Western Michigan University Newsletter, September 1968

Western Michigan University
Work began in August on the $4.4 million five-story wing addition, shown on the left portion of this sketch of an extensively remodeled McCracken Hall on WMU’s campus. When completed, the wing and remodeling will provide greatly needed space for the expanded Departments of Chemistry and Paper Technology, both of which now have greatly accelerated graduate studies. The Chemistry Department will use the top three floors of the addition and paper technology most of the bottom two floors, with the paper tech pilot plant on McCracken’s ground floor to be expanded.

The Chemistry Department expects to grant its first Ph.D. in this school year.

FOR COMMUNITY SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

WMU Receives $160,000 Mott Foundation Grants

Two separate grants totaling some $160,000 have been received by WMU from the Charles S. Mott Foundation of Flint to continue established educational programs. A grant of $65,895 for the 1968-69 fiscal year will continue the operation of WMU’s Community School Development Center which was established in the School of Education last year under a prior Mott Foundation grant.

Under the terms of the new grant, WMU’s School of Education will provide Michigan public schools with the following help in community school development.

1. Consultant assistance in organizing for action.
2. Aid in securing and training a Community School Director.
3. Ideas for securing financial help for the program.
5. Information on additional consultant services available through WMU.
6. In-service educational opportunities for Community School Directors.

During the last year, WMU’s center helped in starting new programs in seven school systems. In addition to helping with the pre-service preparation of school directors, monthly seminars were provided for additional public school personnel, including 24 directors from community schools already in operation.

Dr. Gerald C. Martin, associate professor of teacher education, is director of WMU’s Community School Development Center.

The second Mott Foundation grant, for $94,000, will permit WMU to continue its participation in the Mott Inter-University Clinical Preparation Program which includes seven state universities in Michigan and provides training for top-level personnel in community education. Ten men are currently working toward doctorates during a year’s internship at Flint. Dr. Donald Weaver, professor of school services at WMU, directs this project for WMU.

Dr. Morvin Wirtz Named Assistant Dean in WMU School of Education

Dr. Morvin A. Wirtz, head of WMU’s Department of Special Education, has been named assistant dean of Western’s School of Education, but will also continue to head special education at WMU. He came to WMU to head the newly formed department in January, 1967 after previously serving as deputy assistant commissioner in the U.S. Office of Education’s division for the disadvantaged and handicapped. A University of Wisconsin graduate, Dr. Wirtz received his doctorate from the University of Illinois.

In addition, Dr. Donald Weaver, professor of school services and a WMU faculty member for seven years, was named as acting assistant dean of the School of Education for one year beginning July 1. He’ll continue certain duties in the Department of School Services.

The WMU Board of Trustees also
named Dr. Chester W. Fitch as chairman of the University's Department of Engineering and Technology and professor of engineering as of mid-July.

Since 1964 he had been a professor and head of the Mechanical Engineering Department at Michigan Technological University. A native of Montana, he holds degrees from Montana State University and Iowa State University, where he received a doctorate.

He has served on the faculties of Iowa State College, Montana State, and University of California (Berkeley).

WMU to Host Junior High School Conference

On October 25th

“Crisis or Challenge—Early Adolescent Years,” is the theme of the fourth annual Junior High School Conference to be held at Western on Oct. 25 under sponsorship of the WMU School of Education. The state-wide conference for junior high teachers and administrators will be keynoted by two outstanding educators, Dr. John Gibson of Tufts University and Dr. Neil Atkins, associate secretary of the Association of Schools and Curriculum Development, Washington, D.C.

The afternoon session of the conference will feature five dialogues: Dr. Donald Bouma, WMU professor of sociology, on “Youth’s Attitude;” Calhoun county probate judge Mary Coleman on “The Court Looks at Youth;” Dr. Fred Margolis, Kalamazoo pediatrician, on “A Physician Looks at Youth;” Jess Walker, WMU associate professor of teacher education, on “The Disadvantaged;” and Dr. Lewis Walker, WMU associate professor of sociology, on “Youth Attitude Toward the Establishment.” Dr. Clara Chiara, WMU professor of education, is general conference chairman.

Name Dr. Merl Hokenstad, Jr., First Director of New School of Social Work

The first director of WMU’s new School of Social Work is Merl C. Hokenstad, Jr., who was to assume his duties in mid-August. He was completing his work on a Ph.D. degree at Brandeis University this summer. He’ll also serve as an associate professor of social work.

The new School of Social Work, which will be under the Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences, will offer a two-year graduate professional program leading to the degree of master of social work and become operative in the fall of 1969.

U.S. Education Dept. Picks WMU as Site To Train 22 Counselors for Disadvantaged

WMU has been selected by the U.S. Department of Education as the site for a full year training institute for school counselors and represents an investment of more than $100,000 in federal funds via the National Defense Education Act.

Twenty-two teachers from around the U.S. have been selected for training as counselors of disadvantaged youth during the institute. The trainees already have extensive experience with several types of culturally deprived young people, including those from city ghettos, the Appalachia region of Kentucky and West Virginia, Eskimo and Indian communities, and rural and migrant worker areas of the south.

Class of 1943 Members Urged to Attend Oct. 5 Silver Anniversary

Members of Western’s Class of 1943 are invited to attend the Silver Anniversary Breakfast of the class on Homecoming Day, next Oct. 5. All members of this class are requested to urge fellow classmates to attend this reunion and renew or strengthen old acquaintances.

Frank Bentz Named Scholarships Director

Frank H. Bentz, assistant director of admissions at WMU, became director of scholarships on July 1, succeeding Dr. Clayton Holaday, who requested a return to full-time teaching as professor of English.

Bentz received his bachelor’s degree at Michigan State University and M.A. at WMU. He has been associated with WMU’s admissions office since 1964.
WMU Trustees Approve Grand Rapids Center Of Educational Studies

A Center of Educational Studies at Grand Rapids, a cooperative venture of WMU and the Grand Rapids Public Schools, has been authorized by WMU’s Board of Trustees.

The purpose of the Center, according to Dr. Russell H. Seibert, vice president for academic affairs, is to achieve improved training for personnel at Grand Rapids schools and at Western through a regular schedule of workshops, short courses, seminars, and consultations.

Dr. Seibert adds that systematic research will supply the Grand Rapids school system with information needed for educational purposes; investigate the general nature of public school systems; and advance the theoretical understanding of the academic disciplines in the Center.

$10,000 Grant from Standard Oil to Petroleum Distribution

Western's petroleum distribution program received a $10,000 grant from the Standard Oil Co. (Indiana) Foundation recently. Adrian Trimpe, director of libraries at Western, the arrangement eliminates expensive duplication of efforts and provides for instant borrowing privileges in each of the libraries.

For instance, all of the universities involved are participants in three separate programs under Public Law 480, under which Michigan State acquires publications from India, Pakistan, Nepal and Ceylon; Wayne State receives Israeli material; while WMU receives publications from Yugoslavia. The resources from each of the countries will be shared under the new library agreement.

Special library personnel are handling the exchange, with requests at WMU’s Waldo Library under the direction of Mary Taylor, circulation librarian.

Co-op Agreement to End Expensive Duplication In Library Book Collections

Eliminating expensive duplication of efforts and library book collections is the target of a new cooperative agreement between the libraries of WMU, Michigan State University and Wayne State. The plan calls for the sharing of book collections which are unique to each campus.

According to Peter Spyers-Duran, director of libraries at Western, the arrangement eliminates expensive duplication of efforts and provides for instant borrowing privileges in each of the libraries.

For instance, all of the universities involved are participants in three separate programs under Public Law 480, under which Michigan State acquires publications from India, Pakistan, Nepal and Ceylon; Wayne State receives Israeli material; while WMU receives publications from Yugoslavia. The resources from each of the countries will be shared under the new library agreement.

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Three New Assistant Varsity Sports Coaches

Three additions to the WMU athletic coaching staff and men's physical education faculty became effective in mid-August. They are Fletcher Lewis, who became assistant varsity track coach; Fred Decker, new assistant baseball coach; and Charles Comer, new assistant football coach.

Lewis and Decker are WMU graduates while Comer graduated from Bowling Green (Ohio) University in 1961 where he was a football standout, subsequently playing professionally with the Buffalo Bills and Columbus Colts before taking up full time coaching and teaching. Comer coached the last year at East Lansing High School and six years before that at Troy, Ohio. He did his graduate work at Xavier (Ohio).

Lewis was football co-captain (1958) and track captain (1959) at Western, where he also received his M.A. He has been a junior high coach and physical education consultant in the Kalamazoo public schools the last eight years.

Decker, who was twice an All-American in baseball at WMU, coached two years at Portage Central High School and has been a graduate assistant to WMU baseball coach Bill Chambers the last year.
Growing List of Grants to WMU

Included among the more heavily funded grants received by WMU or its various departments or faculty members recently are the following:

A U. S. Public Health Service grant of $32,697 in support of research directed by Dr. Jochanen Stenesh, associate professor of chemistry.

A National Heart Institute grant of $25,516 in support of research conducted by Dr. J. Lindsley Foote, assistant professor of chemistry.

U. S. Office of Education grant of $90,000 to the Special Education Department to assist individuals who are training to work with the handicapped (mentally retarded, emotionally disturbed and crippled).

A U. S. Office of Education award of $31,000 to the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology to train personnel to work with children who have speech and hearing handicaps.

A grant of $25,532 from the U. S. Office of Naval Research to the Department of Psychology for research directed by Dr. Roger Ulrich, research professor, and Dr. Ronald Hutchinson, associate professor.

A grant of $47,818 over two years from the Rockefeller Foundation of New York to enable WMU faculty to engage in overseas research. Dr. R. Gerald Saylor, assistant professor of economics, will serve as a Research fellow in the Economic Research Bureau, University College at Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, Africa, under the grant.

A $26,417 grant from the National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases, U. S. Public Health Service, for research by the Department of Chemistry, headed by Dr. Dean W. Cooke, associate professor, and Dr. Donald G. Berndt, associate professor.

Dr. Charles Van Riper Conducting Speech Defect In Children Research

What factors are involved in the ability of some children to correct their own speech defects without the need for speech therapy? This is a major aim of a research project being conducted by Dr. Charles Van Riper, Distinguished University Professor in speech pathology at WMU.

The first phase of the project on the development of a predictive screening test for children with speech defects has been completed by Dr. Van Riper. He said the research attempts to identify those children who can be expected to master correct speech sounds without the use of speech therapy. Those able to overcome their own speech difficulties can be eliminated from therapy and allow more time for those children who require special help.

The predictive screening test was administered to 167 beginning first graders in 1962, with studies of the children continuing until early 1965. Speech evaluations conducted during the third year of the project indicated that 47 percent of the children had spontaneously mastered normal articulation between the first and third grades, with 53 percent continuing to show errors in articulation.

A second experimental form of Dr. Van Riper's test appears able to predict a first grade student's ability to develop normal speech by the third grade.

SPORTS BRIEFS

FOOTBALL—When fullback Tim Majerle rolled up 130 yards in the last Marshall game, he became only the second Bronco ever to rush for more than 1,000 career yards.

TRACK—WMU won 14 of 18 events to dominate the Michigan Federation meet at Waldo Stadium this May. WMU trackmen broke 13 school records this spring and tied another in a tremendous record splurge. They won the CCC meet at Notre Dame for the first time in six years. It was the same story in the Michigan Federation meet at Ypsilanti as WMU trackman took 12 firsts and broke nine EMU field records.

GOLF—Timo Kilpainen, a Farmington junior, shot a 143 for 36 holes in the MAG 1968 meet, good for second place, the highest finish by a WMU golfer in the MAG meet in 12 years. Earlier his 139 for two rounds in the Michigan State U invitational meet was one of the best ever by a Bronco golfer.

TENNIS—WMU took second place in the MAG in a most unusual finish which was rain interrupted and finally finished indoors near midnight at Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, after rain washed away the finals at Kent State. Toledo beat WMU 24-20 in matches sandwiched between those of a local tourney.