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Western Michigan University Newsletter, May 1965

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Sargent Shriver, director of the Peace Corps and head of the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity, will be the speaker at Western's commencement on June 12. Mr. Shriver was appointed director of the Peace Corps by President John F. Kennedy on March 4, 1961. He was named by President Lyndon B. Johnson late last year to also direct the government's anti-poverty program as head of the Office of Economic Opportunity.

Mr. Shriver was graduated cum laude by Yale University in 1938 and in 1941 received a Bachelor of Laws degree from Yale.

After leaving Yale he entered the U.S. Navy, rising to the rank of lieutenant commander while serving on submarines and battleships during World War II.

Following the war, Mr. Shriver practiced law in New York City, then joined the staff of Newsweek Magazine as an assistant editor. He was later assistant general manager of the Merchandise Mart in Chicago.

From 1956 to 1960 he served as president of the Chicago Board of Education.

Western will confer honorary degrees on four men during the June 12 commencement, including the commencement speaker and a WMU alumnus.

R. Sargent Shriver, the commencement speaker, will receive an honorary Doctor of Laws.

Charles S. Lewis, a WMU alumnus '29, former principal of Detroit Central high school and currently a consultant to the Department of Labor on the federal government's anti-poverty program, will receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities. He is nationally known for his work in Detroit in expanding the intellectual horizons of Negro youth and increasing greatly the percentage of those young people who continue their education in college.

Frederic G. Donner, chairman of the board of General Motors Corp., will receive an honorary degree of Doctor of Business Administration. He is a nephew of the late Miss Elizabeth Zimmerman, for many years head of the WMU Language Department.

Urban T. Holmes, Kenan Professor of Romance Philosophy at the University of North Carolina, will receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Literature. Dr. Holmes was a lecturer at the Medieval Conference held at Western last summer.

The commencement will begin at 9:30 a.m. in Waldo Stadium or in Read Field House in case of inclement weather.
Alumni Fund Drive
To Support Vital
University Needs

Funds obtained from the Western Alumni Association’s first annual fund drive, which was announced via 27,000 letters sent to alumni this spring, will be used to support four special funds. These are:
- the Paul V. Sangren Scholarship Fund to provide assistance to outstanding students;
- the Dwight B. Waldo Library Fund to acquire books, research materials and equipment for the university library;
- for Distinguished Faculty Grants for faculty members who have distinguished themselves in teaching or in research;
- for the Bronco Athletic Scholarship Fund to provide financial assistance to the intercollegiate athletic program.

Application Deadline Moved Ahead Two Months

The steadily increasing pressure of students seeking to enroll has forced the university to establish a June 1st deadline for accepting applications for admission in the 1965 fall semester. This is two months earlier than the cut-off date of August 1st in previous years.

If the pressure of applications warranted it, university officials were prepared to advance the deadline even more.

Registrar Clayton J. Maus said early applications had been received in an unanticipated volume, necessitating the earlier closing date this year. He said the number of entering freshmen and transfer students must be kept within the limitations imposed by the university’s physical facilities and the number of faculty members.

President James W. Miller noted that spring semester enrollment has remained at virtually the same 13,770 figure as of last fall, the first time there has not been an appreciable drop from the first to the second semester at WMU.

Anticipated enrollment next fall, when Western begins its year-around operation, has been set at 15,500, an increase of 1,750 over last September.

WMU in Unique Summer Seminar in Yugoslavia

In a unique exchange program, Western Michigan University this summer will conduct a seminar at five universities in Yugoslavia. The study program for 20 undergraduate and graduate students under Western’s sponsorship is possible through the cooperation of the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Under the exchange program, four Yugoslavian students will also study at Western this summer and a visiting professor from Yugoslavia will serve on the WMU faculty during the 1965-66 school year or during the 1966 summer session.

Western Michigan students in the seminar program will receive lectures from faculty members of the Universities of Belgrade, Zagreb, Ljubljana, Sarajevo and Skopje. Extensive travel in Yugoslavia and other areas of Western Europe is planned as part of the seminar for WMU students.

U.S. State Department participation in the program makes it possible to reduce the cost of the seminar to $500, exclusive of spending money.

The group will leave Kalamazoo June 13 and arrive at Belgrade the next day. They’ll return to the U.S. in late August.

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In personal charge of the program will be Dr. George Klein, Political Science Department, and Dr. Robert Maher, assistant director of the International and Area Studies program.

WMU President Urges Use of Peace Corps Returnees in Education

Western's President James W. Miller recommended to a high-level Washington, D.C. meeting a program of assistantships and internships which would bring into the nation's system of higher education the talents and experiences of returned Peace Corps Volunteers.

Dr. Miller was one of a group of American educational and business leaders invited by President Lyndon B. Johnson to a March meeting in the nation's capitol with a group of some 300 returned Peace Corps Volunteers who have completed their tours of duty in foreign lands.

President Miller said the impact of our Peace Corps Volunteers, though fewer in numbers, should have a comparable influence to the very significant chapter written in the history of American higher education by the influx of veterans in our colleges and universities after World War II.

He said, "Education at all levels is in dire need of capable teachers. A great majority of returned Peace Corps Volunteers saw service as teachers in their overseas assignments. Many of them planned careers in teaching during their college and university training; others have been introduced to the teaching field as a result of their service in the Peace Corps.

"All of the returning Volunteers have firsthand knowledge of the results of a lack of educational opportunities. They have experienced what the availability of an education can do for the individual and for a society. They have learned in their two important years of Peace Corps work much insight which no amount of college education could give them."

He recommended that a program of assistantships or internships be established by the federal government and the nation's colleges and universities.

"Western Michigan University stands ready to consider the establishment from its own resources of a number of such assistantships or internships for former Peace Corps Volunteers."

"If the federal government will also participate, the number can be multiplied. It is my hope that a significant proportion of colleges and universities in this country would be willing to participate in such a program."

President Miller said State Boards of Education and state superintendents of public instruction should be asked to agree to grant credit for professional courses in education and for practice teaching for appropriate service while in the Peace Corps.

President Miller said, "We need to develop sufficient flexibility in teacher certification to take advantage of the unique and significant experiences of the Peace Corps youth."

He said returned Peace Corps Volunteers should be given the opportunity to serve as interns or assistants, to work at the administrative level in academic honors programs, as assistants to foreign student advisors and as residence hall staff assistants assigned specifically to the task of bringing into these units both the excitement and content of the intellectual enterprise of the university.

Dr. Miller also suggested that the Michigan Center for Education in Politics is still another area where internships or assistantships could be developed.

He concluded his proposal by saying, "Returned Peace Corps Volunteers are a wellspring of ability and enthusiasm. This wellspring is primed and ready for use. Education in the United States cannot afford to pass up this advantage for the want of initiative and imagination."

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Name Two New WMU Administrators

Two new administrators were named by the WMU Board of Trustees late this winter to assume positions created by the retirement and the death of their predecessors.

Dr. Richard Proos was named to succeed the late Dr. Edward H. Zwergel as director of student health services. Dr. Proos assumed his new position immediately. He has been on the health services staff since November, 1964.

Prior to joining the WMU student health services staff last fall, Dr. Proos was a physician in Otsego four years. He served his internship and spent a year in residency at Kalamazoo's Bronson hospital after graduating from the University of Michigan medical school.

Miss Marie L. Stevens was named to succeed Dr. Elizabeth E. Lichty who will retire June 30 after 18 years as Dean of Women at Western.

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Dr. Donald H. Bouma, professor of sociology at WMU, is the 1965 recipient of the Citation of Merit from the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts and Letters. Dr. Bouma received the Academy’s highest annual award during the organization’s annual meeting this spring.

Dr. John Useem, chairman of the

Miss Stevens will have the title of Associate Dean of Students, but will assume Dr. Lichty’s responsibilities. Miss Stevens joined the Western faculty in 1957 as assistant dean of women and this year was named associate dean of women. She is a graduate of Mills College, Oakland, Calif., and holds an MA from Syracuse University.

Department of Sociology at Michigan State University, who nominated Dr. Bouma for the high honor noted that former students of the WMU professor are now on the faculties of eight colleges and universities in Michigan.

Dr. Bouma has been at Western since 1960.

Also considered were his contributions to research over the last several years, particularly 20 studies on social conditions.

The Michigan Academy of Science, Arts and Letters is composed of more than 1,000 educators, scientists, writers and professional people from throughout the state.

Sports Briefs

Allen Bush ’48, a Kalamazoo native who is currently associate director of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, was the main speaker at the second annual banquet in which WMU basketball players are honored. The affair is sponsored by the Bronco Boosters Club and the Downtown Coaches (of Kalamazoo) club.

Master of ceremonies was Louis Lang ’47, who is a school administrator at Hastings.

The Player of the Year Award went to senior Dave Anderson of Hammond, leading scorer in the MAC at 25.3 per game.

Varsity letters were awarded to ten basketball players (8 wins, 16 losses), to nine wrestlers (2-6-1) and 18 swimmers (10-1 dual record) this spring.

The final event, the 400 yard freestyle, was the undoing of Western’s swimming team in the MAC championships in the WMU pool in mid-March as Ohio University upset Western’s bid to repeat as conference champs.

The Bobcats won that final event and upped their meet point-total to 127, four more than Western. It ended WMU’s two year reign as MAC champs. Ron Pohlonski, WMU senior from Dearborn, established three new MAC event marks.

The indoor track season produced smiles and frowns. One of coach George Dales’ major disappointments was a 77-75 Notre Dame win at South Bend in the Central Collegiate Conference meet to end a WMU four year hold on the CCC title. WMU took a first in the Michigan Relays, one in the MSU relays, both by Dennis Holland, Detroit senior long (broad) jumper.

WMU won seven firsts in the Michigan Federation indoor meet at Read Field House as 400 athletes competed, and WMU dominated its own relays March 27.

As of the second weekend in May, the WMU baseball team was tied with Ohio U. for first place in the MAC at 7-1. WMU split its season opening series at home with Ohio, 3-4 and 2-1.