, how the Soviet Union responds to a disaster—not very well. It's good to be home. We all very much want to get our lives back to normal."

Dr. John E. Martell, a student adviser in the College of Arts and Sciences and a tour group member, has already announced plans to find a group to the Soviet Union next summer, although the itinerary will probably exclude Kiev.

More information about the trip is available by calling the Office of International Education and Programs at (616) 388-0944.

In addition, a reunion of the "Kiev sixteen," as Cooley put it, has been planned for this month, "We just want to get back together, share the experience again, and look at each other's souvenirs and AIDS," Cooley said. The reunion will include a potluck supper. The main dish? "Chicken Kiev."

On a more serious note, Dr. Michael R. Sheline, a professor of mathematics who participated in the tour along with his wife, Marie, said he hopes the United States and Russia learn from the Chernobyl accident. "I hope that this experience might somehow help our two countries learn to work more closely together," Sheline said. "That's something we're all working towards, in some small degree, in the way we get along in the future."

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Soviet newspaper reports nuclear accident

Editor's note: The following story is a translation of the story about the Chernobyl accident that was reported on page 3 of the April 30 edition of Pravda Live Correspondence, the translation done by Western's Translation Center in the Department of Language and Linguistics.

From the Council of the Ministers of the U.S.S.R.

As was already reported to the press, Chernobyl's atomic electro-power plant, situated 110 kilometers north of Kiev, was damaged. The government commission, under the leadership of the vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R., comrade Tatarshin R.E., is working on location. The commission is composed of the leaders of the ministries and of different departments, and of prominent scientists and specialists.

According to preliminary findings, the mishap occurred at one of the buildings of the fourth power station and caused partial destruction of the building containing the reactor, damage to the reactor, and leakage of radioactive materials. Three remaining power stations were shut down. They are in good repair and have been put on reserve. During the tragic accident two people perished.

The strongest possible measures have been taken to eliminate the aftereffects of the catastrophe. At the present time, radioactive leakage at the power plant and adjacent location is stabilized.

People affected by the accident are receiving medical help. The inhabitants of the settlement AES and of the three adjacent hamlets had been evacuated.

Continuous observation is being conducted over the levels of radi-activity at the Chernobyl AES and surrounding locations.
Honorary degrees, service awards presented during commencement exercises

Western awarded 1490 undergraduate degrees and 400 graduate degrees during commencement exercises in Read Fieldhouse. In addition, three honorary degrees and two Distinguished Service Awards were presented.

Receiving honorary degrees were: Dr. John T. Bernhard, WMU president emeritus and professor of economics, a Doctor of Humane Letters; Paul L. Blanchard, the First Lady of Michigan, the Right Honorable Sir John T. Bancroft, M.P., and the Right Honorable John T. Bancroft, M.P., corporate executive Gordon H. Miller, and the First Lady of Fieldhouse. In addition, three honorary degrees and two undergraduate degrees and Boyle, university registrar, were: Dr. John T. Bernhard, professor of political science, a Doctor of Laws by the Michigan Association of Governing Boards.

"We think there is significant opportunity for expansion and development in these important industries," Michael E. Byrne said. "The potential of our center to contribute to that development is equally significant."

The center, in the Department of Biological and Biomedical Sciences, has been established with a $312,400 grant from the state’s Research Excellence and Economic Development Corporation. Its co-director is Gini M. Antoniotti.

The goal of the center is to identify and find solutions to problems within the horticultural industries of Southwest Michigan, sharing information directly with growers in the region, as much as consultants would. The center has the help of a recently formed advisory committee of industry representatives.

Administrative reorganization will strengthen ‘critical areas’

The Board of Trustees in April approved an administrative reorganization plan recommended by President Diether H. Haenicke. The reorganization was designed "to provide a better division of labor and enable us to sharpen our focus on such critical areas as research, graduate programs, development, governmental relations, and communications," Haenicke said.

The plan includes adding the position of provost to the position of vice president for academic affairs, which is currently held by Dr. Philip Donneldeen.

Eventually, Haenicke said, the provost will become more involved in Western’s day-to-day internal administration, giving its president more time to address external issues.

The title of vice president for University relations was changed to vice president for development and auxiliary affairs. Haenicke said the position, held by Chauncey J. Brin, "places heavy emphasis on the fact I want to significantly strengthen the institution’s involvement with fund raising and our alumni.

Another change reflects Haenicke’s desire for an executive officer with cabinet rank to work on the major areas of governmental relations and communications. Dr. Carolyn Collins-Bondon, formerly assistant to the vice president for university relations, was made associate director of governmental relations.

“Our presence in Lansing needs to be strengthened, and I intend to involve myself very strongly in that critical area. I also want good and effective internal and external communications; we must take advantage of all opportunities to enhance the image of Western, both in Lansing and in the news media," Haenicke said.

A few words

■ Hotline helping writers
Help with writing is now just a phone call away. Western’s Writing Lab, assisted by graduate students with a variety of writing skills, is available for help with assignments, term papers, and theses.

■ New campus reflects growth of statistics programs
The faculty in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics has increased dramatically in the past five years, the college’s chief department head and a 1967 graduate of the department’s statistics program said.

Western now has more bachelor’s degrees in statistics than any other institution in the state. At the master’s level, it ranks second behind the University of Michigan. When compared with the thirty-four institutions that offer both master’s and bachelor’s degrees in statistics, Western now ranks second in many graduate degrees and eighth in bachelor’s degrees.

The development reflects the University’s newest statistics program, established in the first few years after this year.

■ Room and board rates
At the April 4 Board of Trustees meeting, the Board approved an increase in room and board rates by 4 percent. The proposal had been tabled at the board’s March 14 meeting to allow time for student comment. The new rates will take effect with the start of the fall 1986 semester.

Under the new plan, an average freshman will pay $3,040 for room and $3,576 for board for a total of $6,616 for both room and board during the fall and winter semesters. The average cost for room and board this year is $5,526.

The rate hike stems from increased costs in compensation, casualty insurance, utilities, and food.

■ Bernhard Student Center dedicated April 26
The Bernhard Student Center was dedicated in honor of Dr. John T. Bernhard, a 1959 graduate of the school.

The resolution naming the center was placed on a plaque for permanent public display in the center’s lobby. It cites the former president for his “distinguished, humane, and distinguished leadership.”
The twenty-fourth Michigan Youth Arts Festival, held May 8 through 10 at Western, honored more than 600 of the state’s finest visual, literary, and performing artists. It culminated an eighteen-month statewide talent screening involving 25,000 young artists and Michigan’s four school art education associations. The students shared their talents in vocal and instrumental music, literary, visual, poetry and expository writing, dance, and theatre. A national mobility committee judged the events, and the students performed for each other and the public in numerous concerts. In addition, the students also participated in professionally-conducted workshops within their disciplines.

Projects should improve science and mathematics teaching

Three Western faculty members are directing two statewide projects aimed at improving science and mathematics teaching in Michigan’s middle schools. “The students of this middle school, middle school, they have pretty much decided whether mathematics or science is something they’re interested in,” said Dr. Robert A. Laing, professor of mathematics and co-director of the project focusing on mathematics teaching. “The better the program and instruction, the more likely it is that students will stay in math or science courses in high school and then consider college.”

The projects are the best opportunity I’ve seen to make a difference in the way mathematics and science are taught in the middle schools of Michigan. According to the Western educators participating in the projects, there is considerable room for improvement in the mathematics classes for students who are on the edge of passing or with outdated information.

In addition, the educators say, there are not enough science and mathematics instructors in middle schools. In part, because many have left education to pursue other careers.

The Brass scored thirty-nine points as Ball State University won the conference championship held May 6-10 at the University of Toledo. The Brass scored thirty-nine points as Ball State University won the conference championship held May 6-10 at the University of Toledo. The Brass scored thirty-nine points as Ball State University won the conference championship held May 6-10 at the University of Toledo. The Brass scored thirty-nine points as Ball State University won the conference championship held May 6-10 at the University of Toledo. The Brass scored thirty-nine points as Ball State University won the conference championship held May 6-10 at the University of Toledo. The Brass scored thirty-nine points as Ball State University won the conference championship held May 6-10 at the University of Toledo. The Brass scored thirty-nine points as Ball State University won the conference championship held May 6-10 at the University of Toledo.
Dolphins pickOfferdahl in second round of NFL draft

John Offerdahl, Western's second-team All-American linebacker, will have a chance to play in the National Football League. The Miami Dolphins chose him in the second round of the 1986 NFL draft of college players held April 29.

Offerdahl, who was the fifth-year senior to be drafted, ended up being the first player the Dolphins selected because the club's original first round pick had been traded. Before his impressive performance in the Senior Bowl in Mobile, Alabama, Offerdahl was expected to be a fourth or fifth round choice. In the bowl, he intercepted two passes and was chosen as the "most valuable" defensive player on the winning North squad.

The Dolphins staff in particular was impressed with him in that game, but doubted he would still be available when their turn to draft arrived. Investigators at Western thought he would be taken earlier in the second round by Philadelphia or Washington, or possibly Buffalo.

When Miami defensive coordinator Chuck Studley viewed film of Offerdahl, Dolphins head coach Don Shula said: "You might as well stop looking. You're just wasting your time. He's not going to be there."

When draft day finally came and Offerdahl's name was still on the board, Studley recalled "there was no discussion. It was automatic that we had to take him. Fifteen seconds after it was our choice, boom, he was gone."

Shula ended up losing a job to the club's personnel director, Chuck Connor, having bet the Dolphins would not have the chance to select Offerdahl.

"Inside linebacker is a position we haven't been happy with for a couple of years," Shula said. "We hope he can come in and compete. If he's as good as we think he is, he could upgrade us.

Dolphins owner Joe Robbie explained, "We were really sweating it out with a few picks to go. The Giants helped us when they picked Ohio State's Pepper Johnson, the pick before us. We had Offerdahl ranked higher."

The second, four-inch Offerdahl came to Western as a 190-pounder out of Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, and was given only a half scholarship. His other scholarship offers were from Division II schools. Two days into his initial fall practice period, his award was elevated to a full scholarship. He now weighs 238 pounds and owns a .947 time in the forty-yard dash, down from a .95 earlier in the year.

"There's no doubt I impressed my stock in the postseason games (the other being the West-East Shrine Game)," Offerdahl said. "I didn't try to project where I would be taken. I'm glad I didn't know because now I'm an underdog, and I like that. I'm glad the draft is done, it's been fun, but . . . ."

Writer Jim Fisher and photographer Lane Stewart chronicled what Offerdahl and his family and friends in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, went through on draft day in the May 7 issue of Sports Illustrated.

The pair spent six days with him in Kalamazoo, Wisconsin, and Miami while doing a story about the demands on college players during the interval between when the all-star games end and players first meet with their new club.

Offerdahl is Western's highest draft pick since 1967 when defensive tackle Bob Rowe was taken in the second round by the St. Louis Cardinals. There were only fourteen teams in the NFL at that time and Rowe went on to play nine years with the Big Red.

A premediocre major with a 3.05 (3.0 scale) average, Offerdahl needs fourteen more hours of classwork before he will graduate.

Three golf outings planned

Three Bronco golf outings have been planned for the West Michigan area during June and July.


Hastings area residents can look forward to playing golf June 2 at the Hastings Country Club. Joe Long (616-945-3001) can provide more information about this outing.

A July 29 get-together at Meers Country Club in Kalamazoo is also slated. For more information, call Tim Schaefer at 616-383-0423.

Steve Kassen
Kayla Shelly

Moving to Kalamazoo has been a big adjustment for new softball coach and her family

Accepting any coaching job is a big decision, but for softball coach Monica Folske, the task was even harder. Coming to Kalamazoo and the Bronco meant being separated from husband Judd, head coach of the Ferris State College baseball team, and son Brett.

"It has taken some adjustment," Folske said. "It was especially hard on our four-year-old son who stays in Big Rapids with Judd. Prior to the season, I went to Big Rapids almost every weekend, but then things became so busy for both my husband and I. It's meant a lot of phone calls. But I really like Kalamazoo a lot, both the people and surroundings."

Folske's team posted a 19-25 record in her first season, placing sixth in the Mid-American Conference with a 9-9 league mark. She replaced Fran Ebert, Western's only other softball coach in the program's ten-year history.

Folske served as the head coach of the Ferris softball team for eight years and compiled a 111-87 record before coming to Western. While in Big Rapids her head coaching duties also included women's tennis, volleyball, and basketball.

A native of Indianapolis, Indiana, Folske graduated from Ball State University where she lettered in basketball, softball, and field hockey. From 1973 to 1974 she served as an assistant women's basketball coach at Indiana University, from which she received a master's degree in physical education.

Folske says her husband was the driving force behind her accepting the Bronco coaching position and she credits her assistant coach, Kim Worden, for helping her adjust to the job so quickly.

"Judd never wavered in his encouragement for even a second when it was offered to me," Folske said. 'I think it takes a very special kind of person to be so supportive with both the circumstances and having to take the major responsibility of rearing a small child."

Judd led his Ferris Bulldogs to the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Conference title this season, his second season as the team's head coach after working fifteen years as an assistant coach. The championship game was one of only a few he and Worden have personally enjoyed the coaching of this team and I have personally enjoyed the coaching of this team so much and I want everybody to have a part of the success that is to come.
Dybek primarily teaches creative writing, but over the years he's taught film, freshman English, reviewing for the press, and creative writing. When he wasn't teaching he was writing two books, Three Knuckles, a book of poetry, and Childhood and Other Neighborhoods, a book of short stories, and the articles, reviews, fiction, and poetry that have appeared in more than 200 magazines.

Writing fiction is often more “fun” than writing poetry, Dybek said. “The distinction is in the audience. As a poet you’re mainly being read by other poets. But I think in most writers’ secret imaginings there’s some other kind of reader.”

“Maybe a businessperson settling into a book on a plane where for the first time in his day it’s private, or some kid you imagine yourself to have been who has come upon your book by chance just when he needs a book, or a housewife opening a book that creates beauty and excitement at the end of the day. The odds are greater that fiction will find this kind of direct reader, and it does become part of the thrill of writing.”

No matter how much writing is for Dybek, he said, he still demands the kind of discipline that produces winning athletes. “I can’t ever imagine that I’ll ever stop writing and say, ‘Now I can rest.’ It’s usually just the opposite. For one reason or another I’ve been forced to stop and I’m looking forward to the time when I can start writing again,” he said. “It’s too enjoyable an activity to give up—part meditation, part thrill.”

When I travel I think about going off somewhere to have an enjoyable time, I think about going to a good place to write, and usually end up dragging a typewriter along. I feel sort of guilty if I don’t. The typewriter is like a teddy bear.”

He said many students lack the discipline writers need. “They’re not used to sitting down and writing day after day, they’ve used to an all-nighter or working one weekend on something,” Dybek said. “Part of learning to write is learning other things about yourself. Your emotional and mental discipline are separate from the craft. Creative writing is basically self-motivated; you need to be a self-starter and self-finisher.”

Self Dybek said he hasn’t had any problems getting motivated because he’s never at a loss for story ideas. “In my 20s I found a subject and it was strongly rooted in place, and now I continue to explore that place and almost every day I’ve got a subject. I’ve got so many ideas . . .”

I like to feel that the class has given them a sense that they have the fundamentals of the craft. “And I like to feel that the class has given them momentum in their own self-education . . . that they’ll think with their hearts as well as their minds and keep their minds open.”

His classes are, as he puts it, “open to people with all kinds of intelligence. Memory, emotion, imagination are important ways of thinking. By exercising these faculties they can live richer lives and hopefully more successful ones.”
Donor club members: a unique group committed to helping

Western's donor club members constitute a unique group of people whose commitment to the University is deep and abiding. Western is indeed fortunate to have such distinguished friends who not only recognize a need, but rise to challenge.

The President's Club recognizes those individuals, businesses, and corporations whose gifts provide a significant proportion of the dollars that maintain Western's tradition of excellence. Members make an outright gift of $15,000 or more, usually over ten years, or a pledged gift of $25,000 or more. The magnitude of philanthropic support received from these major donors is evident in scholarships for outstanding students, laboratories fitted with the most modern equipment, and support for many other programs.

The Oaklands Club recognizes those donors who make an annual gift of between $3,000 and $9,999. These substantial gifts go for strengthening those aspects of the University's educational program for which the State of Michigan does not appropriate money, or for which tax dollars are limited.

The Cum Laude Club recognizes all contributors who make an annual gift of $1,000 or more. Every year many friends make financial contributions to Western. The success and growth of any great university depends on the high level of private support it receives from these concerned individuals.

The S.S. Westerly Fund, established in 1980, helps fulfill the many and varied giving aspirations of those who wish to make honorary gifts of immediate value to the Western University community.

It is especially designed for those who would like to honor a graduate or faculty member, to memorialize a friend, or to commemorate an important occasion. A gift to the fund is counted as an unrestricted gift to the University.

During 1980 honor fund gifts were made in behalf of the following individuals.
Homecoming theme selected

The theme for the 1986 Homecoming celebration is "WMU Presents: Coming of Age - Way." Homecoming will be held from Sunday through Saturday, October 12 through 18. The theme and logo were selected by the Student Alumni Association. Once again numerous activities are planned. The Alumni Association will sponsor an indoor tailgate and champagne brunch at the Bernhard Student Center on Saturday, October 18. Following the brunch, the Broncos will face the Miami RedHawks at 1:00 p.m.

The Black Alumni Hospitality Suite will be from 4:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the Kalamaoo Center Hilton, followed by the dance from 9:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. The Distinguished Alumni Awards dinner will be held at 6:00 p.m. at the Fetzer Business Development Center. Detailed information and reservation forms for Homecoming activities will appear in the August Westerner. Be sure you're in Kalamazoo for the celebration.

Memorial gifts

are a living memorial to many men and women who believed in Western's educational mission. Loving friends and family members made memorial gifts in 1986 in behalf of the following individuals.

Alexander, George
Althoff, Mildred
Anderson, Dave
Another, Joe
Barker, Donald
Bender, John
Bradford, Elwin
Bradley, Mrs. George
Boller, Herbert
Carney, Minnie
Carr, Brandon
Christiansen, Nora S.
Coffman, Larry
Cost, Mary
Curtis, Lou
Danner, Tom
Dawson, Arthur
Dittmer, Lorraine
Dickinson, Dorothy
Dillon, W. R.
Dunsworth, Zora
Eby, John
Elder, Virginia
Elder, Will
Elrod, W. F.
Epping, Ben
Estes, Bob
Evans, Marjorie
Ezel, Evelyn
Farrow, Brad
Field, Betty
Finch, John
Finnegan, Nancy
Flaherty, Matthew
Fleischman, Fred
Fink, Donald
Fleming, Boni
Floyd, Bob
Forbes, Coral
Forrest, Nell
Ford, Flora
Ford, Opal
Fordham, Philip
Foster, William
Foster, Donald
Foss, Virginia
Fuchs, Bruce
Furtick, Bob
Furphy, Carol
Furphy, Ed
Furphy, Edith
Furphy, Bob
Furphy, Jim
Furphy, Mary
Furphy, Sarah
Furphy, Tom
Furphy, W. A.
Furphy, W. E.
Furphy, W. R.
Furphy, W. T.
Furphy, W. W.
Furphy, Wally
Gardner, George
Garrett, Lois
Gates, George
Gates, Fred
Gates, John
Gates, Larry
Gates, Mike
Gates, Ray
Gates, Tom
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Class of 1961 schedules silver anniversary reunion in conjunction with Homecoming

The Alumni Association will host a silver anniversary reunion for the Class of 1961 in conjunction with the 1966 Homecoming festivities. Class members will gather for a special reunion dinner Friday, October 15 and October 17, then join other returning alumni Saturday, October 16, for numerous Homecoming activities. Reunion details will be mailed to class members in August.

A reunion committee composed of Bruce Dillon, Arge and Sally (Woodridge) Deit, Lyle H. Ripochak, Marilyn Ross, Carolyn Chewins, Jack Vassiloff, Richard Beeler, and Ken and Linda Huldahl Noble is working with the alumni relations office on plans for this special occasion.

Over the years, the alumni office has lost track of many of the 1961 graduates. On this page are class members for whom we have no current address. Your help is needed in locating individuals to ensure they too, will receive notification of the reunion. Send any information you have to Western Michigan University, Alumni Relations, Kalamazoo 49008-3809.

Moving?

Yes we will be changing our address soon. Please update your records and mail to our new address.

NAME (First, Last, Maiden)

Class Year

Address

State

Day Phone

Home Phone

Note: to make sure we change the right name, please attach the mailing label to this coupon.

MAIL TO:

Alumni Association, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, 49008-3899

Class of 1961
1920s

Evel McCharmen, TC '21, and her husband, William, celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary yesterday, July 22 in Benton Harbor. They have lived in the same farm home all of their married life.

Floyd L. Higley, BS '24, has completed a master's degree in education and the Old Testament and the New Testament of the Bible.

1930s

Dr. Alben D. Leving, BA '31, was honored at a Detroit reception in March, given by the Detroit Board of Education, for his long service to children and the field of education. Married fifty-three years, he and his wife, Mary, live in Flint.

Robert Royce, BS '34, and his wife celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary in June April 5. They have two children, including Robert W. Royce, BS '65, MA '66, an attorney, and Karen, with whom he shares their home. 

The Akins family were honored in Detroit reception in March, given by the Detroit Board of Education, for their long service to children and the field of education. Married fifty-three years, they and their three children, include Robert W. Royce, BS '65, MA '66, an attorney, and Karen, with whom he shares their home.

Robert Royce, BS '34, has been appointed the head of the Detroit Board of Education, for his long service to children and the field of education. Married fifty-three years, he and his wife, Mary, live in Flint.

Rapids. Twenty-five years of service.

1940s

Herbert A. Auer, BA '40, was honored by the National Association for Adult and Continuing Education, for his thirty years of service to the association.

Jack O'Neill, BS '42, was inducted in March, into the Upper Peninsula Sports Hall of Fame. A native of Wisconsin, he has been named to three such lists. Retired as athletic director and football coach, he now is a sports writing services representative.

Eileen Schlegel Mclachlan, BS '44, retires in June as a high school principal in Hastings. She has served twenty-five years of service. 

Richard E. Myers, BS '44, has been appointed the superintendent of the Fremont schools for twenty-seven years.

Robert Royce, BS '44, has been awarded a master's degree in education and the Old Testament and the New Testament of the Bible.

1950-54

Bruce D. Chase, BS '50, retired at the end of May after thirty years in sales management with Minneapolis Sales District of the Gold Bond building products division of National Gypsum Co. He spent thirty-five years with the firm.

Dianne Forrester, BS '56, MA '58, has been appointed to principal of Central High School.

R. Bruce Sellers, BS '56, MA '66, has been appointed the principal of the Battle Creek Central high schools, effective January 1. He has been associate superintendent and assistant principal of the Grand Rapids schools until they merged with Battle Creek in 1983.

Gerald R. Ernst, BA '51, has been elected vice president of the International Association of Printing Officers. He is a Grand Rapids community leader.

Larry Trexler, BS '51, president of Commercial National Bank, Ithaca, was honored in February as the 1983 Citizen of the Year.

Donald Stobieg, '52

Richard Higgs, MA '53, is the Allan County chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives campaign.

Robert J. Rie, BBA '53, has been promoted to assistant professor of operations for Alcoa University.

Dana S. Pederson, BBA '56, has been promoted to vice president of operations for Abex College.

Janet Morgen, BS '60, has been elected president of the Kalamazoo Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council.

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William E. Johnston, BBA '69, has been promoted to vice president of Wheelers Blaine Co., Kalamazoo, and is now vice president of the Kalamazoo Valley Intermediate School District for her work as chair of the district's career education committee.

Gary Paff, BBA '98, became executive director of the Easter Seal Society in Muskegon County in February. He was named interim director in 1998.

Thomas A. Oatman, BBA '98, has been named vice president of corporate banking at Comerica Bank, Battle Creek. He lives in Vicksburg.

Donald J. Osbourn, BBA '98, has been promoted to manager, compensation information systems for his service to the nation in the Law of the United States.

K. Musselman, '69 Robert Pallas, '69


Thomas W. Sherman, '69, has received a decoration from the head of state of Liberia, Grand Commander of the Order of the Star of Africa, for his service to the nation in the Law of the Sea and the role of the Liberian government as chairman of the Law of the Sea Conference. The conference is scheduled to convene in Paris in June.

John Anderson, '71, has been promoted to manager, western metropolitan division of Group 243 Design, Inc., Ann Arbor.

John A. Schumaker, BBA '71, MBA '75, has been named vice president of operations for Bronson National Bank, Grand Rapids, and is now head of Bronson National Bank's Grand Rapids office.

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John R. Slink, BBA '71, has been promoted to senior vice president and investment officer for St. Joseph Savings & Loan, St. Joseph. He has been with the firm since 1971.

Daniel J. Lippincott, BA '71, has been named president of First of America Mortgage Co., Kalamazoo. He was named assistant vice president, trust investment manager and secretary/treasurer of Bronson National Bank, Grand Rapids, and is now head of Bronson National Bank's Grand Rapids office.

William E. Johnston, BBA '69, has been promoted to vice president of operations for Bronson National Bank, Grand Rapids, and is now head of Bronson National Bank's Grand Rapids office.
W. David Hamilton, BBA '75, MBA '94, has been named executive director of the National Social Information Trust, Des Moines, IA.

James E. Martin, MA '79, last February became principal of Steel Junior High School, Muskegon, where he was a student when the school opened in 1959.

Robert Smith, BBA '73, has been appointed manager of marketing for Salk, Grand Rapids.

S. Kaye Smith, BBA '79, has been promoted to assistant professor of marketing, Creighton University, Omaha.

Robert G. Ekenberg, BBA '82, has been named account executive for C. J. Silvis, Inc., Rush City, MN.

Gloria Sanders, BS '75, has been appointed to the board of director of the Midland Federal Credit Union, Midland.

Robert B. Irwin, BBA '76, has been named director of the San Jose State University Educational Foundation.

Robert L. Miller, BBA '72, has been named vice president and chief financial officer, Consumers Bancorp, Battle Creek.

William H. Young, BBA '73, has been named manager of corporate planning and strategy, for theUpjohn Co., Kalamazoo.

Richard E. Lovell, BBA '76, was elected to a new two-year term on the Kent County Board of Commissioner.

Richard A. Cainen, BBA '74, has been named to the board of directors of the Michigan State Bar Foundation.

Robert F. Schram, BBA '76, has been named director of training and development, Mutual Home Federal Savings Bank, Muskegon.

Robert F. Walter, BBA '77, has been appointed to the board of directors of the Michigan State Bar Foundation.

Catherine Donnelly, BBA '81, has been appointed to the board of directors of the Michigan State Bar Foundation.
1940s

John B. Linden, BBA '80, a teacher in the Detroit Public Schools, died February 12 in Kalamazoo. He leaves his wife, Jean.

Mary E. Sheffield Robinson, BS '40, died February 21 in Chelsea. She had taught for several years at the Tecumseh Public Schools, teaching two children, three grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Paul W. Doolin, BS '42, died of injuries received in a two-car crash February 29 near Kalamazoo. He was a design engineer for the Veterans Memorial Library, Mt. Pleasant.

Barbara Holmes Tate, BS '80, died April 9 in Kalamazoo. A resident of Oregon, she had taught in the Kalamazoo County and Kalamazoo Schools for thirty-four years. She leaves her husband, two children, two grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

1950s

Jane Jones Gam, BA '60, died March 3 in San Diego, CA. A widow, she was a native of iron. She had been a field supervisor for Spartan Stores, where she had lived for the past years. She leaves her husband, two great-grandchildren.

Charlotte Anderson, BS '40, died February 27 in Marshall. She was a resident of Ypsilanti, where she had taught for many years, retiring in 1964. She leaves two sisters and two brothers.

Violet Brande, MS '74, died October 1 in Northville. She was a Michigan teacher for many years.

1960s

Margaret Bums Adams, BA '40, died in Cheboygan. She had retired as a Michigan teacher in 1974. She leaves her husband, John, BS '25, MA '73, two sons, including Jack, BS '66, and Bob, BA '69, two daughters, two grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Robert Bums, BA '45, died March 16 in Kalamazoo, and Kalamazoo, where she had lived for the past several years. She leaves her husband, two daughters, one granddaughter, and three great-grandchildren.

1970s

Robert Sellers, BBA '77, and Linda Sackett, February 6 in Castle Rock, where she was an assistant vice president for Michigan National Bank.

Gary D. White, BS '77, and Kimberly Teeters, December 25 in Battle Creek, where she was a teacher until she retired in 1961. She leaves her husband, two children, and five great-grandchildren.

1980s

Joe T. Hutcheson, BS '80, and Debra Westfield, in Kalamazoo, where he was an assistant vice president for Coca-Cola, Inc.

Kristin Keith, BS '85, and Richard LaLonde, BBA '86, died April 21 in Chicago. She left her husband, three children, two grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Lori Jean Beck, BS '84, died of a brain tumor. She was in sales in the Coleman area for several years. She left her mother, two brothers, and one sister.

Thomas E. Gruskalski, BS '85, died May 5 in Spring Lake. He was a teacher and counselor in the Spring Lake Schools for several years with atypical leukocyte sodium. He taught economics and had been a Kalamazoo teacher and counselor.

1990s

John C. Johnson, BSE '86, and Jill Worthing, BSE '86, died February 25 in Kalamazoo. She leaves her husband, two children, and four great-grandchildren.

Brenda M. Oda, BSE '90, and Cindi Erbisch, BSE '91, died March 11 in Kalamazoo. She left her husband, three children, and five great-grandchildren.

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Formal education took on new meaning April 3 when Dr. Joseph G. Reish, professor of languages and linguistics, surprised his French class by trading in his tweed blazer for a tuxedo. Reish was asked to be the toastmaster at a black tie dinner for volunteers, which the WMU Foundation sponsored, and realized he wouldn't have enough time to make a change between class and the event.