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LETTER**TAKE MICHIGAN ACADEMY AWARDS****WM Students Show Leadership in Academic Competition**

On March 15 the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters announced the winners of its annual statewide competition in the area of collegiate undergraduate research. Three major awards were made (\$100 each) and Western students won two of them. This marks the third successive year that Western has had at least one winner, a record unmatched by any other school.

The Michigan Academy is a primarily academic organization, with a membership of more than 1,400 college and university teachers, plus many lay members. As part of its program it has for some years encouraged independent research among the undergraduates of Michigan's colleges by inviting faculty

members at all of the colleges and universities in the state to submit the best research work done by their undergraduate students. A special Academy committee grants as many awards as they feel are merited by the quality of the work submitted. Clearly it is a real distinction in such competition for any school or individual to receive one of the major awards.

Western's two winners for 1961 were Doris Ann Bilz, Spring Lake, and William Speckman, Mishawaka, Ind. Both are now senior English majors and were members of the English Honors program, and both did their work with Dr. Philip Denefeld, who directed their particular group of English Honors candidates.

English Honors is a three-semester program for especially promising English majors selected at the beginning of their junior year. The final semester is devoted entirely to an intensive Honors project, which, though it is directed, demands of the student great initiative and independence.

For both Miss Bilz and Speckman the Honors project resulted in the prize-winning paper. Miss Bilz' entry, "Human Relationships in the Plays of T. S. Eliot," was based on a detailed study of Eliot's major plays, leading to fresh insights into that famous playwright's conception of satisfying human relations. Speckman did a highly original analysis of Lawrence Durrell's striking quartet

of novels, resulting in his interpretive work, "The Style of Love in the *Alexandria Quartet*."

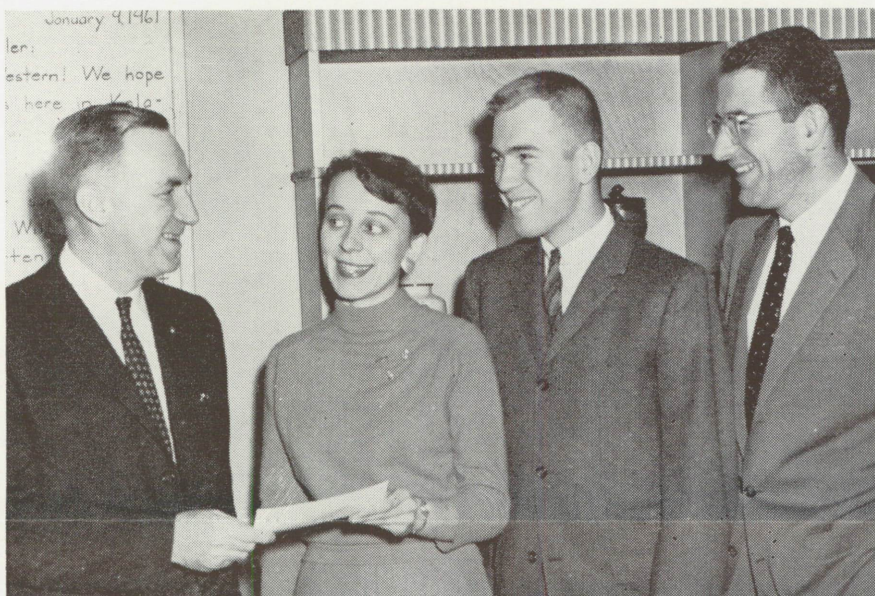
One of the 1960 winners, Lynn Clapham, was also a product of Western's English Honors program, gaining his award for a study of the novels of Jack Kerouac. Clapham, a Woodrow Wilson and a Danforth Fellow, now attends the School of Theology at Harvard University. Miss Bilz is practice teaching at Portage High School and plans to go on to graduate work, probably at Columbia University; Speckman intends to become a college teacher.

The English Honors program is part of a growing recognition at Western of the student of exceptional capability. It reflects the national awareness that while the best education of the entire student body—in both state and private colleges—is still the central goal, the colleges and the nation can no longer afford (if they ever could) to ignore the unusually talented or gifted few who often cannot be taught adequately in the usual classroom situation. Consequently, Western, while working constantly to improve its instruction for all of its students, has welcomed the addition of a two-year Basic Studies Honors Program for the freshmen and sophomores, and the introduction of numerous departmental honors programs for upper-classmen.

Honors work is always demanding on the faculty as well as on the students involved, but such gratifying results as having our students dominate the entire state in competition like that sponsored by the Michigan Academy make us confident that from such programs the whole university will benefit, and that because of them we are now a step closer to developing the full potential of every student who attends Western Michigan University. P.D.

Authors New Book

Dr. Jean Lowrie is the author of a new book, "Elementary School Libraries," just published by the Scarecrow Press, New York. She is an associate professor of librarianship.



Happy students collect their \$100 checks for Michigan Academy awards from President James W. Miller, left. They are: Miss Doris Bilz and William Speckman, while Dr. Philip Denenfeld looks on.

New Building May Lessen Traffic Between Campuses

Between-campus traffic may be expected to abate somewhat with the opening of the new \$3,500,000 Natural Science building, planned for next February.

Registrar Clayton J. Maus, who is responsible for class scheduling, says: "This building, and the subsequent changes on the east campus, will permit us to move more in the direction of a self-contained unit on the old campus. Students in the School of Business and School of Applied Arts and Sciences will be accommodated for their entire academic day on the east campus, rather than shuttling back and forth."

The Natural Science building will house basically the departments of biology, psychology, mathematics, and geography and geology. Other departments will also be accommodated as space is available.

One of the areas that at present defies solution is women's physical education headquartered in the Oakland gymnasium on the east campus. School of Education students will also continue to travel be-

Faculty Changes

Mrs. Katharine Butler of Kalamazoo has joined the psychology faculty with the rank of instructor. She is a WMU graduate and is now a candidate for the Specialist in Education diploma as a school psychological examiner.

Miss Barbara Gaylor left the Campus School staff at the end of March to become a state consultant in home and family life education for the Department of Public Instruction. She has taught home economics here since 1956. Miss Gaylor is being replaced for the remainder of the spring semester by Miss Bethany Radtke, a graduate student with eight years of teaching experience.

Rowland Rowley, a senior from Buchanan, was the winner of the extempore speaking contest for men of the Michigan Intercollegiate Peace Speech Association. Dr. Albert Becker, professor of speech, this year completed his five-year term as director of the event.

tween campuses because of their academic programs, in addition to professional education.

75% of Freshman From Upper Half Of Prep Classes

Seventy-five per cent of the new freshmen at the university last fall came from the upper half of their high school graduating classes, reports President James W. Miller.

A further breakdown of the 2,300 having their first collegiate academic experience shows that 40.5 per cent were in the upper quarter and 11.1 per cent in the top 10 per cent of their high school classes.

Registrar Clayton J. Maus points out that many of the 24.7 per cent who came from the bottom half of their classes had been out of high school for an extended period before entering college, either working or in service, and that examinations showed them capable of undertaking college-level work. This group further broken down shows 21.2 per cent in the third quarter of their class.

"There is a definite trend in this institution to be more selective in admissions," says President Miller. "And there is also a movement to push the better high school students on to college. An additional emphasis on selectivity can be anticipated for next fall in view of the rapidly increasing numbers of high school graduates."

Of its 9,327 students in the fall semester, 92 per cent came from Michigan, seven per cent from other states and less than one per cent from foreign countries. The largest single group on the campus is that from Kalamazoo County, totaling 2,533 or 27 per cent of the entire student body.

Off to India

Dale H. Porter, a sophomore student from Lansing, will spend next year as a student at the University of Allahabad in India, leaving the United States in June and returning in May, 1962. He will study history, philosophy and religion under the auspices of the United Presbyterian church.

March Quotes from the Campus

"Young men need not ask me about our pension plan if they really want to work for us. We are looking for those young men who can handle responsible jobs, and the opportunities for advancement are unlimited." *C. E. McCaffery*, personnel, public and industrial relations manager, Kroger Co., Detroit.

"The girl's maturity is the most important single factor in a marriage. The more people are alike the more chance of their marriage being a success." *Dr. Douglas Blocksma*, psychologist, Grand Rapids.

"I see little hope that the Union of South Africa will be able to solve its race relations problems. Afrikaanders are dragging South Africa down to ruin." *Dr. Arthur Keppel-Jones*, historian, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario.

"The Russian people are 50 years behind the United States in agricultural methods and craftsmanship." *Dr. H. H. London*, University of Missouri, and chairman of U. S. delegation to the Soviet Union in 1960 studying vocational and technical education.

"Having a book published takes away all of your privacy." *Miss Rebecca Caudill*, children's author, Urbana, Ill.

"Far Eastern countries are not trying to remain neutral, but rather independent of both East and West in the current international power struggle." *Andrew Nahm*, instructor in history.

"The only solution to the problems ahead of us, individually and collectively, is to emphasize as never before the importance of self-responsibility, creative thought, and the need for intelligent self-direction through life." *Dean Robert Shaffer*, Indiana University. "No legislation or community planning can take the place of an individual's own responsibility for his happiness in retirement." *Dr. George H. Hilliard*. 25th annual Guidance Conference.

"One of the major contributions

of the space age will be the development of economic and efficient energy conversion methods to stimulate and satisfy the power demands of a rapidly expanding civilization and a constantly rising standard of living." *Dr. James Lafferty*, General Electric Corp.

"Dynamic teaching is the real key to progress in America. If you don't give a child a good education you cripple him as surely as if you cut off his legs." *Dr. James Bushong*, superintendent of schools, Grosse Pointe.

325 Enrolled in Michigan History

Generations of Western Michigan students have found their interest in Michigan history whetted by their college studies, and this spring is no different—only a little more so.

Long the foremost school in the state in the teaching of this interesting subject, enrollments this spring are 325 persons, according to Dr. Willis F. Dunbar, head of the history department.

Dr. Dunbar has 55 undergraduates on campus, while Dr. Alan Brown has 110 undergraduates and 11 in a graduate seminar.

Off campus Dr. Brown teaches 50 at East Grand Rapids, Charles Starring has 23 at Decatur and Dr. James O. Knauss, out of retirement for one class, has 76 enrolled at Muskegon.

Only the seating capacity of the room frequently limits enrollments in this interesting area.

Two Vice Presidents

The Michigan Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation has chosen Miss Margie Miner, assistant professor of physical education-women, as its vice president for physical education and Thomas Slaughter, associate professor of physical education-men, as vice president for recreation.

\$20,000 Gift Received For Chemistry Library From Anonymous Donor

Through the efforts of the Chemistry Advisory Library Committee, a gift of \$20,000 has been received by President James Miller. The anonymous donor is a Michigan family which is "deeply concerned with the progress of education and active in promoting vigorous programs at all levels" according to Dr. David Weisblat, The Upjohn Company, Chairman of the Library Committee. The donor hopes by this gift to encourage the chemistry graduate program at Western.

In acknowledging the grant, President Miller stated that this gift is an important milestone toward the committee's goal of securing for the university an adequate Chemistry Library. President Miller stated that the generosity of this philanthropist and the dedicated service of the committee is of great importance to the future of WMU.

The Chemistry Advisory Committee is composed of chemists in industries who are assisting the Chemistry Department faculty in developing a strong program for graduate study. The Library committee, one of its



Miss Edith Eicher

subcommittees, is attempting to raise \$200,000 for the purchase of books and journals for the Chemistry Library. The committee has also been actively soliciting aid from scientists in Michigan, Indiana, and Illinois, and has been successful in making some additions of monographs and journals.

\$250 Grant to Senior

The Durametallic Corporation of Kalamazoo has presented its second semester \$250 scholarship in industrial supervision to David P. Strolle.

Edith Eicher, Retired English Teacher, Dies

"Her scholarly attitude, her sane judgment, her excellent ideas as to the teaching of literature and language . . ."

This was in part the tribute paid to the late Miss Edith Eicher by Dr. William R. Brown, professor emeritus of English. Miss Eicher, an active member of the English faculty from 1925 to 1954, succumbed April 4 after an extended illness.

Modern drama was her special field of interest, and she never passed an opportunity to extend her understanding, traveling abroad on several occasions for further study and for attendance at important drama festivals.

A graduate of Morningside College, Miss Eicher gained valued teaching experience in high schools in Iowa, South Dakota and at Sault Ste. Marie for five years before completing her graduate work at Columbia University and joining the Western faculty.

Following services in Kalamazoo, interment was in Jefferson, Iowa, her birth place.



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Russell A. Strong, Editor