Western Michigan University Newsletter, July 1968

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The three initial academic buildings of Western's dramatic Liberal Arts Complex were dedicated in early May before three hundred spectators in outdoor ceremonies held on the gracious plaza which draws the buildings together into a single unity. The University Auditorium, which had its grand opening festival in January, joins these first academic buildings in the complex to lend a cultural aura to this outstanding educational center.

Among the most honored and revered of the guests were Dr. William R. Brown and Miss Laura V. Shaw, and Mrs. George Sprau, the wife of the man for whom the faculty office tower is named, who, at the age of 92, was unable to attend the dedication.

Program participants included state senator N. Lorraine Beebe '32 of Dearborn and state representative Cyril H. Root of Kalamazoo; Fred Adams '32, vice chairman of the WMU Board of Trustees; WMU President, James W. Miller; and the dedication speaker, Charles A. Smith '35, associate professor of English at WMU, who provided a highly humorous anecdotal glimpse into the WMU lives of the three persons for whom the buildings are named. He concluded with, "... these were warm, substantial people, and above all, they were excellent teachers."

Professor Sprau joined WMU's faculty in 1909, was named English Department head in 1917 and continued until retirement in 1946.

Dr. Brown, for whom the liberal arts classroom building is named, served on WMU's English faculty 1917-56, the final 10 years as department head.

Miss Shaw, for whom the new university theatre is named, served WMU 1918-53 retiring as head of the Speech Department.

Sprau Tower has 160 faculty offices in its 10 floors; Brown Hall contains classrooms for three academic departments (English, Speech and Languages); and Shaw Theatre seats 600 in continental style and has a 150-seat experimental theater as well as scene, costume, dressing, make-up and storage facilities.
WMU Commencement Has Largest Honors Degree Contingent

Western's April commencement produced a record list of honors graduates as 56 students received bachelor's degrees with honors, including six who were graduated Summa Cum Laude (at least 3.9 on a 4.0 scale). Another 17 were Magna Cum Laude graduates (3.7 to 3.89) and 33 were Cum Laude (3.5 to 3.69).

As an audience of 10,300, including some 1,500 graduates, listened Dr. Lewis M. Branscomb, chairman of the Joint Institute for Laboratory Astrophysics on the campus of the University of Colorado, said "there is cause for deep concern about our universities."

The commencement speaker said today's graduates "are standing midstream in a rushing torrent, looking upstream at the oncoming flood of turbulent change, of shattered self-confidence, of spreading violence."

The university, he said, has an essential function in facing this tide of events, that of providing suitable environment in which the search for solutions can be carried out with reason, intelligence, sensitivity, effectiveness and courtesy.

Said Dr. Branscomb, "Our universities and our young people are the real hope for a revitalization of our society."

He was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Science. In addition, Mrs. Dorothy L. Judd of Grand Rapids received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree. She has a long history of vital involvement in community problems, having been a teacher, local and state president of the League of Women Voters, member of the Michigan Civil Service Commission, and member of the history-making Michigan Constitutional Convention.

The six Summa Cum Laude graduates included a husband-wife team, Theodore and Sally Sundstrom of Grand Rapids, Christine Alberti of Kalamazoo, Carl L. Swidorski of Manistee, Janice A. Vanderwal of East Grand Rapids, and Thomas Chu Ping-kee of Hong Kong.

Theodore Sundstrom carried a remarkable 4.0 grade average, all A's.

Summa Cum Laude graduates included (top photo) Theodore & Sally Sundstrom, and (bottom L to R) Christine Alberti, Carl Swidorski and Janice Vanderwal.

President Miller reads her honorary citation to Mrs. Dorothy L. Judd.

CALENDAR-PANORAMA of alumni events

A large number of Western alumni were treated to some interesting information on the academic, brick-and-mortar, and athletic activities at WMU during spring speaking trips by football coach Bill Doolittle and sociology professor Dr. Donald Bouma before WMU alumni clubs. Doolittle was heard by nearly 120 persons during trips to Milwaukee, Wis., and to South Bend, Ind.

Wisconsin alumni club president Charles Miller and Michiana club president Daniel Telfer were enthused with the turnouts at their respective gatherings.

Dr. Bouma spoke at three separate far-west alumni clubs on consecutive days in April, beginning with the San Francisco club and its president, Winston Bayer. The next evening he addressed a combined meeting of the San Diego and Los Angeles clubs hosted by the San Diego club.

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WMU Establishes Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Fund to Aid Negro Students

Western Michigan University has established the Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Grant Fund to perpetuate Dr. King's principles which exemplify "the conscience of America."

Spring Enrollment Shows Popularity of Year-Round Class Schedules at WMU

Western's spring session enrollment this year topped that of the spring session last year by nearly 150 as WMU students are more and more taking advantage of WMU's year-round schedule. The enrollment this spring of 7,940 represents 46 percent of the winter semester enrollment (17,325).

The breakdown shows that 6,156 are undergraduates and 1,784 are graduate students, including 50 doctoral candidates in the School of Graduate Studies.

President James W. Miller said, "The continuing growth of Western's spring session clearly indicates the effectiveness of its year-round operation. The modified trimester schedule adopted by the University certainly makes the most efficient use of our faculty and our physical facilities. It enables the University to produce in an academic year more credit hours than any other year-round schedule."

Out-of-State Tuition Charges Raised By WMU

Effective with the start of the summer session at WMU on June 25, tuition for out-of-state students will be increased to $450 a semester from its present $400. The increase was authorized by the WMU Board of Trustees at a spring meeting.

In addition, the Board of Trustees also approved an increase to $455 a semester for board and room in residence halls (from the previous $410 rate) and an increase to $400 (from $320) per course for pilot training.

Nine Week Seminar To Africa, Orient This Summer

A number of Western Michigan University graduate and undergraduate students will extend WMU's campus limits to East Africa and the Orient this summer under a nine week travel-study seminar sponsored by the Department of Sociology. Dr. Leonard C. Kercher, who'll direct the seminar, says the lecture and field study seminar will focus on developing national institutions in...
WMU, Kalamazoo Schools Combine to Train Teachers Of Educationally Deprived

This year Western’s Teacher Education Department, in cooperation with the Kalamazoo Public School District, is offering an experimental program for prospective teachers of the educationally deprived. Although Western’s School of Education has taken a leadership role in the training of such teachers at the graduate level, this pilot project is the first specialized attempt at the undergraduate level to train teachers of the educationally deprived.

WMU students who have enrolled in the experimental program assist four mornings a week in Kalamazoo public schools. Their experience consists of working with individuals or small groups of students as a means of helping their regular teachers give individualized instruction to classroom groups.

During the afternoons the WMU students returned to the campus for normal course work.

WMU Again Site For Upward Bound Teacher Training

Western this summer will conduct its third consecutive Upward Bound Program to encourage high school students from low-income families to continue their education in college. Financed by a grant of $146,312 from the U.S. Office of Education, the program will be headed by Dr. Fred Bailey, director of WMU’s Upward Bound Program.

Some 120 10th-12th grade students will spend eight weeks on WMU’s campus attending seminars and discussions on national issues, communications skills and other areas of study to stimulate the students’ desire to further their education. In addition they are made aware of the scholarships available, and the extensive loan and work-study programs available to students at Western.

The program is aimed at encouraging high school students of “potentially normal ability, but of disadvantaged backgrounds, to enter and succeed in college.” About 90 of this summer’s Upward Bound enrollees are now high school sophomores and juniors and about 30 are seniors, most of whom will probably enroll in college next fall. Twelve of the 30 seniors from last year’s WMU Upward Bound Program who did enroll in college are attending Western.

SPORTS REFLECTIONS

WRESTLING—Head coach Roy Wietz was recently honored by the NCAA of Wrestling Coaches and Officials for his 38 years’ service to the sport.

GYMNASTICS—Favored Southern Illinois U won all eight first places to dominate the NCAA Eastern Regional Gymnastics meet held this spring at WMU, with seven schools competing including Western. Competing coaches paid a tribute to WMU coach Fred Orlofsky in stating that the new gymnastics facilities at WMU compare favorably with those at any other American school.

SWIMMING—Gordon Niles of Detroit and John Nordberg of St. Joseph have been named co-captains of WMU’s 1969 squad.

FOOTBALL—WMU will make its first trip to the west coast in Sept. 1969 to play University of Pacific at Stockton, Calif., replacing the scheduled game at Brigham Young.

A four-game home and home series with Pacific begins in 1971.

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY NEWSLETTER and alumni events

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