



Western Michigan University  
ScholarWorks at WMU

---

Faculty Recognition

Western Michigan University

---

5-19-1962

## Citation for Eunice Kraft 1962

Western Michigan University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/faculty-recognition>



Part of the Higher Education Commons

---

### WMU ScholarWorks Citation

Western Michigan University, "Citation for Eunice Kraft 1962" (1962). *Faculty Recognition*. 23.  
<https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/faculty-recognition/23>

This Performance Script is brought to you for free and open access by the Western Michigan University at ScholarWorks at WMU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Recognition by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at WMU. For more information, please contact [wmu-scholarworks@wmich.edu](mailto:wmu-scholarworks@wmich.edu).



CITATION      MAY 19, 1962      for EUNICE KRAFT  
Faculty Women's Club Luncheon  
Gull Harbor Inn

As you know, I have been asked to say a few words and to present a book to Eunice Kraft.

But before I do this, I want to tell all of you how thrilled I am because I've been asked by Scott Foresman to write a book myself ---- a Latin text book, of course. At first I thought that I didn't have time, but realizing how WMU is emphasizing research, publications, etc. I agreed to the publisher's request.

Now before you write a book, you must first think of someone to whom to dedicate it. Who would be better than my Latin colleague, Eunice? So, Eunice, I just want you to know that I'm getting my inspiration from you. You yourself have long been inspired by the Muse and by a cool, refreshing drink from Horace's famous "Fons Bandusiae" (Literally, on your trip to his villa while you studied in Rome and figuratively, during these many years when you have promoted and maintained the Golden Age of Latin at Western.)

As I think of writing my first chapter, I want it to be different. Students need a change from the usual textbook lesson of "America est patria" or "Britannia est insula". Let me read you some of my ideas to see how some of you might translate them:

1) Eunice Kraft est bona et magna magistra. (Voice from audience --- "Eunice Kraft is a good and great teacher.")

Yes, Eunice is a good teacher, who infuses her own love for learning into her students. Whether she is patiently telling a high school freshman for the tenth time what a predicate noun is or whether she is guiding an advanced Latin major into the joy of receiving a graduate fellowship, she is always eager to help. As one of her students recently said, "She cares!"

Her own study, reading, experiences in travel and sense of humor have always enriched her classes. People want her as a teacher. Over and over I recall hearing how her literature students have urged their friends to enroll in what one called, "The best class I ever had!"

As for being a great teacher, she's that, too. In fact, during spring vacation a man, now a superintendent of schools in North Dakota, stopped by, left a note on her bulletin board to greet her and to say (and this is long years after he left Western): "You were a magnus Magister" (She told me that she was debating whether to scold him for using the wrong gender or be thrilled that he remembered some Latin.)

2) Now the second sentence in my book reads "Eunice Kraft est ardens et vehemens magistra." (Different voice from audience --- "Eunice Kraft is an enthusiastic and vigorous teacher." Yes, she is enthusiastic and vigorous'. For 42 years she has been devoted to her work. Her schedule of Latin, mythology, and general literature once reached 27 hours a week. It has included 25 summer school sessions and hundreds of extra individual hours of helping students. She herself is a real scholar. Just the other day I heard her reassure a young teacher who was concerned that she doesn't know enough to keep ahead of her students. Eunice's words were: "Don't worry! You'll never know enough. Yesterday I spent two hours reading about a French painter whose name had



been brought up by an art student in mythology class. This is the way teaching is". Yes, this is the mental vigor that so impresses people that they never forget her.

This past January a lady from Florida who had been in Eunice's class 37 years ago wrote to Dr. Wonderley, hoping to clarify a line of poetry that has haunted her all these years in her goal to sail some day "from Desenzano to Sirmio" in Italy. Let us quote from her letter:

"Miss Kraft must have been a master teacher in respect to her ability to project her enthusiasm and regard for ancient Italia. She aroused the desire to see for myself those places we read and talked about that year and although that was my last contact with formal study of Latin, the interest she stirred was sustained. A teacher's influence extends far beyond any current anticipation during the class period."

Truly, I think of her as a perfect example of Chaucer's Clerk of Oxford about whom he wrote: "Gladly would he learn and gladly teach."

3) Another look at Eunice reveals my third sentence:

Eunice Kraft est laeta et grata magistra. Voice from audience, -- "Eunice Kraft is a happy and delightful teacher."

Yes, Eunice is a happy, delightful teacher whose love for people makes the language she teaches really live! When I casually asked my sophomores at Christmas time whether they had sung carols in Latin, one boy said, "Oyes, we sang all the time in Miss Kraft's class!" There is a quality of singing about her work, --- of optimism about people that "catches fire" for all. This leads me to my next point:

4) Eunice Kraft est nota et admirabilis magistra. (Voice from audience, -- "Eunice Kraft is a well-known and highly respected teacher.")

Eunice is well-known and highly respected both in Michigan and in the nation for her high standards of work and her ceaseless efforts in the field of Latin. My own first contact with her name came when I told Dr. J. Dunlap, former head of the Classics Department at the University of Michigan, that I had an offer of a position at Western and received his immediate response, "By all means take it! You'll get to work with Miss Kraft and we think she is wonderful."

I couldn't guess how many teachers Eunice has trained, but it must be hundreds, and now includes teachers of teachers. Several years ago at a meeting of the Michigan Classical Conference when Eunice was finishing her term of office as its first president, the incoming officer, as a tribute to her, asked that all who had been her students rise, and ----- more than half of that audience arose!

5) My next sentence reads:

Eunice Kraft est varia et multiplex magistra. (Voice --- "Eunice Kraft is a versatile person with many facets of interest.")

Yes, Eunice is a versatile person with many facets of interest. One never knows what she'll be into next.

a) She might be all dressed up in Roman finery for one of her 35 Roman dinners, the last of which climaxed this year with the serving of a whole roast pig! or

b) She might be driving to any school in southwestern Michigan to attend the annual Roman holiday , a fete which she helped organize for high school students ten years ago and at which attendance has grown from 250 to 900 this year! or

c) She might be advising all sororities and fraternities on campus because as a Latin teacher , she is "in charge of all Greeks." (That , at least , was the assumption of one building caretaker who really scolded Eunice a whole year for something he didn't like about Greek Week. Poor Eunice was so innocent as she tried to explain that she was a Latin teacher, not an advisor for all Greeks on campus.

d) She might be directing University High School graduation,--processional , program , punchbowl. or

e) She might be attending the University of Michigan Alumnae, the Michigan Historical Society or Delta Kappa Gamma. or

f) She might be regaling a whole lunch table with stories about Tiddley, her cat, or with anecdotes about earlier days and people at Western. One of the new teachers said the other day, "If you want to know anything, just ask Eunice'." or

g ) She might be out in an old cemetery collecting epitaphs. Now for some, this could be a morbid hobby, but not for Eunice! She loves it.

Epitaphs could signify "the end" and that's what I must do right now as I give you this book to begin your wonderful years of leisure ahead. The book is entitled "The Greece I Love" and we hope that for you, as a top classical scholar, this is just right.

Beth Giedeman, Assistant Professor  
Western Michigan University