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University completes $62 million fund-raising campaign

On September 25 Western Michigan University successfully concluded its Campaign for Excellence, the most ambitious fund-raising effort in the University's history.

In January 1988, the planned six-year campaign finished fifteen months ahead of schedule and more than thirteen percent above its original $55 million goal.

"This is a great success for our University and for the WMU Foundation," President Diether H. Haenicke said.

"Thanks to the many generous friends and loyal alumni of Western, we were able to conclude the campaign in less than five years with a total of $62,485,257."

Among the campaign's most visible benefits are two new campus buildings, the Lee Honors College and the Haworth College of Business building, and a dramatically renovated and expanded Waldo Library.

The entire cost of the honors building and forty percent of the cost of the business building were paid for with private gifts.

"The Lee Honors College and Haworth College of Business both have new homes, replacing very old and inadequate facilities with attractive and functional buildings that will serve these programs well into the next century," Haenicke said.

Waldo Library, now connected to the one-year-old University Computing Center, looks like a completely new building. With more than 2.4 million items, WMU's library collection is the fifth largest in Michigan and the largest of any library on the west side of the state.

"This is a tremendous resource not only for our students and faculty, but for the entire region," Haenicke said. "During the campaign, we expanded our main library by nearly seventy percent and renovated the entire building. It is, for all practical purposes, a completely new library. While private contributions accounted for only ten percent of the total funds needed, that ten percent provided the critical difference in making ours a first-class, modern library."

Some of the money raised during the Campaign for Excellence will be used this year to start another construction project, a much-needed addition to Shaw Theatre.

Widely regarded as one of the best undergraduate theatre programs in the nation, enrollment in the Department of Theatre at WMU has quintupled since Shaw was completed in 1967. To date $3 million has been raised for the addition through the generous support of the Irving Gilmore Foundation and many other arts supporters.

"These four building projects are the most visible benefits of the Campaign for Excellence, but only about one-fifth of the monies raised in the campaign went to bricks and mortar," Haenicke said.

Excluding the capital building projects, WMU's college and academic departments received nearly $17 million, including about $7 million in gifts and $10 million in private grants. These funds have supported and will support a wide variety of programs and equipment purchases, making a significant difference in the quality of the educational experience offered at WMU.

New deferred gift commitments of more than $12 million were received, and many of these are designated to support scholarship endowments in the future.

Scholarships and student financial aid received $3.9 million, including $2.3 million to support scholarship endowments.

Intercollegiate athletics received more than $2 million, with most of the contributions coming through the Mike Gary Athletic Fund.

The figure includes significant gifts that support several recently-completed projects, such as the new track and field building at Kalamazoo Track.

The library system received $3.4 million for additions to its collections and for other program support.

Public radio station WMUK received more than $1.2 million, including some large gifts to support construction of a new transmitter.

A federal grant to Western Michigan University for nearly $6 million—the largest grant in WMU history—is funding a five-year, multi-university effort to completely revamp high school mathematics and the way it is taught in the United States.

"I can envision mathematics classrooms in which youngsters seldom or never ask, 'Why do we have to learn this?''" said Dr. Christian R. Hirsch, the WMU mathematician and statistics professor who is co-directing the project. "Classrooms will become communities where students spend time collaborating, working on interesting and challenging problems in small cooperative teams. Learning will be in the context of making sense of the world in which they live."

The curriculum initiative, dubbed the Core-Plus Mathematics Project, is housed on the WMU campus and managed from WMU. It is a joint undertaking of teams from WMU, the University of Michigan, the Ohio State University, the University of Maryland, and the University of Iowa. Dr. Arthur F. Coxford, Jr., professor of mathematics education at the University of Michigan, is the other co-director.

"A grant of this magnitude and significance recognizes our University's lead role in addressing the nation's education needs," President Diether H. Haenicke said. "It reflects the growing national reputation of our mathematics education faculty and allows them to build on years of experience in finding new ways to meet the changing demands of both the workplace and the college classroom."

The Core-Plus Mathematics Project is the second major federally-funded education reform effort to be based at WMU. In October 1990, the U.S. Department of Education awarded $5.2 million over five years to fund the Center for Educational Accountability and Teacher Evaluation. It is serving as a focal point for U.S. efforts to

Largest grant in WMU's history

WMU receives $6 million to spearhead U.S. effort to reshape mathematics in nation's high schools

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(Continued on page 3)
Campaign leadership shines

Two distinguished businessmen headed the WMU Foundation throughout the planning, implementation, and successful completion of the Campaign for Excellence. William A. "Bill" Brown, B.S. ’53, left, chaired the foundation from 1986 to 1989, while William U. Parfet chaired the foundation from 1989 to 1992. Brown is chairman and chief executive officer of Rubloff, Incorporated, a national real estate firm based in Chicago. He has previously been recognized with the Alumni Association’s Distinguished Alumni Award and with the WMU Foundation’s Volunteer of the Year award. Parfet, president of the Upjohn Company in Kalamazoo, served as chair of the Campaign for Excellence. Later this year he will be recognized for his extensive service to the University and to the Kalamazoo area community when WMU presents him with an honorary doctorate.

Campaign construction vital

Above: The dramatic expansion and renovation of Waldo Library began April 21, 1989, and ended April 24, 1992, with dedication ceremonies. The building, situated to the right of the clock tower in this view, was expanded from 145,000 to 250,000 square feet and cost $19.3 million. More than $1.6 million was raised through the Campaign for Excellence.

Inset photo: The William Harold Upjohn Rotunda, which serves as the main entry for the updated library, was made possible by a gift from Mary U. Mosher of Kalamazoo.

Left: High-technology classrooms like these are one feature of the new 181,000-square-foot building housing the Haworth College of Business. Dedicated October 11, 1991, it consolidates all the University’s business programs into one modern facility.

Left: Ground was broken for the Lee Honors College on April 27, 1989. The 8,400 square-foot building is the home for WMU’s highly-regarded honors program, which serves more than 800 undergraduates. The building and college are named for Carl and Winifred Lee of Kalamazoo, who contributed $600,000 of the $1.3 million project costs. The entire project was funded with gifts raised through the Campaign for Excellence. The building was dedicated October 12, 1992.

University, because many of the largest gifts from individuals come through deferred gift commitments, such as naming the WMU Foundation as a beneficiary in a will," Moskovsk said.

"We’re grateful for the support of our donors," he added. "With your continued help, the WMU Foundation and Western Michigan University will continue to establish new records of excellence of which we may all be proud."
Now that the largest capital campaign in Western Michigan University's history has concluded, the Board of Trustees has granted President Diether H. Haenicke a "mini-sabbatical" to help re-energize the institution and better position it to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century.

Haenicke requested October 5 that he free himself from some routine and ceremonial duties and use the next two and a half months to concentrate on internal affairs at the University and on setting the course for keeping WMU progressive and healthy in the wake of its successful Campaign for Excellence.

"I have been in the harness at this University for seven years, and I think that during the last seven years I have devoted an enormous amount of time to the campaign, I personally consider the conclusion of the campaign for Excellence and the results of the campaign one of the greatest accomplishments in my professional career in administration," Haenicke said.

"Very substantial effort in those years has gone to dealing with controversial issues, not only in the institution but to achieve necessary change," he added. "It is, therefore, my intent to devote a concentrated period during the next several months to the inside affairs of the University."

Strategy and streamlining for the future

Haenicke expects to interact more frequently and directly with internal campus constituencies and to begin, if not complete, a systematic planning initiative to carry WMU through the remainder of this decade. "We are facing hard fiscal times," he said, "and we need to plan well and carefully for the immediate future."

As part of that planning process, Haenicke will be reviewing the budgetary allocations of units of the University with an eye toward eliminating duplication and stressing efficiency and centrality to the institutional mission.

In preparation for next year's budget discussions, he plans to convene a University-wide committee this month to brief him about the 1993-94 budget recommendations to take to the Board of Trustees. He will also be working on consolidating and strengthening WMU's accomplishments, increasing its international outreach and making school structures and reporting lines leaner yet more efficient.

Haenicke said he wants to meet soon with alumni and as many other campus constituencies as possible to start the planning effort. "While we all want to and should plan for the next decades, and we do that in a way, I am concerned with the next several years that lead us to the end of this decade," he said.

Three primary areas of focus

Haenicke's first area of major focus regards a 1987 challenge he put before faculty to review and restructure undergraduate curriculum. "We had great plans for a rejuvenation of the institution with a refocusing of our undergraduate curriculum," he said. "I now want to put my personal efforts behind that."

The second area of major focus will be getting involved in implementing a Total Quality Management program on campus. "I want to devote as much time as I can find to meet with constituent groups on campus, to discuss this concept and to see whether we can't cut any loss in this joint," Haenicke said.

He also wants to follow through on a plan announced earlier this year to consolidate the University's institutional research and planning units. "I would like to bring together various scattered efforts that we have in research and planning to work toward a new office of Institutional Research and Strategic Planning, in which I would also like to be involved directly and immediately in its initial phases until the effort can be on its way early in 1994," he said.

Improving facilities remains crucial

The Campaign for Excellence has enhanced WMU's ability to provide scholarships, obtain instructional equipment, and construct and renovate important facilities. Continued financing of these efforts remains crucial as the University heads into the next century.

In terms of the physical plant, WMU's priority projects include expanding and renovating recreation and intercollegiate athletics facilities, constructing a parking ramp near Miller Auditorium, renovating office space in the auditorium, and building a connector bridge to the auditorium. The cost of all of this work is being offset by up to $60 million in borrowed funds.

The recreation and intercollegiate athletics project, expected to cost $50 million, is already under way. Most of the outdoor improvements were completed this fall, while the renovation and expansion of the Gary Center and the Fieldhouse and Oakland Gymnasium should be completed in 1994.

The Miller Auditorium project includes an $8 million, three-level ramp to help meet current and future parking needs of students, faculty, staff, and the general public. The auditorium renovation will increase the facility's limited restroom space and will add the flow of people into and out of the building. The renovation and connector bridge from the parking ramp will cost $1.2 million. The entire project should be completed by fall of this year.

WMU spearheads effort to reshape high school mathematics

Faculty experts + federal grant = national exposure for WMU

For the second time in the past two years, Western Michigan University has been linked to a major education reform effort in news reports heard and seen around the country.

Media interest in WMU's latest project has rivaled the interest sparked by the 1993 announcement that the U.S. Department of Education had awarded the University a $5.2 million grant to establish the Center for Research on Educational Accountability and Teacher Evaluation.

Now, WMU's leading role in the $4 million Core-Plus Mathematics Project, announced October 1, is drawing equal national recognition for the University.

For four weeks in October, the project was detailed in news reports filed by CBS Radio's "The Osgood File," the Voice of America Radio Network, and the Associated Press (AP). Stories filed on both national and wires and a story filed by Kalamazoo's WMUK on the AP broadcast wire took the story around the country.

Lengthy accounts of how WMU will use the grant to lead a multi-university effort to revamp high school mathematics appeared in newspapers across the state and across the country. Papers as large as the Detroit Free Press and the Chicago Sun Times used the story along with smaller papers such as Illinois' Peoria Journal Star and Minnesota's Winona Daily News.

A WMU news release about the grant also found its way onto the pages of Education Week as well as other publications targeted at professional educators. (Continued from page 1)
Richard Chormann Richard Carlson Charles Ludlow

Richard F. Chornan, B.S., ‘59, president and chief operating officer of the First of America Bank of Kalamazoo, is serving as chairperson of the WMU Foundation for 1992-93. He succeeds William U. Parfet, president of the University of Kalamazoo, who served as foundation chairperson for the past three years.

Other foundation officers elected to one-year terms are: Richard G. Carlson, B.B.A., ‘71, vice chairperson; Charles H. Ludlow, B.S., ‘50, vice chairperson; Dr. L. Michael Moskovits, president, ex-officio member, ex officio; Thomas A. Myers, secretary; and Robert M. Bean, treasurer.

Chormann is immediate past president of the WMU Alumni Association and served as a vice chairperson of the WMU Foundation prior to his election as foundation chairperson. Carlson is national manager of the real estate division for the accounting firm of Deloitte & Touche in Chicago, Illinois. Ludlow is a retired vice president and treasurer of the Upjohn Company. The remaining three officers are WMU employees.

WMU's Distinguished Alumni Awards are presented to individuals who have made significant contributions to their professions, to their communities, and to the University. This is the twelfth time he has received an ASCAP award. Balkin retired from the WMU faculty in April after twenty-one years at the University. A composer and educator, he specializes in creating songs for young people.

The full-length musical, The Musician of Bremen, has been performed more than 200 times by the Michigan Opera Theatre.

WMU's Epsilon Xi chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, established in 1902 and the oldest black fraternity on campus, celebrated its thirtieth anniversary during this year.

Among those participating in the celebration were: front, left: Tom Tolman, B.S., ‘57, a member of the group in 1950 when the fraternity was a campus interest group, for right, Bill Taewell, ’81, a mechanical engineering major from Detroit, and from left, founding chapter members Daren Wright, B.S. ’88, executive officer; Curtis Curtis-Smith, Alfred Balkin, vice chairperson; Dr. Visho Sharma, professor of science and education and professional development, who has been named recipient of 1992-93 American Society of Composers, Authors & Publishers (ASCAP) awards. Curtis Curtis-Smith, professor of music, is a long-time WMU faculty member. This is the twelfth time he has received an ASCAP award. Balkin retired from the WMU faculty in April after twenty-one years at the University. A composer and educator, he specializes in creating songs for young people.

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MAILBAG

'Fun issue' was worth sharing with others

Dear Friends of Western Michigan University,

I enjoyed the "fun issue" of The Westerner. I collect funny things to share with residents of the nursing and retire- ment homes where I play for sing-a-longs.

I'm one of Western's oldest graduates, having received my life certificate in elementary education in 1918. I was voted Senior Volunteer of the Year for the Lawton (Michigan) area this year.

I'm very proud of the University.

Dorothy Lewis Spencer, L.T., B.A. '50

I may be boring, but not that boring

Editor's note: The Westerner regrets the following error and any inconvenience it may have caused.

Dear Westerner,

I thought it to be somewhat ironic that your issue with the humor theme announced that I died.

I have to admit that at times I might be rather boring, but the last time I checked, I still had a pulse.

My father (same name) died in Kalamazoo on June 17. Please correct your records.

Dick Yealin, B.B.A. '72

Thank you for the mementos, newsworthy publications, and personal touches

Editor's note: The following letter was sent to Jamie Jereny, director of alumni relations.

Dear Jamie,

Please accept my apologies for this belated thank you. It was so thoughtful of you to send the photos from the Distinguished Alumni Dinner.

I am delighted to have mementos of such an enjoyable occasion—Homecoming 1991—my first in a good many years.

Thank you.

Jeremy, director of alumni relations

Make your plans now for Homecoming '93

Due to circumstances beyond the University's control, the 1993 Homecoming Banquet and the College of Business Banquet will be held on Saturday, October 1, and Sunday, October 2, respectively.

This gives me an opportunity to let you know how much I enjoy the publications that I receive from Western. I am pleased to learn of so many exciting things that are happening on campus.

Thank you for giving that personal touch.

L. Frances Tapley, B.A. '57

Story about the new use of an old building in Battle Creek brings back numerous memories

Editor's note: The following letter has been edited for length. It was sent in response to a story in the May issue about the Battle Creek Regional Center's new home in the remodeled building that used to house Robinson's department store.

Dear Westerner,

The last issue of the Westerner took me back a few years. It took me back to read about all that is being done to that old department store.

I was eighty-seven on June 29 and did a great deal of "skipping" grades. I was in the first special section in Battle Creek High School, taking seventh, eighth, and ninth grades in two years, which meant I went into that from fourth grade.

When I graduated, my parents wouldn't let me go to college for a year— they said I was too young—so I took a job with the L. W. Robinson Company as a cashier. I'd almost forgotten about the little "cars" holding money, running all around the ceiling.

I was born in Battle Creek...but it has been a great many years since I've seen the town. ...Now I'm anxious to visit after the work is finished and to see the change in the downtown. I recall going to three theaters on Saturday—they were ten cents. Enough dreaming, I believe....Thanks for letting me dream of days long ago.

Lillian Kay Swinton, T.C. '25, B.A. '59

Homecoming 1992 Report Card

Western Michigan University

Jamie Jereny, Alumni Relations Director

Todd Hufford, Student Chairperson

SUBJECT

Football Game

Parade

Soapbox Derby

Alumni Association Brunch

Fireworks

House Displays

Class of 1967 Twenty-fifth Reunion

GRADE

A

B

C

D

F

Comments: Aggressive behavior paid off!

Definitely on the road to success!

Showed superior quickness and drive.

Absolutely hit the spot.

Passed with flying colors.

Building on previous efforts.

Flying to perfection.

Special Awards: Distinguished Alumni Awards were presented to

C. Bassett Brown, Karla Gray, and David Smith.

Extra credit will be given to all alumni and students who participated. Note the story to the left and plan to "enroll" for Homecoming next fall.
More alumnae become life members of association

The WMU Alumnae Association would like to take this opportunity to welcome our newest life members. We are pleased to warmly congratulate you for your continued interest in your University through life membership in our Club. We hope you will continue to feel a part of the Western family.

Margaret M. Schaefer Ware, 1910-1929

Barbara Johnston Troy, BS 58, of Romulus, is a sales representative for Golden Pilot Tree Troy resides in Kalamazoo.

Dennis Weber, BS 58, MA 62, of Grand Rapids, is a physics teacher in the Grand Rapids Public Schools.

Lillian Hullhorst Strumpf, 1910-1959

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Dennis Weber, BS 58, MA 62, is a physics teacher in the Grand Rapids Public Schools.
Doug Wood, BSA ’74, was named a sales manager for the Shepherd School of Business at Kalamazoo College.

Sam Wright, MA ’74, Sp.Ed., in June was hired as assistant superintendent, Hopkins Public Schools, Clare, MI.

C. Brian Adams, BS ’75, MA ’79, in August was named director of the American Red Cross, Central Michigan Chapter, Mt. Pleasant, MI.

Doug Reinecke, BS ’74, in July was named director of the White Church of Matheny, Slate Creek, MI.

John Polewski, BSE ’81, in June was named associate director of the National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, D.C.

Doug R. Anderson, BBA ’79, in August was named administrative manager of the DeVos Center, Grand Rapids, MI.

Douglas Peck, PhD ’74, in July was named associate dean for graduate studies, College of Education, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

D. John Bates, BBA ’76, in March was named president of Kalamazoo College.

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Three faculty members receive 1992 Alumni Teaching Excellence Awards

On November 2 three faculty members joined the ranks of Western Michigan University’s outstanding teachers and were recognized with 1992 Alumni Teaching Excellence Awards.

The new award recipients are Dr. Susan Carlegina-MacDonald, B.A. ’77, M.A. ’79, Ph.D. ’81, associate professor of sociology; Dr. Richard G. Cooper, B.S., ’67, M.A., ’70, M.O.T. ’75, E.D.D. ’90, associate professor and chairperson of occupational therapy; and Lyda J. Stillwell, professor of theater.

Since the Alumni Association established the awards in 1966, they have been presented to more than 100 faculty members in recognition of superior teaching skills and professional expertise. Recipients are selected by an Alumni Association committee from nominations by alumni, students, and departmental colleagues.

Carlegina-MacDonald joined the WMU faculty in 1984, teaching in the Department of Sociology’s Criminal Justice Program. She has led introductory and advanced courses in criminology, as well as classes in statistics and in correctional process and technique and graduate seminars in current criminal issues. She has coordinated student research experiences, served as a faculty advisor of the WMU Criminal Justice Association, and chaired a number of master’s and doctoral committees.

“This is not the first time Carlegina-MacDonald’s superior teaching skills have been recognized. This past spring, she was selected to represent WMU at the annual meeting of the American Association of Higher Education’s Forum on Exemplary Teaching. In 1991, she was one of eight WMU faculty members chosen to receive a State of Michigan Teaching Excellence Award. In 1985, 1987, and 1988, students and colleagues nominated her for the WMU Commission on the Status of Women’s Woman of the Year award.”

“Dr. Susan Carlegina-MacDonald personifies what all professors should strive to be and become,” said a student in nominating her for the teaching excellence award. “Her teaching goes far beyond the classroom. She directs the minds of her students in such a way that they learn to think deeper, think critically. As her student, I have learned to search out answers and to think in ways that I never have before. But what is so special about her is her care for her students, her concern for their futures. This concern extends far beyond the walls of the University.”

Carlegina-MacDonald keeps current in her field through writing articles for journals and speaking at professional conferences on such topics as violence against women, legal reform, and the portrayal of female victims in the media. She currently is writing a book titled Rape: Reform and Realities.

Cooper started his career in teaching as a high school biology instructor after earning bachelor’s and master’s degrees from WMU. He returned to WMU to earn a second master’s degree in occupational therapy, and worked for two years as an occupational therapist in Kalamazoo. He joined the WMU faculty in 1977, and earned his doctoral degree while teaching in the Department of Occupational Therapy.

His experience in the field has contributed to his expertise in the classroom, according to one alumna who nominated him for the award. “Rich was an excellent instructor who was enthusiastic, well-organized, extremely knowledgeable and eminently fair,” she said. “He used innovative teaching methods, wonderfully colorful personal experience examples, and allowed lots of ‘hands-on’ work, which is so vital in a curriculum like occupational therapy.”

Cooper has taught a variety of undergraduate and graduate courses, including Daily Living Skills, Psychiatric Conditions, including AIDS, and a course called Wellness Programs to use therapy to promote learning and healthy decisions regarding sexuality by students. The result is a product that Dr. Harold Stillwell, professor and chairperson of Occupational Therapy, has also taught fieldwork and independent research classes.

The professor’s contributions to the field of occupational therapy have been recognized by two professional associations. In 1987, the American Occupational Therapy Association named him to its Roster of Fellows and honored him with service awards in 1987 and 1988. He received the Outstanding Michigan Occupational Therapy Award from the Michigan Occupational Therapy Association in 1984.

Cooper has not limited his drive to creative learning to the occupational therapy classroom. He is co-founder of WMU’s “Inflatable/Light Workshop,” a multidisciplinary group that uses inflatable domes and tents to create a portable environment to illustrate the functional significance of the left and right hemispheres of the brain.

Stillwell joined the WMU theatre faculty in 1966 and has led classes in acting, directing, and improvisation. She is a co-founder of the Musical Theatre Company of the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts. She was the first woman to graduate from WMU with a B.A. in drama in 1966, and received her M.F.A. at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1971.

Stillwell taught at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for four years before joining the WMU faculty. She directs the WMU Musical Theatre Festival and was performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Over the past two years, she was selected to perform in the ABC’s 1992-93 Season of Shows. She is the winner of a grant to develop a Wellness Programs to use theatre to promote learning and healthy decisions regarding sexuality by students.

In nominating Stillwell for the award, one colleague, while television journalist Judy Woodruff called it “the real inside story of Iran.”

Loeffler’s research on Iranian life has taken place against a backdrop of political turmoil. Her stays in Iran spanned the reign of the Shah, the Islamic revolution, the rise of the Ayatollah Khomeini, and the taking of American hostages. She was in Iran at the time of Khomeini’s death. Because of her Austrian citizenship, the world’s fourth largest lake, the Aral has lost half of its area and 75 percent of its volume since 1960 because of massive diversion of the two rivers that feed the sea.

A faculty member at WMU since 1989, Micklin has been studying Soviet water management problems for twenty-five years. He first began picking up hints of the disaster in the late 1970s and was the first to alert the Western world to the magnitude of the problem in a 1988 article in Science magazine. One year later he accompanied the first team of Western journalists, that the first team of Western journalists, to the area to record the devastation. That trip was detailed in a 1990 National Geographic cover story.

Since then, Micklin has made television appearances on NBC’s “Nightly News” and ABC’s “Prime Time,” and has been interviewed by the New York Times, Washington Post, Newsweek, Fortune, and other national and international publications. He is a co-founder of the United Nations group appointed to make recommendations about reversing the sea’s decline and is a foreign member of the Aral Sea Research and Development Council and of the International Environmental Research Foundation.

Recently, Micklin received a grant from the Global Infrastructure Fund Research Foundation of Japan to begin building a geographic information system database on the Aral Sea and its basin. He will be working with Japanese, German, and Russian scientists to amass the data.

In supporting his nomination for the award, a colleague from another university said, “He has been the acknowledged expert on Soviet water issues for years. Even the Soviets solicit his opinion and request his work. His article on the Aral Sea in Science marked him as the scientists’ community’s expert on this world-shocking ecological problem.”

Researchers Loeffler, Micklin named distinguished faculty scholars for 1992

Two faculty members who are internationally recognized for their research have received Western Michigan University’s Distinguished Faculty Scholar Awards. Dr. Erika Loeffler, professor of anthropology, and Dr. Philip P. Micklin, professor of geography, were presented with their awards November 2. The award, inaugurated in 1978, is WMU’s highest honor for a faculty member.

Loeffler, who publishes under the name Erika Friedl, is widely regarded as an expert on Iran, the Iranian revolution, and women in the Middle East. Since 1965, she has spent more than five years living and conducting research on village and family life in Iran. Much of her time in that country has been spent in the southwest corner of Iran, in the village of Deh Koh. During seven field trips to the area, her studies have focused on traditional culture, political and social structure, folklore, religion, health, and agriculture, textile production, and post-colonial cultural change.

A member of WMU’s faculty since 1971, Loeffler has shared her research findings in a series of professional publications starting in 1967 and culminating with her 1989 book Women of Deh Koh, Lives in an Iranian Village, which was published by the Smithsonian Press and recounts the stories of twelve Iranian women. Nominated for the Victor Turner Prize for Ethnographic Writing, the book was reviewed by the New York Times reviewer, while television journalist Judy Woodruff called it “the real inside story of Iran.”

Loeffler’s research on Iranian life has taken place against a backdrop of political turmoil. Her stays in Iran spanned the reign of the Shah, the Islamic revolution, the rise of the Ayatollah Khomeini, and the taking of American hostages. She was in Iran at the time of Khomeini’s death. Because of her Austrian citizenship, the world’s fourth largest lake, the Aral has lost half of its area and 75 percent of its volume since 1960 because of massive diversion of the two rivers that feed the sea.

A faculty member at WMU since 1989, Micklin has been studying Soviet water management problems for twenty-five years. He first began picking up hints of the disaster in the late 1970s and was the first to alert the Western world to the magnitude of the problem in a 1988 article in Science magazine. One year later he accompanied the first team of Western journalists, that the first team of Western journalists, to the area to record the devastation. That trip was detailed in a 1990 National Geographic cover story.

Since then, Micklin has made television appearances on NBC’s “Nightly News” and ABC’s “Prime Time,” and has been interviewed by the New York Times, Washington Post, Newsweek, Fortune, and other national and international publications. He is a co-founder of the United Nations group appointed to make recommendations about reversing the sea’s decline and is a foreign member of the Aral Sea Research and Development Council and of the International Environmental Research Foundation.

Recently, Micklin received a grant from the Global Infrastructure Fund Research Foundation of Japan to begin building a geographic information system database on the Aral Sea and its basin. He will be working with Japanese, German, and Russian scientists to amass the data.

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The three recipients of 1992 Alumni Teaching Excellence Awards are, from left, Lyda J. Stillwell, professor of theater; Dr. Susan Carlegina-MacDonald, associate professor of sociology; and Dr. Richard G. Cooper, associate professor and chairperson of occupational therapy.

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