VENTURES IN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

30 Students to Spend Summer in Japan and India

Two groups will leave the Western Michigan campus this summer bound for educational experiences abroad.

As in each three years since 1951, the European Study Seminar will leave in early June for Oxford University in England under the direction of Drs. Leonard C. Kercher and Russell H. Seibert. In their 10 weeks of travel they will spend about half of the time in the British Isles and the remainder in travel from Scandinavia to Italy.

A fascinating new program for the summer of 1963 offers 30 students study opportunities in Japan and India. A grant of $65,000 from the U.S. Department of State makes this venture in international education possible, and forms an extension of the work in progress on the campus in the last three years under the Institute of Regional Studies.

Both undergraduate and graduate students of excellent academic standing will be selected for this unique experience. Leaving Kalamazoo in mid-June, the group will spend two weeks in Japan and then move on to India for seven weeks of study of Indian Civilization.

Accompanying the group will be Dr. Samuel I. Clark, director of honors and a political scientist who has spent considerable time both in Japan and India, and Dr. Cornelius Loew, head of the department of philosophy and religion and this year acting dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Students will come home from India via Africa and Europe, thus completing their circumnavigation, and for a slight extra cost can take advantage of the opportunity for further travel. It is expected that the personal cost to each student will not exceed $400.

Dr. Clark has gone to India now to make preparations there for the summer's work.

Dr. Clark points out that high scholarship will be the major requirement for admission to this unusual program, with selection of the participants to be made early in the spring semester.

This program is another manifestation of the growing interest in and activities of Western Michigan University in international educational work. Western's association with Nigerian educational development continues through the Agency for International Development.
A hundred or so Western Michigan University undergraduates may not really be aware of it—but they are experiencing this year the opportunity of “sitting at the feet” of one of the nation’s foremost historians in the person of Dr. Avery Craven.

(Undergraduates seldom develop the art of “learning” the professor, as well as the subject matter at hand.)

Dr. Craven is a member of the faculty this year only as a visiting professor of history, having retired three years ago from the University of Chicago where he began his distinguished work in 1928.

He is probably one of the top three experts in the nation on the Civil War. He is one of the original members of the Civil War Centennial Commission and is on the Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission in Illinois. His services as a lecturer are continually in demand from coast to coast.

Next April Dr. Craven will receive a signal honor among historians as he assumes the presidency of the Mississippi Valley Historical Society, the most important national historical organization, except for the American Historical Association. He has previously served as president of the Southern Historical Association and the Agricultural History Society.

To spend an hour with Dr. Craven is a treat and an experience. His discussion of American history is fascinating, and his concern with present day events, backgrounded with an amazing insight into the past, makes listening to him a thrilling experience.

Aside from his teaching here, and Dr. Craven says it is the first time in 20 years that he has worked with undergraduate students, he finds some time to continue his writing.

A scholar and a most able writer, he has already authored 13 books and is presently under contract for a book covering the period of 1815 to 1860 in a study of reactions to the industrial revolution in the Northern United States. He says no scholar can really only work on one book at a time, so he is also dabbling in the beginnings of another book on the background of the Republican party.

But the teaching schedule he now has leaves little time for writing, so he tries to work each Friday on his book. Like many authors, he quickly points out that one hopes to produce one or two finished pages from each 25 pages written.

He has already given one formal lecture on the campus, an intriguing discussion of the opposing forces present in the land in 1860, and the likenesses which they had.

Dr. Craven says that he is rather demanding of his students this year in their outside reading assignments, as he firmly believes “Anyone coming out of college without a love of reading is not educated.”

Dr. Craven tells of an interesting discussion held recently by him and Bruce Catton, noted Civil War author, at a meeting of the Civil War Centennial Commission. Catton opened the discussion with the statement that had Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois been elected president in 1856 the Civil War would have been avoided. Craven holds that Douglas might have been able to save the Union in 1852, but that by 1856 events had moved too far to avoid a conflict.

“A solution to the Civil War was possible until the 1850’s, but then men became too far committed to their viewpoints of right and wrong to submit to a peaceful solution,” says Craven. The best time to have avoided the Civil War was in the 1830’s, when Virginia came within about five votes of outlawing slavery, and at a time when indemnities for slaves might have wiped out slavery in Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland and Virginia. Lincoln later proposed this method of easing the economic loss to the South in its slaves, although 90 per cent of the Southerners in 1860 were not slaveholders.

Craven calls his best book The Coming of the Civil War, which was a selection of the Civil War Book Club upon publication. He also thinks that his work on Edmund Ruffin may stand the test of time. One of the more interesting works in a small book, Civil War in the Making, 1815-1860, which came from a series of Fleming lectures which he gave at Louisiana State University. He had given another series of lectures in the same series 20 years earlier, which were also published.

Dr. Craven is a historian full of his subject—not just names and dates, but perceptive analyses of the causes for the background of events, and with that fine ability to relate these factors to events of the day. His presence on the Western campus is an inspiration to the faculty and a most stimulating experience to those students who have an opportunity to work closely with him.

Carl B. Snow, director of the WMU audio-visual center, is the new president of the Michigan Audio-Visual Association.
New Campus Language—The Staccato of the Computer

Computers talk the language of the future—and Western Michigan University students are being given an opportunity this year for the first time to learn and use this new device.

Already in the field of business the computer, with its ability to provide answers to complex problems in a hurry, has been widely accepted and almost daily new applications for its use are being found.

With the opening of Wood Hall, new $3,500,000 natural science building, space became available for the installation of a computer, and with careful planning and help from the National Science Foundation, it was possible to put into operation a 1620 International Business Machines computer. Jack Meagher of the mathematics faculty had already had considerable experience with computers and heads the new computer center.

It has been simply stated that the function of a computer is to consider and relate all given factors in a problem. It balances resources against need and matches them against what has happened in the past.

On the aspect of memory, Western’s computer has a magnetic core storage with 20,000 positions, and an additional storage unit is linked to the computer with an additional 20,000 storage positions.

Computers can simulate a space-man in orbit or plan strategy in business. They can work out mathematics problems in seconds or minutes that might take a man a year or more. They can introduce variables and give new ranges of answers that would not be possible to obtain without great extra effort if done by hand.

“The computer opens a wide range of possibilities for establishing data of value to industry and business, to science and research, and their work today affects everyone in the United States,” says Meagher.

The four basic elements of the computer are input, memory, processing and output.

When the computer has been instructed as to how to work a given problem, it proceeds to accept and evaluate the information given it and to return answers at unbelievable speeds. Instructing the computer, or programming, is a complicated procedure which must be learned, and which is being taught to WMU students in mathematics course 506, “Programming for Computers,” which now has 10 students. Upon completing this, students may go to a second semester of work, “Numerical Analysis.” The School of Business offers three related courses, “Integrated Data Processing,” “Introduction to Management Science” and “Electronic Data Processing Seminar.”

Information can be given to Western’s computer either by the familiar punched cards or through an electric typewriter. The cards are much preferable, as they are faster to feed in, and the information given by the computer can be punched into cards much faster at the conclusion of the problem.

It has been predicted that within the next few years industry alone will need from 30,000 to 40,000 programmers for its computer operations. One of the nation’s major advertising agencies has recently completed a computer installation to handle all of its buying of time for radio advertising.

The WMU installation marks the third such computer in operation in Kalamazoo, two others being at the Upjohn Company. Other campuses

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**Two Author Articles for New Encyclopedia Edition**

Two members of the WMU faculty are among the new contributors to the 1962 edition of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*.

They are Willis F. Dunbar, professor of history, author of the article *Kalamazoo*, and Edward O. Elsasser, assistant professor of history, who wrote *Benton Harbor* and *Saint Joseph*. In each article the authors summarize the history of the city and provide up-to-date information about its commerce, industry and population.

**Computer Center**

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in Michigan with computers in operation are the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Wayne State University, University of Detroit, and Michigan College of Mining and Technology.

Western's computer is available on a rental basis to local agencies and firms which can use its services. During the fall semester a seminar for more than 50 faculty members was conducted on computer programming and a second seminar is planned in March.

Already several research projects on the campus have made use of the computer and greater use is expected in the future, says Meagher.

Miss Helen M. Martin, a former Michigan geologist, is shown at left as she presented recently to Western's department of geography and geology her extensive collection of books and other materials in Michigan geology. A Lansing resident and longtime associate of the Michigan Geological Survey, she made the gift to Western, seeking a repository where her books would be used by students. Dr. William R. Brueneheimer, head of the department, and Dr. Lloyd Schmaltz, WMU geologist, accepted the gift for the University and reported its value at many thousands of dollars.

Dr. Philip Denenfeld, associate professor of English and president of the WMU Faculty Senate, has been appointed to the advisory committee of the Michigan Public Employes Retirement Board.