Above: A dried-up canal, now strewn with abandoned boats, was a vain, last-ditch attempt by desperate fishermen to maintain a link with the dying Aral Sea's retreating shoreline. Some 11,000 square miles of former seabed like this area along the southern shore have become deserts of sand and salt. (Photo by David Turnley; Black Star © 1990, National Geographic Society.)

Right: This painting depicts the fishing port of Muynak in its heyday when the community supported 10,000 fishermen. Of former seabed like this area along the southern shore have become deserts of sand and salt. (Photo by David Turnley; Black Star © 1990, National Geographic Society.)

Left: Dr. Philip P. Micklin.

Dr. Philip P. Micklin's international reputation as a leading authority on one of the century's great ecological disasters has put his name and views on the pages of many of the world's leading newspapers. "It was a very academic interest that started my research on Soviet water management problems twenty-three years ago. I never dreamed that my work would attract such popular interest," Micklin says of the notoriety he has gained from his research involving the Soviet Union's ecologically devastated Aral Sea.

From the New York Times to the London Sunday Times, Micklin has enjoyed media visibility that does not usually come to an academic whose field is water resource management. He has even had to deal with distortions of his work when one of the most widely-read Soviet daily newspapers attacked him for allegedly supporting an unpopular water diversion project the paper claimed would destroy Russian culture. Micklin recalls that the first mention of the Aral Sea in his writing was part of his doctoral dissertation in 1969. While earning a doctorate in geography at the University of Washington at Seattle, he began research on Soviet water resource management that ultimately led him to the shores of the Aral in the Uzbek Republic.

Although the disaster progressed unknown to most of the world's scientists for twenty-five years, Soviet scientists have met regularly since the mid-1970s to

Continued on page 2

Imagine the shock of revisiting a favorite Lake Michigan resort after thirty years only to find that Lake Michigan is nowhere in sight. Then imagine being told that Lake Michigan is only half the size it used to be, and its shoreline is now nearly thirty miles away.

For someone visiting the Soviet Union's Aral Sea for the first time since 1960, that imagined scenario would be reality. Where the clear water and sandy beaches of the world's fourth largest lake once beckoned, only a salt desert remains. In the last three decades, the Aral Sea has lost 40 percent of its surface area, an amount equal

Continued on page 2

University presidents seek more higher education funds
Please turn to page 3

Alumni bring 'real world' to career-minded students
Please turn to page 7

Racers hope to make hay while the sun is shining
Please turn to page 12
to 11,000 square miles or half of Lake Michigan's surface area.

Dr. Philip Micklin, a professor of geography and an internationally recognized authority on the Aral Sea disaster, has been studying the "disappearing" lake since the 1970s as part of his interest in water diversion projects in arid regions. Last September Micklin lived every geographer's dream by taking part in a National Geographic expedition and assisting the magazine's editorial staff in documenting the Aral Sea's devastation.

"Nothing like this has ever happened in modern times," Micklin says of the devastation left by the Aral Sea disaster. "It is so important that we need to gather as much information as possible about the problem, and this was an opportunity to see what I had only been able to study from a distance."

Micklin, a longtime researcher in the area of Soviet water resource management, was invited to join the expedition with National Geographic assistant editor William Ellis and Detroit Free Press photographer David Turnley, a recent Pulitzer Prize winner. The trio, accompanied by a representative from the USSR's Novosti Press Agency, became the first foreigners allowed into what has been an official "closed zone." For Micklin it was an opportunity to visit an area he has studied and written about for years, but was never allowed to see.

A twenty-four-page National Geographic featuregraphically and poignantly depicted what he saw—evidence of an environmental catastrophe of unprecedented scope and impact.

Micklin notes that massive irrigation projects diverting the Aral Sea's rivers caused the inland sea to shrink and its minerals and salts to concentrate in the water that remains. The National Geographic in its February 1990 issue termed the result "the broken heart of Soviet Central Asia."

Once home to a thriving fishing industry, the sea today is so laden with salts that native fish species can't survive, and the area's economically depressed human inhabitants are hardly faring better. They live in an area that is now a desert of dry salt left behind in the wake of the sea's receding water.

The wind whips an estimated 43 million tons of this salt into the air each year. In fact, traces of it have been reported as far away as Detroit.

"Water quality, not water consumption, is the crucial issue in the Great Lakes," he says, arguing that industrial, municipal, and agricultural contaminants discharged into the lakes are taking a different but heavy toll.

"The real lesson to be learned from the Aral is that no large-scale interference with the environment should be undertaken without a clear, scientifically-based forecast of the long-term consequences," Micklin says. "You've got to be careful about not just what happens immediately, but what the long-term effects will be."

Micklin says these possible long-term effects must be looked at realistically. He points out that Soviet scientists were part of the extensive discussions about the further development of irrigation in the Aral Sea Basin that reduced inflow to the sea. The sea's demise was a distinct possibility all along and in some circles was viewed as a desirable trade-off. Micklin says some people even claimed the dried sea bed would make good crop land, he explains.

"What happened to the Aral was a clear case of cursory evaluation of the possible outcome and a tendency to ignore the critics and dismiss or trivialize the consequences," Micklin says. "Some of the research and planning agencies now raising the cry of alarm are the same ones that supported decisions that caused this disaster."

Micklin cites the Gorbachev era for bringing glasnost and a gradual realization that the help of the international scientific community would be necessary in the effort to save the Aral. These factors, along with six months of negotiations, led to

Micklin continued from page 1

discuss the growing problem. They even published data on the sea's continuing decline—usually phrased in terms that would avoid alarm. However, Micklin began picking up hints of the magnitude of the problem by reading summary reports of Aral conference proceedings and other reports appearing in Soviet scientific and technical journals.

"The Soviet and U.S. governments made every effort to keep anyone from sounding the alarm," Micklin says. "After Leonid Brezhnev died in 1982, fuller coverage of the disaster began to appear. But it is only within the last five to seven years that the full extent of the problem became clear."

Micklin, who both speaks and reads Russian, was instrumental in alerting the Western world to what was happening. Beginning in 1978, his research into the Aral's demise began appearing in professional journals. A 1988 Science magazine cover story about his findings attracted worldwide attention and was illustrated with a photo of the sea taken from the space shuttle Challenger in 1985.

Now that the Soviets have put up hold the water transport projects that were once the focus of Micklin's research, Micklin has shifted his attention to research on the Aral and the globally important problem of water management in arid regions.

Beginning this fall, he will take a year-long sabatical from teaching to pursue a collaborative research project with Soviet scientists and water management experts. They will investigate water management problems in arid regions like the Southwest United States and the Aral Sea basin.

Also scheduled for the fall is a return trip to the Aral—this time to attend an international symposium on the Aral crisis. Micklin is one of nine North American representatives invited to this one-week conference, which will center the expertise of the world's scientific community on the Aral problem.

—by Cheryl Roland

Continued from page 1

March 1990

Left: This stranded ship is one of the many now permanently anchored in the salt and sand left in the wake of the receding Aral Sea.

Below: Once larger than all but one of the Great Lakes, the Aral Sea has shrunk by 40 percent in the last three decades. The pink area shows the sea's shoreline in 1965, the yellow its shoreline in 1989, and the blue its projected shoreline in 2000. The lake has been devastated because of water being diverted from the two primary rivers that fed it.

continued on page 5
Lobbies for more higher education funds

Michigan's system of public higher education—still considered among the best in the nation—is at risk despite recent victories in enrollment, the state's public university presidents say.

In the last year alone, Michigan's rank among the fifty states slipped from twenty-sixth to thirty-second in state support per full-time student. The Presidents Council of State Universities of Michigan argues that the ranking must be higher if Michigan is to compete with other states in a global economy. For change to take place, however, the presidents council says higher education must become a higher priority in the state.

"We are pleading for a healthy and competitive university system in Michigan, which we feel is headed for trouble,' President Haenicke said.

Public support for higher education, but now the state ranks fourth in the nation in per-student funding, the public universities in Michigan had to increase tuition;' President Haenicke said.

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Research and Service Summary

**In laboratories and communities, Western is working for all of us**

Young women athletes 'dying to win'

Young women athletes strive to drive the perfect competitive body to make them more than athletic titles and trophies, researcher Dr. Kay Griffin says. It may be leading to severe health problems and even death. The assistant professor of health, physical education, and recreation reviewed some of the trends documented by researchers across the country who have examined female athletes in connection with eating disorders.

Griffin found that the incidence of eating disorders such as bulimia and anorexia nervosa is increasing among high school and college women athletes. In some sports these disorders affect a majority of competitors, she says, and the severest disorders are most often found in the highly successful competitors.

Pathogenic weight control methods, such as the use of vomiting, diet pills, laxatives, diuretics, and binging, affect about 30 percent of all female college athletes, compared to 17 percent of male college athletes, Griffin says.

**Science education unit gets two grants**

The Center for Science Education has received two grants totaling $30,000 from the National Science Foundation and Department of Education to help the state's public schools improve science education. The center has been awarded a $10,000 grant to build its new ScienceSMUP, a two-year-old Science Education in Michigan Schools project involving the cooperation of seven state colleges, universities, and public school districts. A second grant for $85,000 will fund continued efforts to extend the physics knowledge of middle school teachers through a national program called Operation Physics.

**Packaging efforts earn national award**

Dr. Robert M. Wygant, a professor of industrial engineering and director of the Institute of Technological Studies, has won a national poison prevention award for his three years of research into the packaging of child-resistant products that is easy for adults to open. He received the seventh annual "Protective Package of the Year" award from the Children's Hospital of Alabama and the Southeast Child Safety Institute.

The award, which is made to the corporation or individual, involves in the development of a new packaging concept which contributes to the safe sale, storage, and use of medication," honors his recent work with other WMU members of a research project for the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. This is only the second such award made to recognize contributions by an individual.

Not a sprawl shall fall — 747 Jumbo jet crashes, killing everyone on board. The next day hundreds die in a massive earthquake. Are these tragedies and countless others partly the work of God? Dr. Rudolph J. Siebert, a professor of religion, says tragic incidents can be caused by humans and nature, but they also might result from "divine intervention," meaning God's influence in allowing tragic events to occur. He refers to this divine intervention as the "theodicy problem" — the understanding of God's justice. But the world's religions, he notes, are full of contradictions regarding this justice. So, he says, religions are in a crisis because they are unable to give adequate answers to why catastrophes happen.

In search of God — Dr. Francis L. Gross, Jr., a professor of theology: From Critical Theory to Communicative Political Theology: Universal Solidarity. The death of his wife from cancer prompted him to write the book.

Scholar receives humanities fellowship

Dr. Ernst A. Breisach, a professor of history, has received a senior fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities to support his current sabbatical-year research on a generation of historians called "progressive historians."

Those scholars dominated historical thought during the early years of this century and their ideas still play a prominent role in the way American scholars view history. His study is being developed into a book that is scheduled for publication in late 1990.

Researcher consolidates school districts

According to research undertaken at WMU, reducing the number of school districts and buildings in Michigan could remove hundreds of administrative jobs from school payrolls, with the dollar savings used to increase the number of course offerings and educational opportunities for students.

William M. Johanns, M.A. '73, E.D.D. '89, a Battle Creek area educator, has finished constructing a model that defines what Michigan needs to do in order to go from 1,200 school districts to 350 in the next 15 years. Eighty-three percent of the state's school districts are one-for-one district systems — one for each county. Johanns believes Michigan legislators are on the right track with their stated intention to reduce the number of Michigan school districts from 536 to 250 or fewer, but he says those attempts may prove futile unless their decisions are based on research and a sound plan.

**Center evaluates science initiative**

The Evaluation Center has received a $50,674 award from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek to evaluate the impact of the foundation's new science education programming initiative. Dr. James R. Sanders, associate director of the center, is directing the evaluation activities as a part of fifteen science education projects around the state are examined. The projects are intended to upgrade elementary-level student and teacher training in science and technology areas.

**WMU team heads up statewide project**

If U.S. math students are to be number one in the world by the year 2000, the approach to teaching mathematics now used in elementary schools must drastically change, say two WMU professors who are heading up a statewide initiative to promote such change.

Dr. Robert A. Laing and Dr. Ruth Ann Meyer, both professors of mathematics and statistics, have received a nine-month, $145,004 grant from the Michigan Department of Education to develop instructional materials and lay the groundwork for forming a collaborative effort to enhance the mathematics teaching skills of elementary school teachers across the state.

The project is a cooperative effort by the Michigan Department of Education, the Michigan Council of Teachers of Mathematics, WMU, and school districts across the state.

**New institute focuses on service quality**

The goals of WMU's new Service Quality Institute are interdisciplinary research and assistance to Michigan's growing service industry. Under the direction of Dr. Linda M. Delene, a professor of marketing, the institute will draw upon the expertise of faculty members from across the University.

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Presidents' portraits paint a picture of WMU's continued evolution

The Board of Trustees and President Diether H. Haenicke honored two former Western Michigan University presidents recently in dedication ceremonies unveiling their official University portraits. Dr. James W. Miller, WMU's third president, was recognized in a dedication February 10 in Miller Auditorium, which was named for him, and Dr. John T. Bernhard, WMU's fourth president, was recognized in a similar dedication April 21 in the Bernhard Center, which was named for him.

Both of the ceremonies took place in buildings where the portraits will hang—the University's 3,500-seat auditorium and its campus center. Portraits of the University's first two presidents, Dwight B. Waldo and Dr. Paul V. Sanger, hang in places of honor in the buildings named for them. "This is a special opportunity to express our appreciation of and to President Emeritus Miller for his many contributions to this institution and higher education in Michigan, to our community, and to the state," the University's current president, Dr. Diether H. Haenicke said of the Miller ceremony.

In speaking about President Emeritus Bernhard, Haenicke noted that committee members chose, and service characterized his leadership. "During more than a decade of service, he both developed this University and sustained it. I am delighted that we have this opportunity to give him our thanks," Haenicke said.

Miller was president from 1963 to 1974. During this time the University experienced one of the most sustained periods of growth in its history. On-campus enrollment grew from 9,000 to 22,000 students, graduate programs increased in number, the first doctoral programs were offered, and more than $100 million was spent on thirty-seven major construction projects, including nine academic classroom buildings, Miller Auditorium, Shaw Theatre, and Lawson Ice Arena.

Miller, a political scientist by training, was controller of the state of Michigan for five years and then secretary to the Board of Trustees at Michigan State University before coming to WMU as president. He holds degrees from Amherst College and the University of Minnesota. He continued a lifelong pattern of public service while president, serving as a member of several local and state organizations. During the "Bernhard Years," between 1974 and 1985, the WMU Foundation was established; the University's first capital campaign, "Partners in Progress," was successfully completed; the arts flourished; relations with the larger community and business and industry were enhanced; the Dorothy U. Dalton Center was completed; and the John E. Fetzer Business Development Center was dedicated.

Bernhard also worked to preserve the University's academic core during one of the worst economic periods in Michigan's history—the recession of the early 1980s—and advanced the institution's affirmative action goals. He served WMU and higher education at local, state, national, and international levels and was a member of various other local organizations. Bernhard, who was president of Western Illinois University before coming to WMU, returned to teaching in 1985 as a professor of political science. He will retire this year.

Larry J. Blivits of Grand Rapids, an internationally recognized, award-winning portrait and landscape artist, painted the Miller and Bernhard portraits.

Alumni honored on the Wall of Distinction

Eight alumni are now being featured on the Wall of Distinction display in the lobby of the Seibert Administration Building. The wall highlights the accomplishments of Western Michigan University graduates in hopes of inspiring and encouraging current students. Alumni currently being honored are:

- Judy L. Brown, B.B.A. '76, tax supervisor, Dinovo Corporation, Nainform, Ohio.
- Dr. David B. Lennon, M.A. '81, unit director of behavior services, New Mexico High School Rehabilitation Center, Center Ospine, New Hampshire.
- Dean F. Haxley, B.S.E. '81, engineering manager, automotive connectors division, Aerquip Corporation, Jackson.
- Maric Mazzie, B.S. '82, actress/entertainer currently playing at the Arena Stage in Washington, D.C.
- Diana N. Cacatostinos, B.A. '88, freelance writer/journalist working in Detroit.
- Dean A. Rocheleau, B.B.A. '77, certified public accountant and partner, Plante and Moran, Southfield.

Honorary degree given

Renowned violinist Yehudi Menuhin, center, received an honorary doctor of fine arts degree from Western Michigan University March 2 for his outstanding work in the performing arts. The degree was conferred during a Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra concert, which Menuhin conducted. Congratulating him at a reception in his honor after the concert were President Diether H. Haenicke, right, and Masao Yoshimi Takeda, music director and conductor of the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, who received an honorary doctor of music degree from WMU in 1989. Menuhin spent this February and March in Kalamazoo through a residency arranged by Julius Sydor Auditions in conjunction with the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra and WMU's Bullock Music Performance Institute. Half a century ago, after his Carnegie Hall debut at age eleven, Menuhin is still active, dividing his time between concerts, lectures, and symposia in the United States and Europe. The founder of two music training schools in Europe, Menuhin in 1986 received the highest award the United States bestows on its performing artists, the Kennedy Center Honors.

THE ARAL

Continued from page 2

Now you sea it, now you don't

the National Geographic expedition being allowed into the Aral region.

Today, officials at the highest levels of the Soviet government say the disaster is occurring. Recently, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said the region's problem "has practically gone beyond the control of man. It is a zone of ecological calamity." Even now, with the Soviet government officially committed to saving the sea, the prospect for cutting the irrigation diversions and allowing the sea to be replenished by its source rivers is not good. Mckinl says that just to stabilize the sea at its current low level, the amount of irrigated land in its drainage basin would have to be cut by about 30 percent, leaving this basically agricultural region in economic chaos. To restore the sea to its former condition would require at least a 50 percent cut in irrigated land.

"I'm not very popular among some environmental and Russian nationalist circles in the Soviet Union for saying this," Mckinl admits, "but I don't think there is enough water there, no matter how carefully used, to supply all of the region's needs, particularly in light of the area's rapid population growth."
A plan for the future
Gifts of appreciated property are useful

If you're planning to make a significant gift to Western Michigan University or any other nonprofit or charitable organization, be sure to consider the advantages of giving highly-appreciated property, including stocks or other securities, as opposed to an outright gift of cash. Contributions of appreciated long-term capital-gain securities (such as stocks) and real property generate the most favorable tax benefits. In addition to receiving a charitable deduction for the full fair-market value of the gift, you can avoid any potential capital gains tax on the property given, and, in some cases, any sales commission that would apply to the sale of this property.

If you were to contribute securities with a current fair-market value of $10,000 for which you paid $1,000 several years ago, you would receive a tax deduction for the full $10,000 value of the securities (the same as a $10,000 gift of cash). You would also avoid paying capital gains tax on the $9,000 appreciated value of the securities. These same types of savings can apply to a gift of real property, such as a home or farm.

Other important points to consider include:
- Effective in 1988, the holding period for "long-term" treatment is a minimum of one year. In other words, you must have owned the property (stocks, real estate, and the like) for at least one year.
- If you elect to give securities, do not sell the securities first. If you do, you are making a gift of cash and will be subject to capital gains tax on the securities you sold. You should contact WMU's director of Planned Giving Services or the charity to which you wish to make the gift and ask about the best way to transfer the securities.
- For a relatively few individuals enjoying an unusually high income year, AMT (Alternative Minimum Tax) may apply and may diminish the tax savings indicated. It is always wise to seek professional tax advice regarding your particular tax situation.

For more information, write Kenneth J. DeVries, director of Planned Giving Services, at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49099-3855, or call him at (616) 387-6178 or toll free (800) 876-6178.

During the next year, WMU students will initially contact each alumni and alumna to request funding for the many important needs supported by the University's Campaign for Excellence.

Use this opportunity to talk with a Western student about your University. Remember that gift payments can be arranged to suit your needs. Please respond promptly when you are called. Total pledged to student callers so far...$1,600,000.

The Campaign for Excellence

Major gifts and pledges to continued excellence at Western Michigan University

Family of Jon Rood establishes endowed memorial scholarship

The WMU Foundation has received gifts totaling $22,000 to establish the Jon P. Rood Endowed Scholarship Fund in the Department of Biological Sciences. Gifts were received from Hazel Rood, Jon's widow; Margaret Clark, Jon's sister; and Josephine C. Rood, Jon's mother and the widow of Dr. Paul Rood, who served on the WMU faculty for forty-eight years until his retirement in 1964. Rood Hall is named in honor of Paul Rood, who joined the faculty in 1956 and was, at the time of his death in 1977, the longest tenured faculty member in the history of the University. Jon Rood, formerly with the Sveriges Research Institute in Tanzania, East Africa, died March 30, 1990.

Kalamazoo Gazette pledges $45,000 for Dwight B. Waldo Library improvements

Michigan's second-oldest newspaper and Southwest Michigan's largest daily, the Kalamazoo Gazette, has pledged $45,000 toward expanding and renovating Dwight B. Waldo Library. In recognition of this contribution, a room in the library will be named for the Gazette, which is a corporate member (associate) of The President's Club. Publisher George E. Avard, a member of the WMU Foundation Board of Directors, announced the gift.

Consolidated Papers Foundation pledges $5,000 more toward paper program

Consolidated Papers Foundation of Wisconsin has pledged $5,000 to the paper program. According to Helen J. Plahotnik, executive director of development, this amount represents the to-date response to the special appeal, which is still in progress. The total of all faculty and staff gifts and pledges to the campaign from all sources is far greater, she said.

Flint Ink Corporation contributes $25,000 to printing program

The Flint Ink Corporation of Detroit has given $25,000 to support the printing science and engineering program. The nation's third largest manufacturer of printing inks, Flint Ink has been headquartered in the Detroit area since its founding in 1920 by H. Howard Flint, Robert H. Flint, company chairperson and chief executive officer, and Howard H. Howard-Flint II, company president, is a member of the WMU Foundation Board of Directors.

Faculty couple establishes scholarship through life insurance donation

Two faculty members have donated a $500,000 life insurance policy to the WMU Foundation. The gift, given by Dr. Edward J. Heinig, a professor of education and professional development, and his wife, Dr. Ruth M. (Beall) Heinig, a professor of communication, will establish an endowed scholarship in their names. The Heinig Endowed Scholarship will be designated for full-time students enrolled in the College of Education's kindergarten through the twelfth-grade curriculum.

Edward Heinig joined the faculty in 1963. He received a bachelor of arts degree from Indiana State University and master of arts and doctoral degrees from the University of Michigan. Ruth Heinig joined the faculty in 1964. She received a bachelor of arts degree from Valparaiso University and master of arts and doctoral degrees from the University of Pittsburgh. The Heinigs of Kalamazoo are members of The President's Club.

Kalamazoo-based Stryker Corporation pledges $50,000 to capital program

The Stryker Corporation of Kalamazoo has made an unrestricted pledge of $50,000 through the WMU Foundation to the Campaign for Excellence. Stryker's medical and surgical divisions develop and manufacture specialized products, including powered surgical instruments, orthopedic implants, arthroscopic systems, and patient handling equipment, such as the "Stryker hospital bed," the company's original product.

John W. Brown, Stryker's president, announced his company's commitment to the campaign in a letter to William U. Parlet, campaign chairperson and WMU Foundation president.

Menasha Corporation pledges $50,000 to paper program

The Menasha Corporation of Neenah, Wisconsin, has pledged $50,000 to support the paper science and engineering program. Menasha is a producer of corrugated containers, wood fiber, paperboard, timber, plastics, machinists, and other products. It has about 3,500 employees in plants throughout the United States, including West Michigan.

Detroit businessman/alumnus pledges unrestricted $25,000 gift to campaign

Jay A. Fishman, B.B.A. '66, M.B.A. '71, a partner and president of Jay A. Fishman of Detroit, has made an unrestricted pledge of $25,000 to the Campaign for Excellence: An investment/financial analyst and consultant, Fishman has co-written several articles, as well as the book Corporations in Conflict. The Tender Offer. He is a former investment analyst for National Bank of Detroit and former vice president of Equity Management and Research. A member of The President's Club since 1977, Fishman is also a director of the WMU Foundation and a member of the WMU Academy of Volunteers. He served as co-chairperson of the Detroit area campaign for "Partner in Progress," the University's successful capital fund drive in the early 1980s.

Faculty and staff appeal garners $400,000 in gifts and pledges

In response to a campuswide appeal, faculty and staff members have already pledged or contributed more than $400,000 to the campaign. According to H. Howland, chairperson, executive director of development, this amount represents the to-date response to the special appeal, which is still in progress. The total of all faculty and staff gifts and pledges to the campaign from all sources is far greater, she said.

Honors College Library to be named for alumni couple

Marion (Dumond) B. '53, and her husband, Robert W. B.B.A. '53, Denison of Kalamazoo, have pledged $75,000 toward construction of the Lee Honors College building. The Denisons' gift will be used for the Honors College Library, which will be named in their honor.

Robert W. Denison is the former-owner, chairperson, chief executive officer and president of National Bank of Detroit. Public Enterprises in Kalamazoo. A certified public accountant, he was the chief financial officer of the W. J. Denison Management Company for eleven years prior to becoming president of Research Laboratories (1974-89). The Denisons are members of The President's Club and the WMU Alumni Association. Robert is a member of the WMU Foundation and a past president of the Alumni Association.

Simpson Paper Company pledges $50,000 to paper program

The Seattle, Washington-based Simpson Paper Company has committed $50,000 through the Simpson Paper Company Fund to assist the paper science and engineering program. Simpson is a leading U.S. producer of paper and paper products, including 100-percent recycled printing papers. The company has about 2,500 employees in plants throughout the United States, including West Michigan.

Kahler bequest provides for endowed humanities scholarship

James R. Kahler, Jr., a counselor at Loy Norrix High School in Kalamazoo, and his wife, Marjorie, a former Kalamazoo Public Schools teacher, will provide $1,000,000 from their estate to establish the Kahlers the James R. and Marjorie A. Spitters Kahler (endowed) Humanities Scholarship. Marjorie and James are both Western alumni and members of the President's Club. James earned a bachelor's degree in English and history in 1961 and a master's degree in counseling in 1971. Marjorie attended WMU but did not earn a degree from the University.

The Kahler Humanities Scholarship will provide for students majoring in English or history, with preference given to minority students with demonstrated financial need.
Dear Friends

Since making some major changes in the Westerner twelve months ago, the feedback from our readers has certainly been positive. As I have talked with many of you at reunions, homecoming, and regional events, you have complimented both the Westerner and our institution, we often find ourselves short of a communication channel, so we encourage you to share this news with your friends and former classmates. The entire Alumni Association and our faculty's dramatic increase in research activity and how this affects the quality of instruction. In addition, we have told you of the confidence alumni, corporations, and foundations have in WMU as demonstrated through their charitable gifts and through their willingness to give their time and energy to various Alumni Association sponsored programs.

Through the Westerner we want to share with you the excitement those of us on campus experience daily, as we witness first hand all of the tremendous things taking place. We know we have been successful in meeting this objective when we receive letters like the one from Julie Harris, which is printed on page 8.

I hope each of you experience, as Julie has, a great sense of pride and enthusiasm when you read what is happening at WMU. I hope too that you share the information with others, as Julie has.

Just as our readers get excited about what is happening on campus, I get excited as I proofread the Alumnotes section of WMU's Westerner, June 1990. It's a great way for us to keep in touch with our Westerners everywhere. And it's always interesting to hear what our alumni are up to these days.

Today's alumni help tomorrow's graduates prepare for careers

Western Michigan University's Career Allies Program brings students and professionals together, allowing tomorrow's leaders to get a first-hand view of life after graduation. By sharing their knowledge and job experiences, Career Allies help students make meaningful and satisfying career choices. This sharing takes place in a variety of ways, including campus visits, internships, part-time and summer employment, personal get-togethers, and telephone conversations.

Last year NBD-Kalamazoo Bank executive James McIntryre, B.B.A. '73, M.B.A. '77, was one of more than 87 students who participated in an internship program. McIntryre is president of Governmental Consultants Services in Lansing, a multi-client lobbying firm in Lansing.

"When the company calls on the skills and background necessary to work effectively in this environment," says Sendyk, "it could gain relevant work experience before graduating.

"We're pleased to be able to share this news with your friends and former classmates. The entire Alumni Association and the western that do."

"WMU's management program is very very good," Tim adds. "I have talked with people from Michigan State (University) and the University of Michigan programs, and they don't seem to have the wherewithal that we do."
Welcome graduates

A new tradition began April 28 during the 1990 winter commencement when current Alumni Association President Richard F. Chor- man presented congratulated graduates on their new status as Western Michigan University alumni. Chairman extended the graduates a one-year free membership in the Alumni Association.

MAIL BAG

'Prom night shows students have 'class'
Editor's note: The following is a letter to the editor from the Kalamazoo Gazette. It was written by Larry Rolfe of Vicksburg about the second annual "Senior Prom," sponsored by Draper-Siedschlag halls in conjunction with the Office of the Vice President for Student Services, Residence Hall Association, Office of Residence Hall Life, Western Student Association, Office of the Dean of Students, WMU Alumni Association, and Kalamazoo Jaycees.

March 21 the residents of Draper-Siedschlag halls hosted a senior citizen prom at the campus center for about 100 residents and nearly 100 students. These young people didn't appear in Reeboks, tattered jeans, and leather vests, but codgers.

With this description already you can see just how bad they appear in Reeboks, tattered jeans, and leather vests, but the real plum was meeting all those terrific people. If the type of young people we met are any indication of what our country's leaders will be like for the next forty years, I believe we are in mighty good hands.

Larry Rolfe, B.M. '50, M.A. '55

Let me tell you about my school
Editor's note: Julie Harris is a senior consultant for Andersen Consulting, a division of Arthur Andersen and Company in Chicago. A graduate of WMU's computer science program, Harris is assigned to Andersen's Manila, Philippines, office until late August.

A quick comment on the Westerner. It really makes me feel great to see the things that are going on at WMU. Sometimes I believe that Dr. Haenike is the president who is most likely to make real changes in this world.

All my co-workers, who come from Big Ten or Ivy League schools, needle me for attending a school which some of them have never heard of. They are quickly silenced when I rattled off all the things we were able to enjoy at WMU that they never have dreamed of: class size, actually being taught by professors in our freshman year, not being lost in the shuffle.

With the addition of the new business college building, I believe that WMU will soon be known to all (but still dearest to those who had the pleasure of actually attending).

Julie Harris, B.S. '86

Florida alumni gather.

More than 100 alumni and friends in Florida gathered together in four locations during February to meet with University President Dether H. Haenike and his wife, Carol. During each of the events, Haenike shared news about all of the exciting developments taking place on campus.

Top: White in Sarasota, Haenike, standing, visited with, starting at center and moving clockwise, Grace (Applin) Aron, B.S. '38, Frances "Pug" (Gibbs) King, T.C. '38, Robert King, B.S. '38, and G. Avery Aron, B.A. '34.

Bottom: At the alumni gathering in Naples, former Bronco football star Kelly Spielmaier, left; B.S. '88, a light end, chatted with Dr. and Mrs. Haenike.

Yearbooks available for sale

The WMU Alumni Association is pleased to announce that a limited number of Brown and Gold yearbooks representing various years are available for sale. Because copies are limited, orders will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. If you've lost your yearbook or never purchased one, you now have the chance to send for a book that will bring back memories of people, places, and events from your years on campus.


The cost of each book is $7 for Alumni Association members and $10 for non-members. Checks should be made payable to the WMU Alumni Association.

Celebrate Homecoming

Circle October 14 through 20 on your calendar and plan to attend the 1990 Homecoming celebration. This year's theme, "Here's Looking at WMU," focuses on the vast number of people affiliated with the University, in addition to the institution's continued growth and progress.

Don't miss the chance to visit with former classmates and professors and to get a first-hand view of how the campus has changed in the last few years. All alumni, friends, students, faculty, staff, and the greater Kalamazoo community are cordially invited to participate.

Registration forms will be mailed to Alumni Association members in August. Detailed information regarding planned activities will be announced in the September issue of the Westerner.

For more information about the 1990 Homecoming, call the McKee Alumni Center at (616) 387-6179.
1910-1950

Donald C. Weaver, B.S. '57, was named executive director of Worldwide Pharmaceutical Appliance of Companies, Amana, Company, Kalamazoo, MI.

February was named executive director of the Michigan Association for Adult and Continuing Education, Lansing, MI.

D. Robert Hellings, B.S. '77, is principal of Bellescore Middle School, Rockford, MI.

D. James McDowell, B.S. '82, B.S. '86, in January was promoted to senior vice president of the American Automobile Association, Kathleen, FL.

Nita Brummers Clark, B.S. '35, M.A. '79, is managing director, Gray Gift Shop, Plymouth, MI, retiring from WMU in January.

Robert E. Coppy, B.S. '35, in February was appointed controller and chief financial officer with Ramith Apparatus of Companies, Janesville, IA.

Donald L. Houtsman, B.S. '55, in February was named executive director of Worldwide Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Technology and offshore Operations for The United Pharmacists Board, Kalamazoo, MI.

MA '79, Michigan Association for Adult and Continuing Education, Lansing, MI. D. Robert Hellings, B.S. '77, is principal of Bellescore Middle School, Rockford, MI.

Ronald L. Houtman, Robert E. Copping, Richard Ross, Donald C. Weaver, BA '57, was Denotes WMU Alumni Association members. Denotes association nonmembers.

Elaine Bishop Evans, B.A. '92, in June, 1990, was elected chairman of the Board of Trustees of the University of Michigan. She is also a member of the University of Michigan Foundation.

Richard Evans, B.A. '92, is president of Evans Graphic Systems, Niles, MI.

Charles V. Foster, B.A. '70, is a member of the Research and Technology Institute of Comstock Construction Co., Kalamazoo, MI.

Linda Gilbert Wendt, B.M. '84, was named junior Achievement of South Central Michigan, Battle Creek, MI.

Zarina Sultanah Ahmed, B.S. '78, is a physical therapy consultant at the University of Michigan Hospital, Ann Arbor, MI.

Dale Cutler, B.S. '84, is named principal of Wilson Middle School, Brooklyn, MI.

David Damus, B.S. '74, M.S. '79, was named band director for Dearborn High School, Dearborn, MI.

L. Matthew Eick, B.A. '80, M.A. '84, was named principal of Lakeview Elementary School, Kalamazoo, MI.

Janet Oseman, B.A. '80, is an assistant professor of professional practice at Montevallo University.

Gerald Kantowski, B.M. '81, was named a materials manager for Fiskars Manufacturing Inc., Detroit, MI.

Gary W. Woods
1974-1975

Jerry Blaisdell, B.B.A. '74, in January was named president of the Foundation Department of First of America Computer Services, Kalamazoo, MI.

J. Francois Brands, B.B.A. '73, was appointed controller of retail banking at FMB-Lumbermen's Bank, Kalamazoo, MI.

Lloyd "Bud" Kraft, Jr., B.S. '74, in March was named president of Design Division of the Michigan Development Association, Lansing, MI.

Gloria Lewis, B.A. '74, M.S. '92, was named assistant principal at High School, Desert Springs, CA.

Bob Montgomery, B.B.A. '74, in January was named second vice president of Cambridge High School, Cambridge, MA.

Michael C. Muskie, B.A. '62, was an assistant professor of developmental biology at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.

Donald A. McDermott, B.S. '73, in March was principal of Michigan Western Saltzman, MI.

D. Jean Tessier, B.A. '73, is head basketball coach at Edwardsburg High School, Edwardsburg, MI.

David VanderMolen, B.S. '73, was selected for membership in the 1990 Who's Who in Manufacturing, VanderMolen is an engineering specialist in the Engineering and Safety Department of the National Voluteer. Corporation, Elkhart, IN.

Larry Wood, B.S. '72, received a degree in the Air Force Processing Evaluation Activity, Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, OH.

Jon Tens, B.A. '73, was re-elected to participate in a major directed exhibition, sponsored by the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA.

Kevon Barr, B.S. '73, is a writer and producer of "Crossfire," a series of radio talks which are syndicated across the United States.

Douglas Brady

Justice and Family Services at Kent State University, Kent, OH.

Zionah A. Abayo, B.S. '78, of Tiller is the company's southern regional manager.

Brian Tiller is the company's southern regional manager.

Bobby F. Hoffman, B.B.A. '77, is counselor at Muskegon High School, Muskegon, MI.

James E. Menzie, B.S. '67, M.S. '70, was named executive director of the National Treasury Employees Union, Alexandria, VA.

Julie C. Beckham, B.A. '87, has been named executive director of The Prudential in recent years to management.

Larry Deane, B.A. '87, is an assistant professor of law enforcement at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.

Peter T. Dunic, B.A. '87, was named director of planning at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.

Richard Ross, B.A. '87, is a member of the Research and Technology Institute of Comstock Construction Company, Hastings, MI.

Deane L. Cottrell, B.A. '87, was named executive director of corporate and community services at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI.

L. Matthew Eick, B.A. '80, M.A. '84, was named principal of Lakeview Elementary School, Kalamazoo, MI.

Joseph T. Pellerin, B.A. '87, was named director of reading at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.

Sharon M. Ford, B.A. '87, is director of employee development at Delton Kellogg, Delton, MI.

Dorothy Lakey, B.A. '87, was named executive director of the Michigan Association for Adult and Continuing Education, Lansing, MI.

Gary N. Waters, B.S. '87, was recently recognized as a "Mobay Master" sales winner by the Mobay Corporation. Bauer USA Company Tiller is the company's southern regional sales representative.

Gary H. Waters, B.S. '87, is a manufacturing/materials management implement for Johnon Con- Aventis Automotive Systems, Lexington, KY.

Douglas Brady

Joseph Choma, B.S. '78, was recently promoted to vice president and general manager of Technical Services Department at the Michigan Independent Newsfield, Ann Arbor, MI.

Sandy Dollarhout, B.S. '77, M.S. '84, was recently named principal of Negaunee High School, Negaunee, Michigan, Michigan.
Denotes WMU Alumni Association member.

More graduates become life members of the WMU Alumni Association

Denotes alumni of the WMU Alumni Association.

Denotes nonmembers.

Kirkland Clark

More graduates become life members of the WMU Alumni Association

Denotes alumni of the WMU Alumni Association.

Denotes nonmembers.

Kirkland Clark
now an equality appraiser for Oakland County in Pontiac, MI.

Terry L. Miller, BBA '09, is now teaching fifth grade at Wafer Elementary School, Portage, MI.

Bob Omladet, BBA '09, is now teaching third grade in the Union City Schools, Union City, MI.

William Rix, BS '99, has been hired as systems and software spe-

cialist at SBC Lankowskas, Kalamazoo, MI.

Victoria Rolfe, BS '99, is now teaching third grade in the Constantine Public Schools, Constantine, MI.

Lisa Deren Skeen, BS '99, is a programmer/analyst for the Michigan Corporation for Electric and Gas Companies, Lansing, MI.

Jeffery J. Springhorn, BS '92, has accepted a position with Cooper Lebrun, Chicago, IL.

Kimberly A. Talbott, BS '99, has accepted the sixth grade math position at Mount Vernon, Mount Vernon, IN.

Janet A. Silently-Vocars, BS '99, has been appointed at the Kalamazoo Community Schools, Kalamazoo, MI.

S. Linda Leo, BA '99, is now teaching art language at Gull Lake High School, Colon, MI.

Pat Eby McCoy, BS '99, has been married and is teaching English at

Gull Lake High School, Colon, MI.

Dave Goldbaum, a former student, has been hired as a photojournalist.

Rita P. Contos, BS '89, has been accepted as a graduate student at the University of Michigan's School of Nursing.

Pam Eby McCoy, BS '99, has been married.

Linda E. Hahn, BS '99, is now a sales representative for the American Home Foods, Kalamazoo, MI.

Remington A. West, BS '99, is now a sales representative for Coldwell Banker, Kalamazoo, MI.
Many sponsors have donated materials they're trying to represent GM at the World Solar Challenge in Australia—a competitive in a long-distance race this summer.

in November

more at the Jordan College Energy Institute in Grand

engineering and Applied Sciences. It's a

for proposals covering how they might design and build a solar-powered car.

became involved in the project when it contacted batteries that store this energy.

such institutions as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford University, and the University of

THE WESTERNER, JUNE 1990

As of mid-April, Schubert estimated almost 200,000 work hours had gone into the project, with the overall number of students involved at any given time ranging from 60 to 120. The initial proposal alone required nearly a dozen students writing "practically non-stop" from October 1988 to February 1989.

Once the proposal was approved, teams of students began designing the car, which runs on both direct sunlight and the power stored in its batteries. Schubert expects an average, sunny-day speed of forty miles per hour without tapping the batteries.

"We have to watch out and not drain the battery too much," Schubert says. "A typical silver-zinc battery only has about thirty to fifty total discharge cycles, so if you drain it too much in any one day, it's gone. And there's a big penalty for changing batteries. That's why the six drivers we select will have particularly light feet."

The student coordinator for the project is Jeffrey S. Bordner of Orontville, Michigan, a senior majoring in aircraft engineering. Bordner says WMU has supported the project in a number of ways.

"Some of the students have been allowed to fulfill the requirements of their senior design project through Sunseeker," he says. "Others are working on it as a design elective. Credit has also been granted for various independent study classes."

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The project has been beneficial in non-academic ways as well, Bordner says. "We're learning how to work as a team as we would in any major corporation. Many times, the first job you get as an engineer is working on or designing something very simple—like a bearing—for some large-scale project of which you have little or no concept. What this project has given us is the broad picture—how a mechanical design change affects the technical guys, and so forth."

Bordner also likes the extra hands that experience the project offers. "It involves everything from design to machine work to construction to testing to racing. The computer experience is a definite plus. Everybody works on computers nowadays. If you don't know how to do finite element analysis on a computer, you're lost. If you don't know basic CAD (computer-aided design) work, you're lost. All in all, it's been a very enjoyable experience."

Designing and building WMU's car, called Sunseeker, involved nearly every department in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences. It's a completely student-run project, from design to construction, with members of the faculty working solely as advisers.

"Western became involved in the same way that the other schools did," says Richard C. Schubert, an associate professor of mechanical engineering and a faculty coordinator for the project. "In December 1988, GM sent out requests to about three thousand universities and colleges asking for proposals covering how they might design and build a solar-powered car. Sixty-five proposals were eventually submitted. Out of these, thirty-two were accepted, and Western's was one of those. That in itself is quite a coup."

Schubert says the Jordan College Energy Institute became involved in the project when it contacted the Sunseeker team, saying it is incapable of building a car, but is knowledgeable about the photovoltaic cells that convert sunlight directly into usable energy and the specialized batteries that store this energy.

"They also said they were knowledgeable about fundraising," Schubert continues, "probably the single most important aspect of this project. You won't be competitive if you're limited by funds, and right now, we're working with a budget of approximately $40,000."

WMU is handling the chassis, motor, drive train, and aerodynamic body design. Together with Jordan, they hope to compete successfully against teams from such institutions as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford University, and the University of Michigan, which is the only other Michigan competitor. Several major contributors have assisted the project so far with both cash and materials, including Welch's in Concord, Massachusetts; Plascore in Zeeland, Consumers Power Company in Jackson; and the Kellogg Company in Battle Creek.

Seizing the moment, Shaleasa Edwards, a sophomore from Detroit majoring in mechanical engineering, and Richard C. Schubert, an associate professor of mechanical engineering and Sunseeker faculty coordinator, evaluate a prototype of the car's front suspension. The event itself seems

"It's probably the single most important aspect of this project," he notes. "If you don't know how to do finite element analysis on a computer, you're lost. If you don't know basic CAD (computer-aided design) work, you're lost. All in all, it's been a very enjoyable experience."

Jill W. Anderson, the student funding coordinator and an Ann Arbor native, agrees. "It's been a wonderful project to be a part of," says Anderson, a graduate student in the marketing program. "It has opened my eyes to any number of environmental issues. It never occurred to me that there might actually be solar-powered cars!"

That's one of the major reasons behind the race, she says. "This project, this race, demonstrates the feasibility of solar power as an alternative form of energy. In fact, we've committed to participating in a parade (sponsored by the New York Municipal Arts Society) with some of the other schools. It starts from New York City (July 29) and ends in Washington, D.C. (August 4). We plan to park our cars at the steps of the capital building in an attempt to show our politicians that alternative forms of energy can be effective."

Sunseeker will also be touring with Consumers Power's Energy Van after the race and will be on display at a series of county fairs throughout this fall. Finally, it will be on permanent display at Kohran Hall on campus. The team is encouraging alumni to come by and see it. "Students aren't the only ones who are gaining something of value from this project," Anderson says. "Western stands to gain a lot of national recognition from it, too. The publicity this race will generate is virtually unknown—an eleven-day race, press stops every day—GM won't let it go without getting it on the news every evening. If we're at the front of the pack, so much the better. Everyone connected with the project feels WMU's chances of winning are good. From what we've heard," Bordner says, "we're one of the schools to beat. We're using a variety of state-of-the-art materials, especially in the body construction. Many sponsors have donated materials they're trying to develop themselves—stuff that's not available on the market today."

However, Schubert says the design teams are also trying to keep the vehicle as simple and as reliable as possible and still be competitive. "The more intricate parts you have, the less reliability; he says. "It's going to be an endurance race on mostly secondary roads—lots of hills, stops and starts, chuckholes. The team with the most reliable car, the best driving techniques, and the best strategy will win. We think we've got it covered."

—by B.W. Ambrose, B.A. '85