Western Michigan University Newsletter, January 1965

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A new academic faculty rank has been created by the WMU Board of Trustees. The board has named as Western’s first Distinguished University Professor, Dr. Robert W. M. Travers, who is currently Director, Bureau of Educational Research, University of Utah.

Dr. Travers, with an outstanding career in educational psychology and research, will join the WMU faculty at the start of the 1965 fall term.

The designation as Distinguished University Professor will enable Dr. Travers to pursue activities and research in his specialized field in several segments of the University with special emphasis in the School of Education.

Dr. Travers’ selection was based, in large part, on the national recognition that has come to Dr. Travers for his work in expanding the frontiers of knowledge in the areas of learning theory.

Born in Bangalore, India, Dr. Travers was educated in England, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of London in 1935. Three years later, at the personal invitation of Professor Edward Lee Thorndyke, he came to the United States to enter Columbia University from which he received his Doctor of Philosophy degree in 1942. That same year he became a United States citizen.

Included in Dr. Travers’ extensive teaching background is a two year tour as associate professor of education and psychology at the University of Michigan from 1947 to 1949.

Dr. Travers is the author of four books, the latest being Essentials of Learning, published in 1963, as well as numerous articles. He has just completed a 478 page interim report on Research and Theory Related to Audiovisual Information Transmission which is to be published by the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

STUDENT FEES RAISED RELUCTANTLY

Scholarships to Be Increased 70 Percent

Western’s Board of Trustees at its regular December meeting voted reluctantly to increase student fees starting with the 1965-66 school year. The fees will be increased $25 from the present $125 to $150 a semester for full-time students who are residents of Michigan. The non-resident fees will be increased $50 to $300 a semester from the present $250.

The board had delayed action on the proposal for a month.

WMU President James W. Miller, commenting on the increase in student fees, said, “The cost of education, along with other costs, continues to rise. To meet increased expenses, it is necessary to request higher appropriations from the state legislature. It is our belief that stu-
(STUDENT FEES continued)

...dents should bear a part of the operating cost increases.

"The action to raise student fees is not peculiar to Western Michigan University. Other Michigan colleges and universities, public and private, have increased fees this year or will do so at the start of the next school year. Throughout the U.S., institutions of higher education have found it necessary to raise fees, in many instances by a significant amount. The recommended increase will be only the fourth at Western since the end of World War II.

"The administration of Western Michigan is reluctant to increase the financial responsibility of the students which often is a burden to them or to their families. However, we believe that fairness requires this fee increase."

Shortly after WMU's Board of Trustees increased student fees, President James W. Miller announced a sweeping plan of additional scholarship help to deserving students. Some 600 new scholarships, ranging from $50 to $1,100 will be made available to outstanding students as part of an expanded student assistance program at WMU, starting next fall.

Dr. Miller pointed out that scholarship funds will thus be increased by nearly 70 per cent while loan funds available to students will be swelled 50 per cent.

**About 100 of the new scholarships will be given in the names of Western's first two presidents, the late Dwight B. Waldo, who led Western from 1904-1936, and President Emeritus Paul V. Sangren, who headed the institution from 1936-1961.**

The 600 new scholarships will have a value of about $195,000, which will bring the scholarship dollar-total available to students to about $491,000, in 2,000 individual scholarships.

The loan fund will be enlarged by the new program to total nearly three-quarters-of-a-million-dollars.

And more student job opportunities have been assured starting next fall, helped by positions which will be available at North Valley Residence Complex No. 3, scheduled to open late next August.

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**Special Education Conference At WMU Aids Handicapped Children**

About 150 school administrators from Michigan attended a late November conference at Western, especially for administrators interested in organizing programs for mentally handicapped children. The conference was developed by Dr. Joseph Eisenbach, Professor of Special Education at WMU.

The conference theme was "New Horizons in Educational Leadership."

Three speakers were on the conference program, with Dr. Oliver Kolstoe, chairman of the Department of Social Education, Southern Illinois University, the morning session speaker; Dr. John B. Mader, director of the Special Education Division, Washtenaw Board of Education, Ann Arbor, the noon luncheon speaker; and Dr. Morvin Wirtz, director of the Division of Handicapped Children and Youth, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Washington, D.C., the evening dinner speaker.

Western faculty members took an active part in the conference. Dr. Eisenbach presided over the morning session; Dr. Frank Heger, assistant professor of education, presided over the luncheon; Robert Westley, assistant professor, led an afternoon group discussion, as did Dr. Eisenbach and Dr. Heger.

Dr. Kristen Juul, director of Special Education at WMU, presided over the dinner.

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**Refresher Course at WMU for Teachers in Blind Rehabilitation**

Western conducted a refresher course for the second time this fall in its Center for Orientation and Mobility of the Blind. A dozen instructors of the blind from ten different states in the U.S. as well as Puerto Rico enrolled in the course.

The refresher course was presented in cooperation with the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration and was coordinated by Donald Blasch, director of Blind Rehabilitation programs at WMU.

One of the first graduates of Western's Blind Rehabilitation Program, Rodney Kossick, MA '62 who is now supervisor of Special Services for the Blind and Partially Seeing, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, University Station, Grand Forks, North Dakota, assisted Blasch in the direction of the refresher course along with professional and medical people in the Kalamazoo area.

The day after the conference, the WMU Department of Special Education, in cooperation with the Michigan Association for Retarded Children, sponsored a meeting of about 25 representatives of city and county chapters of Parents of Retarded Children, also held at Western. They discussed problems of organizing and developing sheltered workshops for mentally handicapped adolescents and adults.
Death Claims Dr. Edward H. Zwergel

Dr. Edward H. Zwergel, director of student health services at Western since 1958, died at his Kalamazoo home Jan. 9 after an extended illness, at the age of 57.

Dr. Zwergel was a Western alumnus '29 and while a student he was active in the student council and Tribunal and held various class offices in his sophomore, junior and senior years.

Dr. Zwergel received his M.D. degree at Hahnemann Medical College, Philadelphia, Pa. in 1935. He joined the WMU faculty in June 1958 as director of student health services after 22 years as a general practitioner in Cassopolis, Mich.

Dr. Zwergel held membership in the American Academy of General Practice, the American Medical Association, the Kalamazoo Academy of Medicine and was a former president, vice president, secretary and treasurer of the Cass County Medical Society.

Survivors include his wife, Martha, of Kalamazoo; a son, Philip, of Grand Rapids, a 1959 WMU graduate; and daughters Mrs. Robert Kitzman, Long Beach, Calif., and Janet Kay Zwergel of Kalamazoo; and two grandchildren.

Gibson, Inc. Gives Bass Viol to WMU

If the bass section of Western's symphony orchestra has a fuller, richer tone these days, you can probably trace it to the generosity of Gibson, Inc., manufacturer of stringed musical instruments in Kalamazoo.

T. M. McCarty, president of Gibson, presented a bass viol to the WMU Department of Music this winter. The German-made instrument is valued at more than $650 and was obtained by Gibson about seven years ago to use as a model for the Kalamazoo firm to study in their manufacture of stringed basses.

Recently Gibson discontinued production of the large instruments and after closing out its inventory of bass viols, had three German-made instruments left. Western received one, while Kalamazoo and Nazareth Colleges received the other two, McCarty revealed.

As a consequence, one of the bass players in the WMU Symphony is now playing on a fine German-made instrument.

Effective at the end of the 1965 Summer Session, Dr. Elwyn Carter, at his own request, will be relieved of his duties as head of the Department of Music to permit devoting full time as professor of music in the area of vocal instruction and choral groups, with its 1,400 students.

Swimmers' Win Streak Broken

In the back of his mind, WMU swimming coach Ed Gabel knew Western's string of 25 consecutive dual meet victories had to end sooner or later. But when host Ohio University beat Western in the last few feet of the final event on Jan. 9 to erase a 43-42 Bronco lead, tears mingled with pool spray.

Just one-tenth of a second separated Western from Ohio in that final 400 yard freestyle event but Ohio won the meet 49-43.

Western's tankers opened their season by winning the MAC Relays for the second straight year, getting
New Basketball Attendance Marks

Western’s basketball squad, even without the electrifying Manny Newmane, this season continued to break records, as new attendance marks were set at the Broncos’ first two home games. More than 7,000 persons watched Western lose to Northwestern 95-81 to open the home season and four nights later some 10,000 fans jammed every inch of space in enlarged Read Field House as Michigan State won 89-80.

Against Western Ontario Jan. 2, WMU broke its all-time scoring mark in winning 124-66 as seven Broncos scored in double figures. Coach Don Boven’s crew made 15 of their first 16 field goal attempts and hit on their first 12 free throws in an amazing display of hot shooting against bewildered Western Ontario. The Broncos finished the first semester with an overall 6-8 record and were 1-3 in MAC competition as senior guard Dave Anderson of Hammond, Ind., led all scorers. Anderson, incidentally, set a record which may stand for a long time as he sank 37 straight free throws over five games, finally breaking the string at Bowling Green, as WMU lost 88-77. Other early season losses were to conference favorite Miami, Ohio U., Loyola and Notre Dame.

(WIMMING continued)

77 points to runnerup and host Miami’s 68. WMU set new MAC Relay marks in the 400 yard freestyle relay, 200 yard butterfly relay and 400 yard medley relay.

Indoor Track Schedule Good

Bronco indoor track fans are getting a chance to see coach George Dales’ thinclads in action three times on WMU’s new hard-surfaced indoor track facilities in Read Field House this winter. WMU dominated the Michigan Federation Meet at Read Field House on Jan. 30 by taking six firsts as ten track clubs were represented by 400 athletes.

No point totals were kept in this season-opening meet but WMU track men finished higher in more individual events than any other single group entered.

Western’s next home indoor track appearance in Read Field House will be Feb. 19 when the Broncos host Northern Illinois at 7 p.m.

The final home meet of the season will be March 27th in the Fifth Annual WMU Relays, starting at 1 p.m.

Indoor track meets on the road for Western included the University of Michigan Relays on Feb. 6; Michigan State University Relays on Feb. 13; Central Collegiate Conference meet at Notre Dame on Feb. 27; University of Chicago Relays on March 6; NCAA meet at Detroit’s Cobo Hall on March 12-13; National Federation meet in Milwaukee, Wis. on March 15; and Denison University Relays on March 20.