Meet our outstanding teachers for 1987

The WMU Alumni Association proudly announces the recipients of its 1987 Teaching Excellence Awards. This issue of the Westerner includes several stories highlighting the achievements of alumni teachers, in addition to featuring profiles of the three teaching excellence recipients: Max B. Eberle, Gary Chartrand, and Meshulam Groper. The Alumni Association salutes the efforts of all teachers, especially its three award recipients, who were recognized during National Higher Education Week at the University’s eighth annual Academic Convocation October 27.

In presenting the teaching excellence awards, Richard G. Carlson, B.B.A. ’71, president of the association, explained their significance.

"By making these awards," Carlson said, "Western graduates reaffirm and show appreciation for the important service provided to the University, to its students, and to society as a whole by Western’s outstanding teachers.

The association initiated the award in 1966, and since that time, it has presented it to ninety-three faculty members. Recipients are selected on the basis of nominations received from alumni, students, and faculty. They receive a plaque, a $1,500 stipend, and a $1,000 adjustment to their base salary.

Alumni Association leaders serving on the group’s board of directors for 1987-88 are, from left (seated): Robert E. Zeier, ’73, Davenport; Deb Mazur-Baker, ’81, Berkley; Michael Dallas, ’71; Ada; Alberta Studler, ’45, Muskegon; Patricia Muth, ’42, vice president, Okemos; (standing) Allen Emmons, ’65, Grand Rapids; Wendy Stock, ’72, Grand Rapids; Kevin Scott, ’78, treasurer, Detroit; Keith Pretty, ’73, past president, Kalamazoo; Marilyn Peterson, ’66, St. Joseph; James Bethcke, ’32, Niles; Emily Word, ’77, Battle Creek; Ted Humines, ’40, Battle Creek; Rick Carlson, ’71, president, Winneke; Richard Chormann, ’39, Kalamazoo; Philip Zwergel, ’48, development; and James Jeremy, executive director. Not pictured are Patrick Laughlin, ’68, Lansing; Barbara Leitt Simmons, ’48, Washington, D.C.; Lawrence Ulmer, ’73, Kalamazoo; and Georgia Van Alderline, ’78, Jackson.

How many alumni are in your family?

During a 1964 alumni homecoming celebration, more than once returning alumni were heard to make comments such as, "Our daughter is a freshman here this year, in fact, she's living in the same dorm I did and studying what my mother studied here.

In future issues of this publication, we would like to include stories of some of these families with three or more generations of Western alumni. (Currently enrolled students certainly count for that third, fourth, or fifth generation.) If your family is three or more generations deep in Western, won't you write and tell us? Just send the graduate's name, along with your name, address, and telephone number, to the WMU Alumni Association, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49008-3854.

Governor Blanchard appoints two new Board of Trustees members

The most precious gift that trustees can give the University is their continued commitment of time, Board of Trustees Chair Nancy E. Reed said during swearing-in ceremonies conducted October 23 for the newest members of Western’s governing body.

James S. Brady, a 1966 alumna and a Grand Rapids attorney, and Richard Y. St. John, a Kalamazoo executive, were sworn in as trustees one month after Gov. James J. Blanchard appointed them to the board.

"Being a contributing trustee," Reed said, "requires a tremendous and continued commitment of time, getting to know the institution, its programs, and its people. While there is much to be given and shared in this world, the most limited and precious gift for each of us is time. "But with the commitment of time comes knowledge and knowledge equals power," she said. "And the governor has empowered you with the trust of the University. On behalf of all the state of Michigan, act fairly and wisely in the future, and do what you mind and in your hearts is best for Western Michigan University."

Brady is a partner in the Grand Rapids law firm of Miller, Johnson, Snell, and Cummiskey. He responded to Reed’s call by saying, "The responsibility and trust I assume today is that this University should continue, as it has in the past, to foster quality education and that it should make that education available to the sons and daughters of the working class and the middle class."

St. John, who is manager of community relations at The Upjohn Company, said he will devote his time to seeing that Western is a leader in promoting cooperation between the public and private sector to encourage economic development.

"Gov. Blanchard had indicated that jobs and economic development are the forte of his administration and named No. 1 in supporting that endeavor is higher education," St. John said. "Western Michigan University should certainly be a leader in that effort."

Circuit Court Judge William G. Schima of Kalamazoo administered the oath of office to the new trustees. Their eight-year term on the eight-member board expires December 31, 1994.

Brady replaces Fred W. Adams of Grosse Pointe, who was appointed to the University’s first governing board in 1964 and had been the only charter member of the board still serving on it. St. John replaces Charles H. Ludlow of Kalamazoo, who had served on the board since 1967.

Speaking on behalf of the board, Reed thanked Adams and Ludlow for their long years of outstanding service.

"We are extremely grateful for their dedication, loyalty, and love for Western," she said.

Grateful faculty praises Haenickes’ vision and leadership

Citing President Diether H. Haenickes for his "broad vision and dynamic leadership," the University’s Faculty Senate gave Haenickes "a resolution of appreciation" in a surprise presentation at the end of this year’s Academic Convocation October 27 on behalf of a grateful faculty.

"I was deeply touched," Haenickes told the Senate a week later. "It was very, very appreciated. I found that I was speechless. I am no longer speechless. I say thank you to all of you from the bottom of my heart."

Such a presentation is unprecedented, observers say, coming as it does early in the Haenickes presidency and just three years after the University community was divided by a faculty strike. Haenickes assumed the presidency in August 1985 after serving as provost at the Ohio State University.

This year’s three-year agreement between the University and the WMU chapter of the American Association of University Professors was reached after only nine sessions in three weeks of what were described as "nontraditional, nonadversarial, productive" talks.

That was the shortest period of negotiations, and the earliest an agreement was reached, in the twelve-year history of faculty collective bargaining at Western.

At the time the contract was ratified by the University’s Board of Trustees, Haenickes’s role in the talks was praised by board members and union negotiators alike. In fact, in another unprecedented action, the board ratified the contract July 31, more than a month before union members did, in an act of good faith.

In its resolution, the Senate praised Haenickes for providing Western with "an example of dedication to and af-fection for academic values and pursuits pervaded by fairness, strong collegiality, ready humor, and an unflinching integrity." It expressed its "deep gratitude to President Haenickes for the broad vision and dynamic leadership with which he stimulates, protects, and guides the University."
Dear Alumni:

Let me share some good news with you and ask for your assistance

This fall, the University's student population number 23,336, the largest enrollment figure since 1975. Of the 23,336 students, 3,240 are beginning freshmen. Earlier this fall, Susan Hannah, assistant vice president for academic affairs, expressed "great excitement over the fall figures," especially the large number of freshmen.

"Some of the factors that contributed to this impressive enrollment growth include the diversity and high quality of our programs, outstanding cooperative efforts of our development staff, and our able assistance from interested alumni and student leaders," Hannah said.

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ALUMNI ADMISSIONS AMBASSADORS

I am interested in the Alumni Admissions Ambassadors program. Please send me further information.

Name __________________________ Grad. Year ________
Maiden Name _______________________
Address __________________________
City __________________ State __________ Zip __________
Phone ___________________________ Business _______ Home ________
Return form to: Western Michigan University, Alumni Association, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49008-3854.

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M. Jamie Jeremy
Director, Alumni Relations

Yes, alumni played a part in the recruitment of the 1987 freshmen class. The entire University community joins me in saying "thank you and congratulations!" to all the alumni who served as Alumni Admissions Ambassadors during 1986-87. Your telephone calls to admitted students in your hometowns did make a difference, as did the time you devoted to meeting with students personally during Gold Pride receptions.

All of us are excited about this fall's enrollment figures, and we want you as alumni to share our excitement. The steady increase in enrollment in recent years is a great source of pride for all associated with Western.

That increase is proof that knowledge is spreading about our excellent academic programs, our friendly campus, and our dedicated faculty and staff. It's still important, however, that each of us continues to spread the word about the many good things Western has to offer.

We've already begun to recruit next year's freshman class. Once again alumni volunteers are needed to join student leaders, faculty, and staff in sharing their enthusiasm with those who will make up that class. But as the number of admitted students continues to grow, more volunteers will be needed.

Let me take just a moment to explain what is asked of you.

During January and February, we ask that you contact these students and share with them your enthusiasm about Western. The Office of Admissions provides each ambassador with a packet of information about Western, enabling you to answer questions of a general nature.

Should a specific program, admission, or financial aid question arise, simply refer students to the admissions office and give them the office's toll-free telephone number.

High spirits and the return of past traditions mark Homecoming festivities

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Student Activities

A: The newly resurfaced east corridor of West Michigan Avenue provided a perfect race track for the annual Soap Box Derby.
B: Adding new spirit to this year's Homecoming was the return of several old traditions, including house displays (exhibits built on residence hall lawns), which were popular in the 1950s and 1960s. Hoekie Hall's creative display placed first in the contest.
C: Thousands of fans enjoyed the football game and the Bronco Marching Band's half-time show, despite Western's 17-0 loss to Miami University.
D: As always, plenty of spectators cheered on Fritter Fest participants in the two-minute donut eating contest.

Alumni Activities

E: The highlight of the 1987 Homecoming celebration was the Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner. President Dietter H. Haenicke, far left, and Alumni Association president Rick Carlson, far left, visited with the year's inductees, from left, Leila Llorens, Richard Cole, and Barbara Matthews.
G: Alumni enjoyed a delightful meal while remembering their school days during the annual pre-game champagne brunch.

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WMU Foundation holds annual meeting

Top officers retained; new directors elected

Willard A. Brown Jr., B.B.A. '33, and William U. Parfet have been re-elected to one-year terms as president and vice president, respectively, of the WMU Foundation.

Their election, along with that of four new directors, took place at the Foundation Board of Directors' annual meeting October 9 in the John E. Fetzer Business Development Center. Dr. George M. Demissen, provost and vice president for academic affairs, was the featured speaker. He outlined Western's critical funding needs in an address titled "The Pursuit of Excellence: The Challenge Before Us."

Brown is chair and chief executive officer of Rubloff, one of the nation's leading industrial real estate development firms. Since he joined the Chicago, Illinois, firm in 1955, it has grown from a local company to a national operation.

Parfet, current vice president and treasurer of The Ujjoin Company in Kalamazoo, has held a succession of positions with the company in accounting and finance, assuming his present post in 1984. He is a 1970 graduate of Lake Forest College, and has a master of business administration degree from the University of Michigan.

Elected to three-year terms as directors of the Foundation were: Richard M. Hughey, B.A. '52; Clarice P. Jones, T.C. '25, B.A. '37; Joan H. Krause, B.A. '72; and Theodore F. McCarty, B.B.A. '59.

Hughey, an attorney with the Kalamazoo law firm of Deming, Hughey, Lewis, Keiser, Allen, and Chapman, received his law degree from the University of Michigan. He is a member of the Foundation and a past president of the WMU Alumni Association.

Jones retired from Western's faculty in 1974, and completed her master of social work degree at the University of Michigan, where she lectured from 1949 to 1965. The chair of the board of the American Association of Retired Persons from 1984 to 1985, she received an honorary degree from Western last year.

Krause, an interior decorator with Metternich-Cole Limited in Grand Rapids, owned several businesses in the city before joining Metternich-Cole. She was vice president of Behavior Associates for Business and was director of development at the Kendall School of Design. She is a member of the WMU President's Club of major donors and the Foundation, and a former board member of the WMU Alumni Association.

McCarty is chair, president, and chief executive officer of Old Kent Bank in Kalamazoo. Before joining Old Kent, he was with American National Bank for more than twenty years, most recently serving as its president. A member of the Foundation, he earned his master of business administration degree from Indiana University.

ABE establishes fund

The inter-chapter Council of Alpha Beta Epsilon has established an endowment fund to help support Western's Sara Swigert Pre-school. The fund will be known as the ABE Lucile Abbott Nobbs Endowment Fund. The interest from the fund will be used annually to support preschool activities. According to Joyce Delhite, associate director of the Smokehouse Health Center and preschool director, an endowment fund has been needed for a long time. "The annual earnings of this fund will allow us to purchase extra equipment, toys, games, and educational supplies for our kids," she said. ABE intends that the endowment will be a beginning only, and the inter-chapter Council is encouraging ABE members and friends of the preschool to make additional contributions. "We know that this gift by itself will not do the entire job," Monte Studier, council president, said. "What we wanted to do is make a start toward a fund that will benefit generations to come." Participating in the gift presentation were (left) Donnette Foelsor, associate vice president of student services, Studier; (standing) Mary Dewalt, Althea Gerring, Delhite, and Marguerite Zimmerman.

Investing in the University pays big dividends

Russell Howes
Director, Planned Giving

I think we'd all like to have our cake and eat it too. I know I would.

There are many different ways that you can lend your support to Western Michigan University. But, did you know that you can give money away and keep the income? Well, it is possible, and what's more, the U.S. government encourages you to do just that with an extra tax incentive.

The most common way in which this works is for you to give a certain sum of money to a fund which is operated by Western. In many respects this fund operates just like a mutual fund and it can earn you a lifetime income. The fund is invested by professional money managers and pays its recipients a quarterly income based on earnings.

Buying into this fund is an irrevocable decision, and because of that, a portion of your original investment is deemed to be a gift to the University. The amount of that gift will vary depending upon the number and age of the beneficiaries.

For example, if a husband and wife who are both seventy years of age decide to invest in the University and place $10,000 in the fund, they can arrange to receive an income for as long as either of them lives. The amount of the return will vary from year to year. The government encourages this type of investment by making a charitable deduction available to this couple based on the difference between the amount received and their adjusted gross income a tax deduction.

Even better, I've found that many people are holding assets which they bought much earlier in life for growth potential. Those assets are now worth many times their original value but actually produce a very small income. For example, the couple previously mentioned might very well be holding some stock which they originally purchased for only $1,000. Although that stock is now worth $10,000, it may be earning a current dividend of only $200 or $300 a year (two to three percent). If the couple sold that stock to invest in something that would give them a larger annual income, they would have to declare a $9,000 capital gain, and under the new tax law, that could cost them more than $2,500.

Instead of incurring that kind of expense, the couple can donate their stock to Western as an investment, avoid paying any capital gains tax, substantially increase the annual yield, and still get the same $2,900 tax deduction.

Eventually, of course, the principal which they have gifted to the University will become the sole property of Western and will be put to good use in helping us educate future generations. That gift can either be an unrestricted gift to the University or designated for some specific purpose. We're always happy to work with our friends to determine how these funds will be used.

If you would like to receive further information about investing in Western, or if you would like to talk to someone in person about this, please contact me, Russell Howes, WMU Foundation, Hillside East, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49008-3855, (616) 383-4973.
The Theorem of safety—both on campus and in society—has been underscored at the University by a terrible tragedy, raising everyone's awareness of both individual and institutional precautions that should be taken routinely everywhere.

The tragedy was the November 14 murder on campus of Julie K. Cunningham, an eighteen-year-old freshman from nearby Vicksburg. She apparently took a study break that night to go jogging at the Kanley outdoor track, where her body was found the next day.

Campus safety practices are frequently reviewed by University police and student services personnel; many new measures were put into place before November 14 and additional steps have been taken since the tragedy.

"The key ingredients to any safety program are the choices we make as individuals about what we do," University President Diether H. Haenicke told members of the University community in a November 18 letter published in the Western Herald student newspaper.

A suspect, Timothy J. Bergman, twenty-four, of Kalamazoo, was arrested November 24 by WMU. He was charged with first-degree murder and felony murder in a two-count warrant authorized by James Gregior, Kalamazoo County prosecutor.

Bergman, who lived in the Lovell Street neighborhood east of the campus, is not and never has been a WMU student or employee, Haenicke said. He was arrested the same day a campus memorial service was held for Cunningham in Kanley Chapel.

"Though there are no words to comfort Julie's parents or ourselves, we need this moment to express our grief at Julie's death, and our outrage at what has happened to this woman and to all," Haenicke said at the service.

On November 30, Julie's parents, Dennis and Margaret Cunningham, established an endowed scholarship in memory of their daughter. Contributions may be sent to the WMU Foundation in Kalamazoo. Both are bachelor's and master's degree graduates of Western, he in 1966 and 1969 and she in 1964 and 1968.

A twenty-one-member task force of seven law enforcement agencies conducted the investigation under the leadership of WMU police. A reward of $5,000 was offered through the Kalamazoo County Silent Observer Program.

Haenicke published the open letter in the Herald to review security measures the University provides and to point out precautions individuals should take.

"Julie's death reminds us all of the vulnerability of students, faculty, and staff in spite of all our efforts to provide a safe environment," he said in the letter.

Haenicke said that long before the November 14 murder occurred, the University was concerned about safety on campus and had initiated several actions this fall. They included installing additional lighting and initiating efforts to replace burned-out lights within twenty-four hours.

In addition, twenty-four students were hired to patrol the campus on foot in three pairs between 7:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m. seven nights a week. A student-run escort service was established, warnings in campus media about after-dark travel were issued, letters were sent to campus residents urging them not to use a pathway through the woods into Goldsworthy Valley, and articles were published in the Western Herald asking individuals to use caution when traveling alone on campus.

An additional series of student was added to the student patrols immediately after the murder. The patrols began an hour earlier, at 6:00 each night. Effective November 23, residence halls were changed so that all close at 7:00 each night and reopen at 8:00 each day. Formerly they were closed from 11:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. weekdays and 1:00 to 8:00 a.m. weekends.

Also, locks on all side and rear entrances to residence halls were changed so that residents could enter only by main entrances. Additional student staff members monitor all traffic into the residence halls between 7:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. All residents must be prepared to show identification and any non-resident must register between those hours.

Activities implemented this fall were in addition to a number of long-standing safety measures already in practice at the University. Haenicke said. For example, campus buildings are connected by well-lit paths and students have been strongly advised not to take short-cuts or travel alone after dark. None of Western's outdoor intramural, athletic, or recreational facilities is lighted and none is intended for use after dark.

Three of five marked police vehicles are on patrol twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. In addition, there are eighteen police call boxes, with telephones that require no dialing, located throughout campus under blue lights. Three-digit emergency dialing is available at all other telephones.

Tragedy emphasizes importance of safety on and off campus

Pretty, B.S. career in government...
Rob Buck

guides spikers to the top

Western's volleyball picture has improved dramatically in the ten years since Rob Buck took over as head coach. Not only have the Broncos won six straight Mid-American Conference titles, but the program is now recognized as one of the country's best.

Buck, who went into this year's play with a seventy-six match conference winning streak, posted winning records in all but his inaugural season and has more than 250 career coaching victories at Western. His impressive records and the Broncos' rise to national prominence, however, have not come easy.

When Buck first arrived on campus, the volleyball program was anything but solid. In fact, the head coaching job wasn't even a full-time position, and the overall budget didn't even cover the cost of Spikers' travel expenses. Yet Buck had numerous failures. "I believe in the best overall program in the country right now in terms of the complete package," Buck says. "This program has gone through such transitions over the last five or six years that we're just now starting to understand and develop the exact structure. My idea of a college program is for it to be well rounded--a resource center for the university that itself is a product of the university." Buck's drive and his commitment to both the sport of volleyball and the University have paid dividends for both himself and Western. When the 1987 season began, the Broncos were ranked nineteenth in the nation by the Collegiate Volleyball Coaches Association, and they were being led to a two-time MAC "coach of the year" and Volleyball Monthly's 1983 national "coach of the year." The latter honor was earned the year Buck's team won thirty-two straight matches before losing to eventual runner-up UCLA in the National Collegiate Athletic Association's Midwest regional.

Late start didn't dim enthusiasm

Buck, who didn't begin to compete in volleyball until he was out of high school, played for three seasons at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. His ability earned him an invitation to attend the U.S. team trials for the 1975 Pan American Games. Although he got a relatively late start in the sport, Buck says his enthusiasm for volleyball has continued to increase. Now, he says, it has become his life.

"It's what I've spent most of my life on for the last ten years," he says. "I don't expect it to be as important to other people as it is to me, but I'd like others to recognize and have an appreciation of how I feel about this program. And then maybe they can deal with me in a little bit different light."

"I believe we have the best overall program in the country right now in terms of the complete package," Buck says. "This program has gone through such transitions that you have to recruit good players so that you continue to build the program. Well, a lot of coaches stop there. We don't. Our philosophy is that you have to promote the program, and be a visible entity not only in your community, but regionally and nationally as well."

Program, player growth go hand in hand

Today Western's team puts considerable time and energy into a number of activities away from the competitive collegiate scene, and Buck says these activities are what make his team so outstanding.

Buck believes his team needs to have enthusiasm that nothing can quell, and he has instilled discipline in the program. He says it's his perception of a coach that motivates him. The team's success is a reflection of Buck's character, he says. "I believe in the best overall program in the country right now in terms of the complete package," Buck says. "This program has gone through such transitions over the last five or six years that we're just now starting to understand and develop the exact structure. My idea of a college program is for it to be well rounded--a resource center for the university that itself is a product of the university." Buck's drive and his commitment to both the sport of volleyball and the University have paid dividends for both himself and Western. When the 1987 season began, the Broncos were ranked nineteenth in the nation by the Collegiate Volleyball Coaches Association, and they were being led to a two-time MAC "coach of the year" and Volleyball Monthly's 1983 national "coach of the year." The latter honor was earned the year Buck's team won thirty-two straight matches before losing to eventual runner-up UCLA in the National Collegiate Athletic Association's Midwest regional.

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Noting that volleyball is "fast, powerful, and aggressive," Buck says the sport demands an enormous amount of discipline. However, he adds that instilling discipline is only part of the challenge of coaching the game.

The secret is to find a way to have your players make conscious decisions of their own to be champions," he explains. "As a coach I try to find a way to put my players in an environment where they have to make a conscious effort to become better, where they take responsibility for their own actions, and where they develop their own goals and structure a path towards achieving those goals. That's how you make a champion."


There's no mathematical formula to tell faculty members how to divide their time between teaching and research. But Dr. Gary Chartrand must have come up with the right equation.

This year, the professor of mathematics and statistics was recognized for his classroom skills with the Alumni Teaching Excellence Award. In 1979, he earned the Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award—the University's most prestigious recognition for research.

"I guess I primarily think of myself as a researcher, since there's always some mathematical problem floating around in my head," he says. "But I know that it's possible to do justice to both teaching and research."

More important than recognizing his achievements as a teacher, Chartrand says this year's award is special to him because it's being presented for the first time to a faculty member in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

"Our department has several outstanding teachers," he says. "I'm happy that the department is being recognized for its teaching in addition to its fine research record."

Chartrand has been a faculty member since 1964. He began teaching at Western immediately after earning his bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in mathematics from Michigan State University.

"I've always loved mathematics, even in junior high school and high school," he says. "I started out in engineering at Michigan State, but it was only the mathematics that I thoroughly enjoyed. So I decided to major in math."

Chartrand is a specialist in graph theory, which he explains as an area of mathematics that "explores relationships between objects. Although I especially enjoy the theory," he says, "I am also very interested in its many applications, particularly those that involve computer science."

The author or coauthor of five books and more than 100 professional journal articles, Chartrand was the first managing editor of the award-winning Journal of Graph Theory.

Where does he find the time for research and publication between class preparation and teaching? Chartrand has kept a rigid schedule between research, teaching, and committee work, he says. "Each one takes a great deal of time."

"When I'm teaching, that's always the number one priority," he continues. "If I'm not teaching, say during the spring or summer, then I can devote more time to research. Otherwise, it's not until I'm done teaching for the day that I can start thinking about research."

Chartrand has taught a variety of subjects at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Some of the courses include algebra, pre-calculus, all levels of calculus, linear and modern algebra, discrete mathematics, mathematical proofs, and graph theory.

His goal in any class, he says, is to present the material in such a way that the students both understand it and enjoy it. "I hope my students feel that I care about them and respect them, and that I want them to do well and understand the material. I enjoy mathematics and I want them to enjoy it as well," he says.

A former graduate student echoed those thoughts in nominating Chartrand for the teaching excellence award. "His extraordinary success with his graduate students clearly shows that Dr. Chartrand presents his subject effectively, stimulates thinking, arouses interest, and develops understanding," the former student wrote.

When asked to reveal some of his unique teaching methods, Chartrand shrugs and says, "There's no unique technique that I use. However, it certainly helps to be prepared and to be ready to answer questions."

"I think no matter how many times you've taught a course, you must always go into class prepared," he says. "I think I'm a fairly organized person. I always know what I intend to discuss and the order in which I want to discuss it."

A nomination from one of the eleven doctoral degree recipients Chartrand has advised emphasized the professor's skill in that area. "It's obvious that he's a good teacher. He knows his subject well and he's able to communicate it to his students." The former student said. "So he can explain it clearly to the students."

Chartrand says that once people have been teaching for a while, they get accustomed to the questions students are likely to ask. "But one thing that is very important is never to put the student down," he says, "no matter what the question is. Sometimes students say. This is a stupid question, but the question they have, then it's not a stupid question as far as I'm concerned—it's a good question."

Besides organization and receptiveness, Chartrand says he thinks all teachers need to have a deep interest in their subjects so that it spills over onto their students. The same doctoral recipient who praised Chartrand's skillful class presentation called him a model for others when it comes to that kind of enthusiasm. "It is for other reasons that I feel he deserves to be recognized as an outstanding teacher," he continued in his letter. "First, there is his enthusiasm and genuine love of mathematics. This love is converted into an infectious energy and excitement in class that can only stir a student's interest."

While Chartrand admits his research and teaching often compete with each other, he also says his research activities stimulate his enthusiasm in the classroom. "Through research, I'm constantly seeing mathematics evolve in front of me. There are new things going on all the time. The advantage of doing research is that I know how mathematics is growing, and I can present this exciting information to my students."

Agriculture specialist has a down-to-earth classroom style

Dr. Max E. Benne's teaching career can be summed up in one word—dedication. Benne's dedication to teaching, to students, and to agriculture were the most frequently cited reasons former students nominated him for an Alumni Association Teaching Excellence Award.

"This man's dedication is what makes the WMU agriculture program so special," one alumna wrote in her nominating form. "His support to this program has earned the respect of all who have been involved.... I feel that Dr. Benne is Western's agriculture program."

An associate professor of consumer resources and technology, Benne is currently the only full-time member of Western's agriculture program, which has about forty agriculture and agri-business majors. He teaches a full load of courses while handling most of the program's advising, recruiting, alumni relations, and job placement duties. In addition, he promotes the program throughout the state and represents it on various campus committees.

Being such a dedicated and versatile teacher has been a natural progression for Benne, who says he considers his greatest teaching achievement to be the positive feedback he has received from students and alumni. The soft-spoken, inquisitive professor grew up on a small farm near Mason. As he puts it, "I milked cows and went to college. I have always been interested in agriculture and am passionate about teaching agriculture."

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Benne, a former 4-H agent stationed in Lenawee County, co-owned a farm himself by the time he began his teaching career in 1960. Half seriously, he says he started teaching agriculture and science courses in a
**Teaching, in Latin or English, is a way of life for Groper**

If you ask Dr. Meshulam Groper what he's most proud of, he will tell you it's the thousands of students he has taught since joining Western's faculty seven years ago. Because to the professor of mechanical engineering, teaching is what he refers to as "modus vivendi" (Latin for a way of life), and his students reflect his success as a teacher.

"I don't think that there's anything else I would rather do than teach," he explains. "I've always felt that this is not just my vocation. This is what I want to do and, probably, what I know best. When I do something related to my profession, I really enjoy what I'm doing. And I don't feel tired when I'm doing it either."

Groper believes that type of passion for teaching can't be forced. Rather, he says, it comes naturally. "If you don't like to teach, you had better go and find something else to do," he recommends. "A desire to teach is an important qualification for being a teacher, besides having the academic credentials."

Recalling his high school years, Groper says he was "inclined to mathematics, physics, and other technical subjects." He pursued his interest in engineering by earning bachelor's and master's degrees in physics and mechanics from the University "A.I. Cuza" in Jassy, Romania, and a doctoral degree in science from Technion (University) in Haifa, Israel. While at Technion, he served as an adjunct professor and senior researcher in the Department of Civil Engineering.

"What I like most about engineering is the scientific and creative approaches to solving problems and the possibility of helping others," Groper says. He came to Western in 1980 as an adjunct professor in what was then the Department of Mathematics. After teaching calculus for one year, he was reappointed as an associate professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, where he teaches courses on the mechanics of materials, statics, dynamics, and mechanical systems, among others.

Groper can usually be found in his office seven days a week writing research papers and preparing lectures, which are a combination of lectures and experiments. While developing demonstrations to accompany his lectures may take extra time and effort, Groper believes they're necessary to help students grasp concepts and ideas that are often abstract.

"I give demonstrations even for courses in which I'm not supposed to bring in all kinds of little experiments," he confides. "I believe that when you present a new concept to students, you must come prepared with an experiment which reinforces this new concept."

"His intense desire to transmit knowledge is readily seen when viewing the active, participatory atmosphere he creates in the classroom," wrote one student nominating him for the award. "Dr. Groper establishes an environment of mutual respect with his students that fosters a desire to take the learning experience beyond simple knowledge."

Groper claims that he can tell in an instant whether or not his students understood the material he presented, simply by keeping visual contact with the class. He says he learned this technique by studying under excellent professors himself.

"My professors came to class perfectly prepared, with only a piece of chalk. They told me after I had graduated that they had notes to the class in their pockets, just in case. But they never used them," he explains. "The trick is that if you're prepared and not tied to your notes, you can see what is happening with your students."

**Other teaching "tricks" Groper uses include setting ground rules for students at the beginning of each semester and firing questions at students during lectures to keep them on their toes. "My method of teaching is asking questions to keep students aware of what is going on and to make sure they understand me. And they like this—I know," he says confidently.**

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**Although he is very demanding, and 'runs a tight ship,' I feel that I have gained new insights from him beyond academic growth.**

"He is constantly quizzing the class during his lecture," another one of Groper's students wrote. "This method of teaching is challenging to the students because it makes us come to class prepared and keeps us thinking one step ahead of him."

While Groper has a reputation for being a "tough grader," he's also viewed as a personal friend by many of his students. "Although he is very demanding, and 'runs a tight ship,' I feel that I have gained new insights from him beyond academic growth," one student commented. "If I was to choose any professor for a personal friend, I would definitely choose Dr. Groper."

The author of more than sixty technical papers, Groper believes research and teaching go hand in hand, and he notes that there hasn't been a year when he hasn't conducted research or published his findings.

"I believe that by conducting research and updating myself on what is happening in my field, I become a better instructor," he explains. "In addition to the material included in my syllabus, I inform my students of some very, very new technologies as a result of current research."

Working closely with his students, Groper encourages them to assist him in his research, as well as to publish their own ideas. He adds that several of his students have become coauthors of his publications and he "always recognizes their participation as equals."

When asked about why he thinks he was selected for this award, Groper seemed puzzled. "I caught me by surprise," he admits. "Here at Western, we have a bunch of very good professors who deserve at least the recognition I received. Why I was luckier than the others, I don't know." But he adds, "I am happy that my former and current students and my colleagues appreciate the fact that I honestly try hard to deserve my paycheck."
Regional alumni events

Denver area alumni

The alumni of the WMU alumni association held their annual meeting. Approximately 100 alumni were in attendance at the meeting. The meeting was held at the Colorado Convention Center. The meeting was opened by the president of the alumni association. The president gave a brief overview of the activities of the alumni association during the past year. The president also introduced the guest speaker, who gave a talk on the history of the university.

Alumni Association new life members

Robert D., B.A. ’76, and Barbara Yarbrough, B.A. ’76, were among the new life members of the Alumni Association. They were presented with life membership certificates at the meeting.

Alumni Association student offering gift idea

The Alumni Association is offering a gift idea to its members. The idea is to offer a Wildflowers of Michigan sweatshirt as a gift. The sweatshirt is available in both men’s and women’s sizes. The sweatshirt is made of 100% cotton and is screen printed with the university’s logo. The sweatshirt is available in blue, green, and yellow colors. The price of the sweatshirt is $20.00. The Sweatshirt can be ordered online at the Alumni Association website or by calling the Alumni Association office.

Alumni Association.jpg

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Alumnus is Michigan Professor of the Year

Robert Husband and his wife were digging for grasshoppers on a glacier in Montana when it was announced he had been named 1967 Michigan Professor of the Year by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education in Washington, D.C.

Husband, a biology professor at Adrian College, received his bachelor's degree in biology at Western in 1961, and focuses on the impact a professor's dedication has on students. He will go all the way to get a job or into graduate school. He believes in giving students the tools to be independent scientists.

Husband was named professor of office systems at Central Michigan University for 1967 by the Michigan Adult Community Education Commission after former first grade teacher in the Hamilton schools.

The Daily Telegram

Robert Husband

Peat Thompson, BBA '66, MA '72, has been appointed to the Rockford Community Planning Commission.

Prabhas, BS '69, MS '76, has been promoted to associate professor of political science, and has been credited with discovering several new species, which he has named in honor of friends and family.

Husband was in the Rocky Mountains researching a strain of mites found on grasshoppers when he received news of having won the award.

Robert Husband

Photo by Rhonda Mael, courtesy of The Daily Telegram

Juan Carrington Elders, BS '68, is now director of dietary services for Presbyterian Senior Care, Washington, PA.

Terry Sautner, BBA, BS '69, has become director of administrative services for Presbyterian Senior Care, Washington, PA.

1966

Carolyn Barber Blough, BS '66, MA '76, is vice president-elect of the Michigan Reading Association.

Dr. William P. Brady, MD '69, has opened New Day, a psychology practice, in Southfield.

Nancy M. Flynn, BA '69, has been named assistant director of the Department of Programs Operations in the Wage and Hour Division of the U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, DC.

Barbara Speas Harris, MA '69, has been appointed to associate professor of political science at Western.

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1970

1971

Michael C. Dallas, BBA '71, MA '72, has become a staff attorney for Army Corps., ADA, Detroit, MI.

James A. Coyle, BBA '70, has been named executive director of MRC Industries, Inc., Kalamazoo, which helps find employment for developmentally disabled people. He is also an outpatient therapist for the Van Buren County Community Mental Health Center.

Fred Hagans, BBA '71, is the president of the Kalamazoo Area Mathematics and Science Center. He is a vice president of Old Kent Bank, Kalamazoo.

James D. Huggett, BBA '71, MA '77, has returned from responsibilities in West Germany to become principal of the Gull Lake Intermediate School, Richland.

1972

Gary A. Grady, BBA '72, MA '72, is the Michigan High School Teacher of the Year, as designated by the Greater Michigan Foundation. He is a teacher in Jackson.

John L. Bird, BS '72, MA '75, MS '79, was "teacher of the year" for the Spring Lake schools in 1969-87. He also is dean of students at the high school.

John J. Bruce, BS '72, MA '76, has become the staff attorney for the city of Battle Creek.

Michael A. Pincus, BBA '69, MBA '71, has been appointed vice president of Rosy Edge, Inc., Detroit advertising agency.

Lynea Kollig Rohrer, BA '69, MA '76, has been promoted to the Rockford Community Hospital. She is a Cedar Springs teacher and is married to Glenn Rohrer, BBA '69, MA '71.

Wayne G. Schaeffer, BBA '69, has been appointed vice president, treasurer, and chief financial officer of Citizens Banking Corp., Flint.

Paul A. Lovett, BS '69, has been promoted to national sales manager of the Flowers Chain, Kalamazoo.

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Richard T. Cochrane, BBA '67, has become a program coordinator for the College of Education credit and non-credit programs for Kent State University's Division of Continuing Education at Youngstown, KS.

J. A. Salkey, BBA, BS '69, has been appointed to administrative coordinator and operations officer for Second National Bank, Bay City.

Mary Waldo, MS, RS '67, retired in June as a Kalamazoo librarian.

Kay Bemnipen Back, BS '68, MA '70, was named "teacher of the year" for 1986-87 by the Vicksburg Educational Foundation.

Lawrence Bovell, BBA, BS '66, is the principal of East Lansing High School.

Tim Howard, BS '68, MS '71, EdD '86, has been appointed assistant principal at Portage Northern High School.

Glenn Rohrer, BBA, BS '68, MA '71, has been appointed to the Rockford Planning Commission.

He is a Cedar Springs teacher and is married to Lynea Kollig Rohrer, BA '69, MA '76.

James R. Salkey, BBA, BS '69, has been promoted to vice president business development, Community Bank, Los Angeles, CA.

John B. Stiles, BS '68, MA '72, has received Michigan's 1987 VanZandt Award as "driver instructor of the year" from the Governor's Commission on Traffic Safety. He is a Cedar Springs teacher.

Carol Vandervanrtich, MA '68, has been elected president of the Kalamazoo Poison Prevention Council for 1987-88.

Karen Yeager, BS '67, MA '68, has been selected for a Michigan First Award. She is coordinator of compensatory, bilingual, migrant, and special education in the Kalamazoo schools.

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Michael V. Finazzo, BA '74, has been elected Emeritus Trustee of the Alumni Association. He is a consultant for the Employee Assistance Program of the United States Postal Service. William R. Harris, BA '74, has received an award of recognition at the United States Advertising Federation. He is a copartner with the firm of Caudle & Schubel.

David L. Bennett, BS '74, MA '72, has been appointed to the Village Council to fill a vacancy left by the resignation of a school board member.

Robert D. Steep, BS '74, has been elected treasurer of the Southwestern Michigan Association of Purchasing Management. He is with The Upjohn Co., Kalamazoo.

Rebecca Kiessel Shurtz, MSL '74, has been appointed director of the Kalamazoo Public Library. She will work in the Flint office.

Sarah W. Cline, BA '77, has been appointed to the City staff of Smith and Brooker. He will work in Saginaw office.

Sheila G. Williams, BS '74, has been appointed to the City staff of Smith and Brooker. He will work in Saginaw office.

Barbara Nagelwalski, BS '75, has been named director of urban strategies for the Michigan Department of Community Affairs. She is a member of the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek Economic Growth Corporation.

Lee L. Dyer, BS '74, MA '76, has been named director of the Sweet Tempest of the Michigan Restaurant Association. He is a member of the West Michigan chapter, American Marketing Assoc.

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Alumna is cited for her teaching ability

Mary Grace Cardwell Johnson, B.A. '84, has gone to the head of the English class—nationally.

Now a teacher at Detroit Country Day School, Johnson was selected last April as the “outstanding high school chemistry teacher in the State of Michigan” by the American Chemical Society. A Chemical and Engineering News article described her as a teacher who “implies vigor, interest, dedication, intelligence, and conscientiousness in her everyday teachings.”

Johnson cites numerous people at Western who assisted her in developing her career. “I’m most indebted to the late Dr. Lillian Meyer (a former chair of the chemistry department) for igniting my interest in this subject. It was she who enabled me to get a part-time job in the chemistry stockroom and who also encouraged me to apply to graduate school after finishing my undergraduate degree,” Johnson said. “After winning several awards in chemistry, I was given the opportunity to do summer research with Dr. Robert Anderson. This, along with the help and support of other faculty and graduate students, led to my decision to continue my interest in chemistry.”

“I still love the subject,” she added, “it’s a very versatile, exciting one to teach, and I’m glad to have the opportunity to give it the small impact on the next generation.”

Mary Cardwell Johnson

The Westerner, November 1987
Deaths

Prof. Ted Killy, a member of the Western faculty in education for eighteen years, died August 29 in Kalamazoo after a long illness. He was a graduate of Andrews University, a graduate of Michigan State University, and for four years was a member of the Kalamazoo Board of Education. He leaves two children, two grandchildren, and one brother.

Malvin "Dan" Maxwell, a Bronco basketball star from 1970 to 1981, drowned July 7 in Littlejohn Lake, Allegan County. He had been a bus driver for the Kalamazoo Public Schools. F. Craig Pond, director emeritus of nursing services, 1946-1966, died April 12 in Temple, AZ, where she had lived much of the time since her retirement.

1915-24

Mildred M. Snyder, TC '25, died July 16 in Kalamazoo. She taught in Three Rivers for forty-three years, retiring in 1958.

Edith Button Sargent, '18, died in Detroit. She leaves two sons and two granddaughters.

Marylou Beadle Richards, TC '20, died March 23 in Fenton.

Bob Weatlag Ingram, TC '21, died July 1 in Lansing. She leaves one daughter, four grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter.

May Fautler St. Clair, TC '21, died June 29 in Kalamazoo. She was a Richland teacher, and leaves two sons, seven grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and one great-great-granddaughter.

Florence Stowell Osborn Furchen, TC '22, died June 20 in Kalamazoo, where she had lived the past six years. She leaves her husband, Wilma Lee Furchen, TC '23, her daughter, four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Joe W. Lee, TC '22, died June 24 in Ossian, where he had been an industrial arts teacher for forty-six years in 1979 he was the highest award of the International Graphic Arts Education Association. He leaves his wife, Edna Sorvesen Armstrong, BA '32, two daughters, one stepdaughter, and one stepson.

Margaret McGinty Smith, TC '23, died July 17 in Grand Rapids. She was a teacher for varying periods between 1923 and 1966, retiring in 1987. She was a former president of the School Employees Credit Union of Kalamazoo.

1923-34

Mary Eleanor McKeown Silske, TC '25, died July 8 in Kalamazoo. She leaves her sister, Elizabeth McKeown Wilson, TC '28, and one brother.

Bernice Westover, TC '25, died July 25 in Grand Rapids. She was an elementary teacher until 1955. She leaves one brother.

Lloyd Nordine Wilde, TC '26, BA '58, died July 14 in Kalamazoo. He had taught for thirty-one years in 1973 as principal of the Kalamazoo school, which has since been named in his honor.

Lela Caroline Salser, TC '27, died July 21 in Paw Paw. She had taught principally in the Paw Paw area. She leaves her husband and two grandchildren.

Thomas H. Thomas, BA '31, died June 28 in Chicago, IL, where he had had a long association with the Baker Furniture Co. at the Merchandise Mart. He was a former principal of two Grand Rapids furniture associations. He leaves his wife, Ruth Edwards Wimbush, TC '30, and two sons.

1935-54

Emmanuel Lull, BA '41, died May 14 in West Bloomfield. He was president of the Manny Lull Co. and leaves one son, two grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Donald V. Dunson, BC '40, died July 18 in Grand Blanc, MI, after a long illness. He leaves his wife, two daughters, two grandchildren, and his mother.

Dr. Norman Weisbroth, BA '51, died July 9 in Lansing. He had served seventeen years as head of the Michigan Association of School Boards. He began his career in education as a teacher in Bridgeport, becoming an elementary principal before moving to Midland as principal. From 1952 to 1962 he was superintendent of the Niles Bruceville schools, and from 1968 to 1970, superintendent of the Grand Rapids schools. He was lauded as an "innovator and a highly skilled organizer in education schools." In 1985 he was elected to the Michigan Education Hall of Fame. He leaves his wife and three children.

1955-64

Alma Schreck Bennett, BS '59, died June 24 in Red City. She had been a teacher in Mendon, Henderson, and Big Rapids, until retiring in 1971. She leaves her husband, four daughters, two stepsons, sixteen grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren.

Marita Nightly Bond, BS '60, died June 5 in Zeeland. She was a former teacher in thirteen years, and leaves her husband.

Thomas L. Christiansen, MA '62, died May 11 in Detroit. He was a professor at Macom Community College and lived in Grene Pointe. He leaves his wife, two daughters, and three grandchildren.

Janet Plum VanErderen, BS '64, died July 19 in Waukesha. She leaves her husband, three children, her parents, a twin sister, Carolyn Phales Stokoe, BA '64, MA, '71, of Lindon, and two brothers.

1965-74

Dorothy Salome, MA '67, died April 27 in Amston, CT. She had retired in 1978 as a catalog librarian at the Kalamazoo Public Library. She leaves two sons, including Peter Kulas, BS '60, and five great-grandchildren.

David F. Hilbert, BS '68, died September 1 in Kalamazoo. He was a social worker at Geyphon Elementary. He leaves his wife, one daughter, three sons, six grandchildren, four sisters, and one brother.

Verna Soors Holcomb, BS '69, died July 21 in Kalamazoo. She was a former teacher at Kaleva and the American Microscopical Society, which he served in 1971 as president. Goodnight earned a bachelor's degree, his master's, and doctoral degrees from the University of Illinois. He taught at Purdue University, as well as at several colleges, before joining Western's faculty.

1975-84

Charles Baker, MA '75, died June 9 in Grand Haven where he was a teacher. He leaves one daughter, one son, and his mother.

Albert Colman, MPA '77, died May 25 in Fowler. He had retired last March as the Westener.

Ruth Luder Trues, BA '72, died of injuries August 2 when her bicycle was struck by a car in Kalamazoo. She headed the mathematics and science department at Noble Malverb School, Detroit. She left her parents, one great-grandmother, one sister, and one brother.

Alene Smidt, BS '74, BA '75, and his father-in-law, Calvin Meyers, were killed September 5 in Ottawa County when a car crossed the median and struck their pickup truck. Smidt was a teacher in the Kentwood schools' Youthwood Middle School.

Mayme Yoder Snyder, BS '58, MA '62; three grandchildren; her parents; two brothers; and two sisters.

1975-84

Detroit plane crash victims remembered

Two Western alumni died in the August 16 crash of a Southwest Airlines Flight 255, which minutes before had taken off from Detroit on its way to Arizona. Randy Hoffman, TC '82, had moved to Prescott, Arizona, in 1985 and worked in sales at a car dealership. Hoffman, twenty-five, had two leaves home to Saline to attend his family reunion and a friend's wedding.

Former Department of Biology chair dies

Clarence J. Goodnight, who retired in 1984 after nineteen years as a faculty member in the Department of Biology, died August 9 in Kalamazoo. He joined Western in 1965 and served as department chair for two years. He retired as a professor emeritus of biology.

Clarence Goodnight

Along with being the author of several textbooks on biology and zoology, he also wrote more than 200 papers. He remained active during his retirement, continuing his research on the opilionid fauna of Central America and his work with the state of Michigan monetary control director, and leaves her wife and three children.

Raymond F. Sorenson: Tennis Courts

Raymond F. Sorenson

Ray "Hop" Sorenson

Longtime tennis coach "Hop" Sorenson dead at seventy-nine

Longtime men's tennis coach Ray "Hop" Sorenson died August 22 at the age of eighty-one as a result of heart failure. Sorenson coached the Broncos from 1956 through 1972 and won fourteen Mid-American Conference championships, a league record for a coach in any sport. His squads won consecutive titles from 1954 through 1965. In the process, he coached forty-seven players who won MAC individual titles, including nine in the No. 1 singles flight, and twenty-three doubles teams which earned similar honors, including twelve at No. 1.

Under Sorenson's Western had a 168-6 dual match mark while facing ninety-six Big Ten and twenty-nine Southeastern Conference opponents. Three current coaches in the MAC—Western's Jack Vredevelt, Bowling Green State University's Bob Gill, and Eastern Michigan University's Bill Richards—played for Hop as undergraduates.

"I'll really miss a lot, not only because he was my coach but also a great friend who I saw on a weekly basis," Vredevelt said. "He always came to our matches and was our most loyal fan. The fact that he was well thought of by his former players is evidenced by the fact that many of them sent gifts to the Gary Athletic Fund in his memory."

A native of Elkhart, Indiana, Sorenson was a tennis star at Western (1930-32). He won two Michigan Intercollegiate doubles titles and was unbeaten in 1930 and 1931 single play. After graduation he returned to Elkhart to coach that city's high school squad for fourteen years, winning ten Northern Indiana titles.

In 1979, Sorenson was selected for membership in the WOU Athletic Hall of Fame. On June 19, 1982, the varsity tennis courts were named in his honor and the city of Kalamazoo designated the day Raymond F. "Hop" Sorenson Day.

Scholarship created in honor of Maher

A scholarship fund has been established in the name of Robert F. Maher, founder and first chair of the Department of Anthropology, who died in March. He worked as an industrial psychologist for Intel Corporation. He had spent the previous two weeks in Western Europe vacationing with his mother and brother before returning to Michigan to attend a wedding.

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