WMU's Summer Commencement Largest Ever

Western Michigan University's largest commencement saw 2,581 diplomas awarded on Aug. 15 as an estimated 9,000 friends and relatives watched in Waldo Stadium. The commencement speaker was Peter P. Muirhead, acting deputy commissioner of education, U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Sixty-five students received their diplomas with high honors, and three doctorates were awarded among the 780 advanced degrees conferred.

Receiving doctoral degrees were John J. Wickert of Portage, Mich., (Doctor of Education), Jack L. Parsons of Jones, Mich., and Thomas E. VanKoevering of Paw Paw, Mich. (Doctor of Philosophy degrees). Parsons' degree was in chemistry while VanKoevering's was in science education.

During the ceremony Thomas L. Lloyd, chief executive officer of the Albion Malleable Division, Hayes-Albion Corp. of Albion, Mich., was presented with the University's Distinguished Service Award. The honor commends Lloyd for his interest and efforts in the continuing development of WMU's Department of Engineering and Technology, including his organization of an advisory committee and his leadership in the formation of a university-industry co-operative program.

Muirhead told the throng that teachers in the U.S. today face a special challenge and must respond to student concern and guide it into channels for constructive change. An important first step, he said, "is to cultivate a willingness to listen to the voice of youth, to consider carefully the complaints or proposals they make, regardless of how unrealistic they may at first appear to be. "It is a sign of the success of our educational system that students today are well informed about social problems and determined to examine yesterday's values and priorities in light of today's changing needs," he said.

Muirhead called for an end to student violence but advocated the use of the right of peaceful protest. He said Americans face the problem of discarding the "myths that no longer enable us to handle anxiety, face death, and deal with guilt."

Seven students were listed in the program as graduating summa cum (Continued on Page 2)

Enrollment Reaches 20,125

Western Michigan University's 1969 fall enrollment reached a milestone when it was tabulated at 20,125, exceeding the 20,000 mark for the first time, according to Clayton J. Maus, Dean of Admissions and Records. The current enrollment represents an increase of 1,446 over the 18,679 of a year ago.

The number of undergraduates is 17,610 while the total of graduate students is 2,515, both new highs at WMU.

Included among the undergraduates are 3,369 entering freshmen and 1,966 students who transferred from community colleges or other four-year institutions.

Upper classmen (juniors and seniors) total 9,236, again outnumbering the 8,374 underclassmen (freshmen and sophomores).
WM Names Director Of Its New Black Americana Studies

A distinguished authority on patterns of leadership in race relations, Dr. Carleton L. Lee, this summer joined WMU's faculty as professor and director of Western's new Black Americana Studies programs.

Dr. Russell H. Seibert, vice president for academic affairs, said Black Americana Studies will complement such courses as Black History and Sub-Saharan African studies, which have been offered at WMU for several years among other Black Studies currently available.

"Many white Americans are complacently ignorant of the black dimension of American life and culture," Dr. Seibert said. "A program of Black Americana Studies is needed because of a growing awareness and sensitivity on the part of black students to the complexity, depth, and contribution of the black community to the warp and woof of American life. This dimension of America must be studied with the same rigor, intensity and discipline as all other dimensions of the 'complex fate' of American life and should be a constitutive part of our educational system.

"The uniqueness of Western's program is that it approaches the University's responsiveness for Black Americana Studies in terms of the special responsibilities of the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the School of Education, and the School of General Studies."

Dr. Lee holds degrees from Talladega (Alabama) College and the University of Chicago, where he earned his doctorate. He came to WMU from the faculty of Cheyney State (Pennsylvania) College. He has been an educator and social worker since 1937 (Lincoln Academy, No. Carolina; Morris Brown College; Tuskegee, Alabama, Institute; Southern Christian College; Central State University).

National Confab On Math Draws 1,200 to WMU

Some 1,200 persons attended the three-day convention of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics held at WMU in mid-August. Jointly hosted by WMU, the Michigan Council of Teachers of Mathematics, and the Detroit Council of Teachers of Mathematics, the convention featured sectional meetings for elementary, junior high, senior high and college level math instructors.

Dr. Robert C. Seber, professor of mathematics at WMU, served as general chairman for the convention. WMU faculty assisting Dr. Seber were Dr. Herbert H. Hannon, Clarence Hackney, Carl B. Snow and Fred Brail.

The keynote speaker at the opening session of the convention was H. Vernon Price of New Rochelle, N. Y., NCTM president-elect.

WMU Institute Studies Socially Disadvantaged Primary, Pre-Schooler

A two-week institute sponsored by WMU's Department of Librarianship July 21 to August 1 zeroed in on the target of the socially disadvantaged child of pre-school and primary ages living in urban poverty. Under the direction of Eleanor McKinney, assistant professor of librarianship, the institute aimed at identifying and characterizing the socially deprived child in an urban setting, gaining knowledge of and evaluating new print and non-print materials for children and adults who are working with children, and discussing and planning actual programs.

The problems of providing the earliest possible opportunities for library service for young children and cooperating with existing social agencies also concerned the participants and consultants working with them during the institute.

Dr. Morvin Wirtz, professor and associate dean of education at WMU, and Jess M. Walker, associate professor of teacher education, were among the consultants assisting the 30 public school librarians who represented every corner of the U.S.

Participants had been selected in pairs from the same community so they could plan effectively for programs in their own communities.

Dr. Morvin Wirtz Becomes Assoc. Dean, Education

Dr. Morvin A. Wirtz, in July was promoted by the WMU Board of Trustees to the position of associate dean of the School of Education. He had been assistant dean since mid-1968.

At the same time Dr. Paul J. Misner, professor of school services, was named acting head of the Department of Teacher Education, replacing Dr. Orval Ulry, who resigned.

Dr. David Adams Heads New Faculty Senate Officers

New WMU Faculty Senate officers elected for the 1969-70 academic year are: President—Dr. David W. Adams, professor of education; vice president—Dr. Alan S. Brown, professor of history; recording secretary—Dr. Chris Koronakos, professor of psychology; correspond-
Fifth Annual Jr. High Confab Keynoter Is Editor, Author

The author of four popular books—Dr. Paul Goodman, editor of Liberation magazine—will be the keynote speaker at the Fifth Annual Junior High Conference scheduled for WMU’s Student Center on Nov. 7. Dr. Goodman’s topic will be “Comments on Skills of Compassion and Competence.”

The morning session will feature “Micro-Lab, an Experience in Sensitivity,” conducted by Arthur Howson, director of WMU’s Muskegon Resident Center, while the afternoon will be devoted to queries from the audience, a feedback to Dr. Goodman’s comments.

Dr. Goodman, the author of Growing Up Absurd, Compulsory Miseducation, Making Do, and Art and Social Nature, has taught at the University of Chicago, New York Univ., Sarah Lawrence College and the Univ. of Wisconsin, among others.

Death Claims

Roxanna Steele, Education Emerita

Miss Roxanna Steele, who retired in 1952 after teaching in the Campus School at WMU and serving as foreign student advisor, died Aug. 17 in Towson, Md. at the age of 82. She joined WMU’s Education Department in 1924 after previously having taught in Baltimore; Scarborough-on-Hudson, New York; and Bloomsburg, Pa.

At Western she was the first woman to be elected president of Western’s faculty senate, serving two separate terms. Miss Steele was a graduate of Columbia University Teachers College, where she also earned an M.A.

New School of Social Work Granted Candidacy by CSWE

WMU’s new School of Social Work has been granted candidacy by the Council on Social Work Education, a national accreditation agency. The WMU School of Social Work will receive its first students this fall. Candidacy is the first step toward full accreditation which can be granted only after the school has been in operation.

Kenneth W. Kindelsperger, chairman of the commission on accreditation, wrote WMU President James W. Miller, “The commission commends the superb support which the development of the program has received from the WMU administration as well as administrators and from professors in the departments akin to social work. The planning and implementation in program during this preparation period (the 1968-69 academic year) has been outstanding.”

Dr. Merl C. Hokenstad is Director of WMU’s School of Social Work.

WMU Offers Plastics Technology Course For First Time

For the first time, WMU’s Industrial Education Department this past summer offered a new course, Plastics Technology, which attracted considerable interest. The majority of the students enrolled in the course were graduate students presently teaching in Michigan high schools.

Photo shows a student with plastic mold fashioned in class.
Pat Clysdale Named Asst. Athletic Dir.

J. Patrick Clysdale, associate professor of physical education at WMU, has been named assistant athletic director. For the last two years Clysdale has been administrative assistant to Dr. Joseph T. Hoy, head of the Men's Physical Education Department and Athletic Director. Clysdale holds B.S. ('52) and M.A. ('53) degrees from WMU and joined the faculty in 1958.

John Beatty New Dir. Sports Info.

John W. Beatty, who has been the assistant sports information director at Indiana University the last three years, this August became Sports Information Director at WMU, succeeding Hal Bateman who has assumed a similar post at the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Beatty, a Michigan State University graduate, had previously been S.I.D. at North Dakota State University. While at M.S.U., he was a student assistant in the sports information office.

WMU Trustees Name New Assistant Basketball, Track Coaches

During the summer WMU Board of Trustees meetings, Joe C. Roberts, former Ohio State University and professional basketball star, and Boice Bowman, a former track standout at WMU, were appointed as assistant varsity sports coaches at Western.

Roberts will assist basketball coach Sonny Means and teach physical education. He succeeds Bud Fossen who left WMU to become head coach at Portage Northern High School. Roberts was co-captain, with John Havlicek, of the OSU 1960 NCAA title team and has been a recreation specialist with the Ohio Youth Commission the last six years after playing pro basketball several years.

Bowman, a 1968 graduate of WMU, compiled a B-plus grade average in elementary education and has taught in Detroit the past year. He earned three letters in both track and basketball at WMU and will aid track coach George Dales. Bowman succeeds Fletcher Lewis, who has become director of physical education for the Kalamazoo Public Schools.

WMU BRIEFS

Western ranks first among Michigan's institutions of higher education in the number of its graduates who are superintendents of schools, assistant superintendents, elementary principals and secondary principals.