Western Michigan University Newsletter, April 1962

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CHANGE IN BUSINESS OFFICERS

MacDonald Retires, Wetnight Becomes Comptroller July 1

C. B. MacDonald, 39-year veteran of Western Michigan University administration and comptroller since 1948, will retire June 30, and President James W. Miller has named as his successor Robert B. Wetnight, currently head of the accounting department in the School of Business.

MacDonald is extremely well known in the city of Kalamazoo, as a college finance officer throughout the state, and as chairman of the athletic board of control through the Mid-American Conference, which organization he has also served as president.

Upon announcing the retirement, President Miller commented: "His integrity, his competence, his sensitivity to the nature and significance of the role of the faculty and the academic program on this campus and his sincere and persuasive manner in representing this University in fiscal matters have made him the "fiscal Mr. Chips" on this campus and in the state."

MacDonald joined the WMU staff in 1923, became manager of the Walwood Union and residence halls in 1938, and was advanced to comptroller in 1948. During his career he has had an intimate association with Western's three presidents, Dwight B. Waldo, Paul V. Sangren and Miller. Since 1955 he has served as chairman of the athletic board and has been faculty representative to the Mid-American Conference.

Wetnight came to the campus as a teacher of accounting in 1951, and became first head of the new accounting department of the School of Business in 1957. He was educated at the University of Toledo and is a certified public accountant in the State of Ohio.

He has also been very active in the National Association of Accountants, serving on its national committee in research planning, and is a past president of the Kalamazoo chapter.

Wetnight is married and has three daughters.
ROTC Now Offers Flight Training

Completion of a contract with the U. S. Army for an expansion of ROTC training at Western Michigan University to include pilot training for selected advanced students has been announced.

Under the agreement certain students will be permitted to enroll in the University’s existing flight training program in its department of engineering and technology, taking their work at the University’s facilities at the Kalamazoo municipal airport, including both ground school and flight instruction.

Upon graduation and entrance into active duty they will then be assigned to the Army’s aviation program.

Five students have already been selected for the program. They are: E. J. Parsons, Kalamazoo; Keith R. Knapp, Edwardsburg; Robert Creswell, Grand Rapids; R. P. Gunniman, Hamilton, and David Eldridge, Birmingham.

A study of Japanese-American relocation during and after World War II has won for Arnold Panitch, right, a $100 check from the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts and Letters. President James W. Miller presented the check, one of three awarded to college students across the state. Panitch did the work during the fall semester for Milton Brawer of the sociology faculty.

Roell Honored By Michigan Educators

Dr. Candace Roell has been honored “for her outstanding leadership and her notable contributions in the area of health, physical education, and recreation,” by the Michigan Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation.

Dr. Roell was for fourteen years a member of the Kalamazoo Public Schools staff, and is now head of the department of physical education for women at Western Michigan University, a position she assumed in 1957.

Miller on Committee

Appointment as a member of the advisory committee on the college housing program of the Community Facilities Commission, Housing and Home Finance Administration, has come to President James W. Miller.
Ecological Studies Aided by Addition of Fort Custer Area

A most significant addition has been made to the campus this spring in the licensing of 450 acres of land to the University by the Department of the Army. It is the Fort Custer Ecological Research Area, lying along the Kalamazoo river near Augusta, and to be used by faculty and students associated with the C. C. Adams Center for Ecological Studies.

As a part of the military reservation, yet away from the center of activities, it has long been neglected by people and thus has become the lair of the cottontail rabbit and the red fox, in addition to other small game. The first use, according to Dr. Thane S. Robinson, director of the Adams center, is for the scientific study of habitat preferences of game. Dr. Robinson describes the area as one-third second growth hardwood forest, with the remainder as dry uplands supporting grasses and low shrubs, with a few, small cattail marshes in low spots and along the Kalamazoo River. Most native plants and animals of Southwestern Michigan are to be found here.

"The wealth and diversity of plant and animal life make the area ideal for all types of field studies," says the WMU ecologist. "Owing to the fact that the research area has been for some years a part of a military reservation, it is quite undisturbed by man, and few visitors ever enter the area. Perhaps its most valuable aspect is that it allows for long-term field investigations which are not feasible on privately-owned land." It is accessible in all weather and its proximity to the campus makes it available to researchers at all times.

Varied types of land and plant conditions are included in the Fort Custer Ecological Area, now being used by the University. Second-growth hardwood forest, dry uplands, and marginal river land are all a part of the 450-acre preserve.
Accounting, Special Education Prime Areas
For Placement Interviews This Spring

Requests for accountants and special education teachers are engulfing the placement service at Western Michigan University, reports Vern E. Mabie, director of placement.

“If I had 150 seniors graduating this June with a major in accounting I could have them all placed in jobs within the month,” he states.

A like demand for seniors in special education—speech correctionists and teachers for the blind, mentally retarded, etc.,—are on the minds of all educational personnel specialists visiting the campus these days.

Mabie says that prospective employers have taken almost every available hour on the placement schedule, using all facilities that the University has available for interviewing students.

Business and industrial firms are looking for accountants and salesmen, mathematics and science students, in paper technology they want research and development men, technical representatives, and production supervisors.

Salaries for these people are up slightly over last year.

He adds, that in education the median salary paid to WMU graduates in 1961 was $4,500 and the average was $4,550. He predicts that this year the figures will be up from $50 to $100.

Other shortages in education are elementary teachers, librarians, English teachers, women’s physical education, mathematics and science.

Fellowships Offered

Two graduate fellowships for the preparation of leadership personnel in the education of the mentally retarded have been granted to Western Michigan University by the U. S. Office of Education, it is announced by Dr. Kristen D. Juul, director of special education.

These fellowships are for full-time graduate study and are awarded for one year each, beginning in September, 1962. The fellowships must be used to work towards a specific degree, professional diploma or official certification.

The stipend is $2,000, plus $400 for each dependent, and tuition and fees are included in the grant.

17th Century Translation

The first translation into English of a 17th century German novel, “Schelmuffsky,” has been completed by Dr. Wayne Wonderley, head of the language department.