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## Faculty Retirement Recognition Dinner 2003

Western Michigan University

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# WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

*Faculty  
Retirement  
Recognition  
Dinner*

*May 15, 2003*



*Faculty  
Retirement  
Recognition  
Dinner*



Centennial  
1903-2003 Celebration

*May 15, 2003*





May 2003

Dear Colleagues:

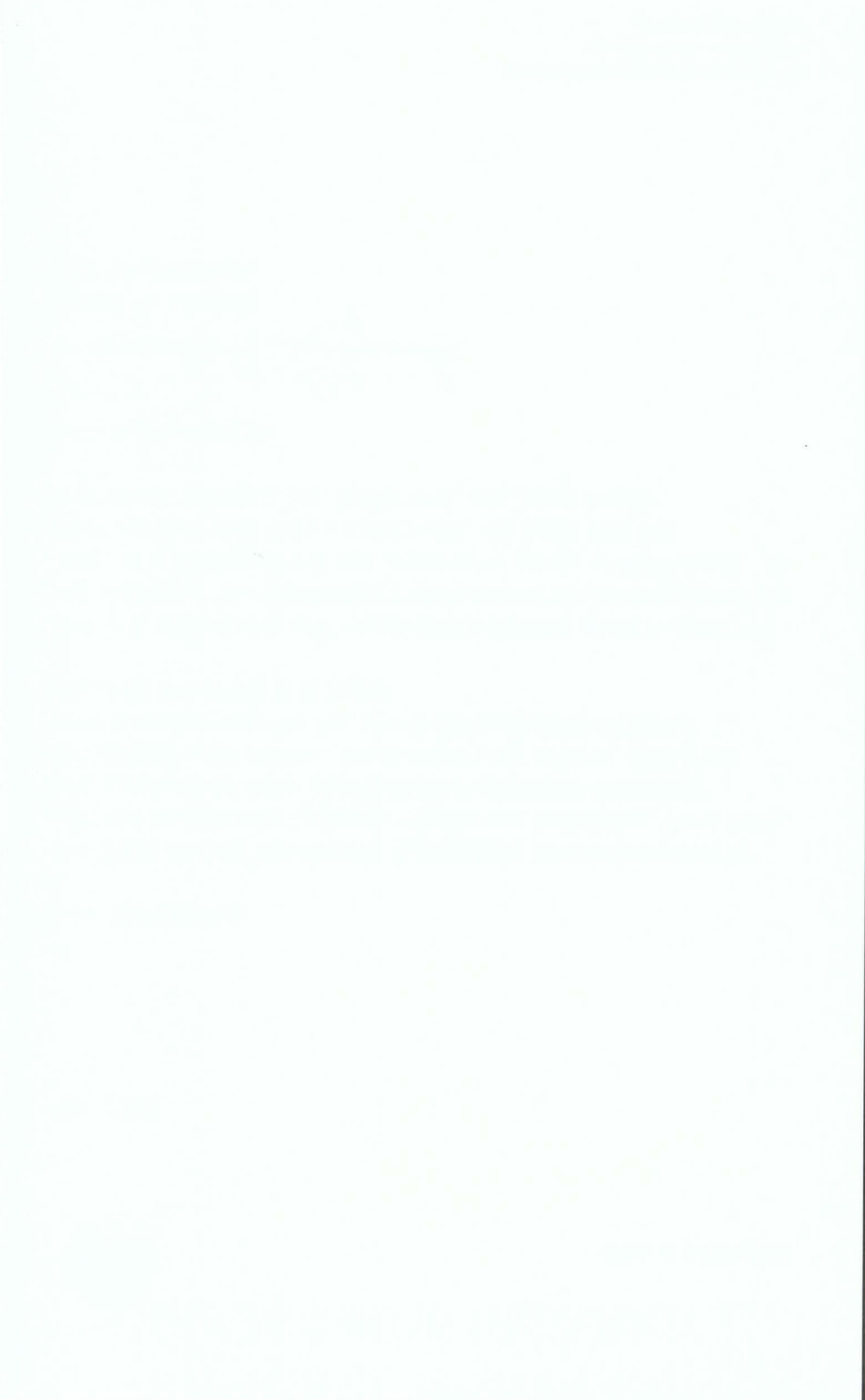
The 2003 Faculty Retirement Recognition Dinner provides us with the opportunity to thank you for the dedication, hard work, and support you have given Western Michigan University throughout your career. Because of your efforts, WMU has been transformed into the world-class student-centered research university it is today.

This is a remarkable and wonderful transition point in your life, and you have our heartiest congratulations on having joined the ranks of a distinguished and impressive group of individuals. As you embrace your future endeavors, we hope you will experience success, joy, fulfillment, and good health.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel M. Litynski".

Daniel M. Litynski  
Interim President





## Program

Trumpet Fanfare . . . . . Steve Jones  
Emcees . . . . . Ed and Ruth Heinig

## Dinner

Greetings from the Faculty Senate . . . . . Peter Krawutschke  
Recognition of the Honorees:  
    Presentation of the Certificates . . . . . Daniel M. Litynski  
Welcome to the Ranks of Emeriti . . . . . June Cottrell  
Honorees' Response . . . . . Leander Jones  
"The Best of Broadway" . . . Introductions by D. Terry Williams  
    Music Theatre Performance Students  
        Heather Beck  
        Mat Leland  
        Brett Rigby  
        Andrea Wilmoth  
    Accompanied by Jamie Reed  
WMU Alma Mater . . . . . sung by all  
    Directed by Bill Appel; Accompanied by Jamie Reed



# *Dinner*



*Mixed Greens with Dried Cherries,  
Roasted Walnuts, Gorgonzola Cheese,  
and Cilantro Lime Vinaigrette*

*Marinated Lemon Pepper Chicken*

*Cabernet Rice*

*Steamed Broccoli and Carrots*

*Rolls and Butter*

*Lemon Chiffon Cake and  
Double Chocolate Layer Cake*

*Beverages*

*(Optional Vegetarian Plate)*

## Honored Guests

Tonight we honor 15 of our colleagues who are entering the ranks of Western's esteemed retired faculty. It is good to have this gathering of those who through so many years have contributed so much to the building of Western's valued traditions, yet have always been attuned to the imperatives of new directions.

We thank these retiring faculty for their years of dedicated service to Western Michigan University and wish them a full and happy future. By honoring the accomplishments of our retired faculty, we also honor the accomplishments of Western, for the two are inextricably interwoven.

James W. Burns

John R. Cooley

Clifford Davidson

Suzanne Davis

David Hargreave (No Biography)

Ahmad D. Issa

Leander C. Jones

Pamela G. Keesler

Lorna K. Kierepka

Timothy Light

John L. Michael

George B. Robeck

Lovette J. Teichert

Richard A. Wright

Roger M. Zabik



## **James W. Burns**

Professor of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership

James W. Burns got his bachelor of science degree in early childhood and elementary education from Central Connecticut State University. His master's in educational administration and general studies, and his education doctorate in elementary education, child development, and family relationships, were both earned from Pennsylvania State University.

Jim began his teaching career in the Greenwich, Connecticut, schools. He then moved to Pennsylvania State University where he became the director of the University Curriculum Center and began his graduate work. Following his graduation in 1968, he came to Western Michigan University. Since his arrival here, he has been a very productive and much sought after teacher and leader in the field of reading. Reading and young children's language have been his passion and his focus throughout his career.

The early seventies was a time of great change in the WMU College of Education, and Jim was involved in much of it. He was involved with colleagues in a special program for teachers in the Freemont and Fruitport public schools, which became a nationally recognized and award-winning program for field based programs. Later he coordinated two "flying seminars" to England to study its primary schools, followed by a sabbatical there to study reading instruction. Among many other accomplishments, Jim brought Reading Recovery (a nationally recognized early intervention program) to Michigan, served as the program's director at WMU, and at one point had trained most of the Reading Recovery teachers in Michigan.

Jim received the WMU Alumni Association's Teaching Excellence Award and was also awarded Pennsylvania State University's Outstanding Alumni Teaching Award for his excellence in teaching, knowledge, and ability to inspire students. He is an inspiring teacher and continues to work closely with many young reading professionals throughout southwestern Michigan.

In retirement, Jim plans to teach part-time, but will be spending much more time with his children and grandchildren.



**John R. Cooley**  
Professor of English and  
Environmental Studies

John R. Cooley earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from Syracuse University. He earned his doctorate at the University of Massachusetts. His dissertation was on "Modes of Primitivism in American Literature."

After John joined the Western Michigan University Department of English in 1968, he established himself with a reputation for his scholarship in American literature, with a particular emphasis on Mark Twain and environmental writing. During his years at Western, he has written or edited four books, published numerous articles, made many presentations at academic conferences, won ten research grants, and served in a variety of roles for professional organizations and scholarly journals.

He has served as a visiting professor at the University of Nottingham, the University of Exeter, and the University of Sussex. Additionally, he served for many years as the director of the WMU summer program at Cambridge University.

John was one of the founders of WMU's interdisciplinary Environmental Studies program. He has held a joint appointment in English and Environmental Studies since 1992. He has taught a wide variety of graduate and undergraduate courses in both departments. His courses in American minority literature and environmental literature have been groundbreaking.

Winning the Dean's Award for Teaching and Scholarship in 1995, John has always been a model of the engaged and engaging teacher-scholar. His personal warmth and enthusiasm draw colleagues and students alike to him.

In retirement, John plans to spend time in Kalamazoo and in his cabin in Vermont. He is completing a book on the social and environmental history of the Kalamazoo River. In addition, he has plans for international travel.





## **Clifford Davidson**

Professor of English and  
Medieval Studies

Clifford Davidson was born in Faribault, Minnesota. He received his bachelor of science degree from St. Cloud University. He then attended the University of Minnesota Graduate School followed by Wayne State University where he received both his master's and doctorate degrees.

Prior to joining the faculty at Western Michigan University in 1965, Clifford was a high school teacher in St. Paul, Howard Lake, and Atwater, all in Minnesota. When he moved on to Wayne State, he was a graduate assistant and then an instructor of English. He entered Western as an assistant professor and moved up through the ranks to professor of English and Medieval Studies. In 1985 he was named a Distinguished Scholar by Western, and honored by a special session at the 35th International Congress on Medieval Studies.

Clifford is the author, co-author, editor, or co-editor of more than three dozen books, and has published more than one hundred scholarly articles and forty reviews. He was co-editor with John Stroupe of the international journal *Comparative Drama* from 1967 to 1998. He also served as music director of ten medieval music-dramas, including a production of *Peregrinus*, which was staged at an international drama conference in Viterbo, Italy, in 1983. He was the dramatic director for a dozen or so medieval music dramas staged by the early music group that his wife, Audrey, directed over the years until her retirement. Audrey is a Professor Emerita of Music from WMU and Director Emerita of the Society for Old Music. Their travels combined their research interests.

In his retirement, Clifford plans to continue his research.

## **Suzanne Davis**

Assistant Professor of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership

Suzanne Davis was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan. She received her bachelor of science degree in elementary education and her master of arts degree in teaching disadvantaged from Western Michigan University. She was certified in counselor education at St. Francis College and received her doctor of education in elementary education from Ball State University.

Prior to coming to Western Michigan University, Suzanne lived and traveled in Europe for three years, and then raised three children. She worked as an early childhood teacher, a parent coordinator, a high school counselor, an instructor at Indiana-Purdue University, and an elementary principal at a public Montessori school. Since joining WMU's College of Education in 1989, Suzanne has been a post-doctoral fellow and served as the School and University Partnership Team (SUPT) coordinator involved with interns and mentor teacher support efforts.

Suzanne has a strong interest in issues of diversity and has spent considerable time and effort working to disseminate important information on diversity issues to the faculty, staff, and students in the College of Education. She has served as either a member or chair of the College of Education Diversity Committee for the past ten years. She developed the Committee on Race and Diversity (CORD) as a departmental ad hoc committee to further address issues of diversity and ethnicity.

In retirement, Suzanne plans to continue consulting on Montessori, work as a reading tutor, travel, and spend more time with her grandchildren in southern California.





**Ahmad D. Issa**  
Professor of Finance and  
Commercial Law

Ahmad D. Issa was born in Jerusalem, Palestine. He received his bachelor of science degree with honors, master of science degree, and doctorate all in finance from the University of Illinois. He did post-doctoral work in financial planning and divorce planning. Prior to coming to Western Michigan University, Ahmad taught at Southern Illinois University, the University of Detroit, and the University of Kuwait.

Ahmad joined the faculty at Western in 1976. In addition to his duties in the Haworth College of Business, he has donated countless hours to many on-campus and off-campus organizations. He was a member and secretary of the Budget and Finance Council, as well as a member of the Faculty Senate. For the American Association of University Professors, he chaired the Economic Compensation Committee, was on the negotiation team twice, acted as a financial advisor to the team, was on the Budget Analysis Committee, and acted as a departmental representative. A very popular activity to come out of all of this has been his retirement seminars, which he has been providing since 1995. Off-campus activities include being involved with the Optimist Club, the Kalamazoo Humane Society, and various financial planning and advising positions.

In recognition of his outstanding service to many organizations, Ahmad has been the recipient of many awards including a fellowship at the University of Illinois and a Teaching Excellence Award at Western in 1983. Additionally, he was chosen as Volunteer of the Year 1989 by the Kalamazoo Humane Society. He was presented with an Appreciation of Service Award by the AAUP in 1995. Ahmad has left a bit of his excellence with each institution in which he has been involved.

Upon retirement, Ahmad plans to continue his consulting services, faculty retirement seminars, and volunteer work at both Kalamazoo Animal Rescue and Have-A-Heart (Greyhound adoption organization). Additionally, he intends to pursue his hobbies of traveling, gardening, reading, and Lionel trains, along with caring for his two adopted Greyhounds.



### **Leander C. Jones**

Professor of Africana Studies

Leander C. Jones was born in Vincent, Arkansas. He received his bachelor's degree in Speech and Drama from the University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff; his master's degree in Radio and Television from the University of Illinois, Urbana; and his doctorate degree from the Union Graduate Institute in Cincinnati.

Prior to his arrival at Western Michigan University in 1975, Leander had a diversified career. He began as a high school English teacher with the Board of Education in Chicago, which was interrupted by leaves of absence for service in the Army and in the Peace Corps. The latter took him to Mogadishu, Somalia, to teach English as a second language. This was followed by being the producer, director, interviewer, writer, and host of public affairs programs on radio and television for the City Colleges of Chicago. He then was a communications media specialist and assistant professor of community medicine at Meharry Medical College in Nashville.

Since coming to Western, Leander has focused on Black Americana Studies along with his TV, radio, and theater interests. His courses have included Introduction to Africana Studies, the Black Community, Blacks in the Arts, African Literature, and the Black American Experience. He has served on numerous Africana Studies committees ranging from recruitment to curriculum development. At the community level he was the guiding force behind the founding of the Black Civic Theatre. During his tenure at Western, he has done much to improve the Africana Studies area. His professional service has included the Michigan Black Repertory Theatre, the National Black Media Consortium, the NAACP, the AAUP, the Faculty Senate, and the Black Civic Theatre to name a few.

In retirement, Leander plans to simply enjoy life and do things he wants to do.

### **Pamela G. Keesler**

Assistant Academic Career Specialist, Language Specialist  
Career English Language Center for International Students

Pamela G. Keesler was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She received her bachelor's degree with a major in French, her first master's degree in French Literature, and her second master's degree in Linguistics, all from Western Michigan University.

Prior to coming to Western, Pam served in the Peace Corps for two years in LashkarGah, Pakistan. She then taught French at Loy Norrix High School in Kalamazoo for five years. Pam joined the faculty of Western in 1975 when she was one of the founders of the Career English Language Center for International Students, then called the Career English Program. She was instrumental in the early development of the curriculum, followed by teaching a wide variety of courses which were offered. She quickly became involved in many of the extra curricular activities of the program, because, as a mother and having spent considerable time abroad, she was keenly aware of the need for understanding, support, and interaction in an attempt to overcome homesickness and the overwhelming feelings students had in their new environment.

Pam served on many committees in the department. She was a member of both MITESOL (Michigan Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) and TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) and attended and presented at many conferences throughout her career.

Her hobbies include travel, reading, and writing, along with a unique fascination of butterflies. Her students often remember her as the "Butterfly Lady." During her career, Pam pursued her writing interests and has thoughts of completing an MFA in writing now that she has more free time. Additionally, in retirement, she plans on traveling and just enjoying life.





**Lorna K. Kierepka**  
Faculty Specialist II,  
Professional Specialist  
Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering

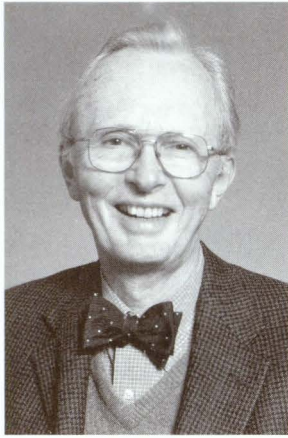
Lorna Kierepka was born in Edmore, Michigan. After earning dual bachelor's degrees with majors in history and English, with honors, she was awarded a fellowship in history and went on to earn her master's degree in historical writing, all at Western Michigan University. She began a 36-year teaching career while she continued her studies in educational leadership.

After she earned her master's degree, she went on to teach in an inner-city school with a diverse ethnic population in the Grand Rapids (Michigan) Public School system. There she was honored with the Student Council Award for Excellence in Teaching on several occasions.

After eleven years, she returned to Kalamazoo and began teaching part-time at Kalamazoo Valley Community College while taking post-graduate classes in educational leadership at Western. At KVCC she focused on composition, submitting student work for inclusion in a publication for the English department and then editing a student literary publication at Kalamazoo College. At Kalamazoo College, she was twice named Significant Educator for the Kalamazoo Excellence in Education Day.

In the fall of 1986, Lorna was appointed Coordinator for Technical Communications for WMU's College of Engineering, in a part-time position. This continued until 1995 when she was appointed to a full-time position. She has taught many communication classes, hired and mentored part-time faculty, served on faculty committees, prepared accreditation papers, and redesigned the focus of technical communication to incorporate computer usage and collaborative experiences.

Lorna's hobbies are intricately connected to her career and family. She is an avid reader, a live theater attendee, a gardener, a trivia buff, and an involved parent. Immediate retirement plans include time off for relaxing and traveling, to be followed by her return to part-time teaching and consulting in January 2004. She feels she has corrected enough papers for two lifetimes, but she will miss the teaching aspect greatly. She regrets not having finished her doctorate, but feels the balance she has achieved has more than made up for that.



## **Timothy Light**

University Professor of Comparative Religion  
and  
Asian and Middle Eastern Languages

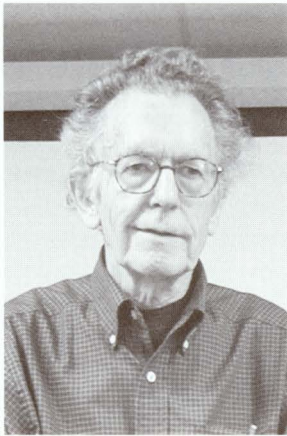
Timothy Light was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan. He received his bachelor's degree in English literature from Yale University, his master of divinity in theology from Union Theological Seminary, his master of arts in teaching English as a second language from Teachers College at Columbia University, and his doctorate in linguistics from Cornell University.

Prior to his arrival at Western Michigan University, Tim taught such courses as Chinese, English as a second language, and comparative religion at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the University of Arizona, and Ohio State University. Additionally, he was involved with administration duties at these institutions along with being Provost and Acting President of Kalamazoo College and President of Middlebury College. At Western, Tim has been both a professor and an administrator. For four years he served as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. More recently he has been involved with teaching in comparative religion and in Asian and Middle Eastern languages.

Tim has a lengthy list of books and monographs, articles and reviews, presentations and papers, principal talks, and grants and awards, spanning his entire career in all institutions in which he was involved. He is a well established resource on the teaching of Chinese.

In his retirement, Tim plans to continue teaching comparative religion during the fall semester at Western along with many volunteer activities. Additionally, he will continue writing and traveling, hoping to see more of his daughters and granddaughter.





**John (Jack) L. Michael**  
Professor of Psychology

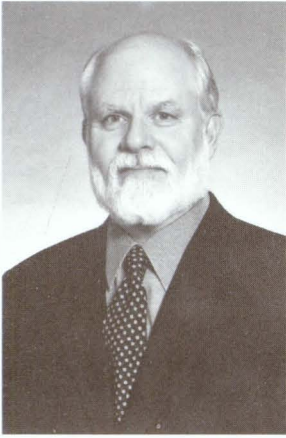
Jack L. Michael was born in Los Angeles. After high school, he enrolled at UCLA as a chemistry major. His education was interrupted by the Army, during which time he happened to read his first psychology books while stationed in Japan. He returned to UCLA and earned his bachelor's degree in psychology, followed by a doctorate in psychology with an emphasis in physiological psychology, statistics, philosophy of science, and experimental psychology.

Jack was hired as an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Kansas. While preparing for an introductory class, he became enamored with B. F. Skinner's scientific approach to the study of behavior, a theoretical orientation known as "behavior analysis." This would go on to characterize his teaching and writing throughout the remainder of his academic career. From Kansas, he moved to the University of Houston. The next step took him to Arizona State University where he helped develop a graduate training program in behavior analysis.

In 1976, Jack joined the faculty at Western Michigan University. At the time, the Department of Psychology was in transition from an eclectic program to a more behavioral program with an emphasis on research and graduate level training. Jack was instrumental in the development of the graduate programs. Furthermore, he was an integral part of the development of the Association for Behavior Analysis, a professional organization with over 4,000 international members. He did much to establish WMU's national reputation as *the* outstanding university program for training and research in behavioral analysis.

Jack has published numerous scholarly articles and is nationally recognized as an expert on motivation, verbal behavior, and college teaching. He has been honored with numerous awards including Master Lecturer, American Psychological Association, 1984; Distinguished Teaching Award, Western Michigan University, 1985; Distinguished Faculty Scholar, Western Michigan University, 1989; Don Hake Award, American Psychological Association, 2002; and Distinguished Service to Behavior Analysis, Association for Behavior Analysis, 2002.

Jack's influence on WMU and the Behavior Psychology community has been profound. We wish him well in his retirement.



## **George B. Robeck**

Associate Professor of Communication

George Robeck was born in Pittsburgh. He received his bachelor's degree in English and his master's degree in journalism from Pennsylvania State University, and his doctorate in communication from Michigan State University.

Prior to coming to Western Michigan University in 1968, George was a graduate teaching assistant at Michigan State University in the Department of Communication. This was followed by a year as a part-time instructor at Lansing Community College in the English Department. Throughout his career he has been a communication consultant to public and private sector organizations.

George's diverse interests throughout the field of communication have been great assets to the Department of Communication. While at WMU, he developed and taught courses in interpersonal communication, media studies, public relations, and nonverbal communication at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. As a result of his efforts, he was awarded with the WMU Teaching Excellence Award in 1981; a Lifetime Achievement Award from InterCom, the association for professional communicators in southwestern Michigan, in 1995; the Tony Griffin Golden Word Award from the Professional Women Communicators and InterCom in 2001; and WMU's College of Arts and Sciences Service Achievement Award in 2002.

George's commitment to and enthusiasm for his work and his students is evidenced over the years through his service as faculty advisor and member of the Board of Directors for the *Western Herald* (the student newspaper at WMU), advising the student Public Relations Organization, and coordinating internships through the Department of Communication. Outside of his teaching realm, he has volunteered for the Disability Resource Center of Southwestern Michigan, the Kalamazoo Humane Society, the Kalamazoo Public Library, the Shepherd's Center, the YMCA, WMUK, and the Kalamazoo Center for Fair Housing.

In retirement, George plans to continue with his volunteering interests, his consulting, and his hobbies of traveling, gardening, reading, and attending theater performances.





### **Lovette J. Teichert**

Master Faculty Specialist, Language Specialist  
Career English Language Center for  
International Students

Lovette J. Teichert was born in Cleveland. She received her bachelor of science degree in English and German from Kent State University. She received her master of education degree in German from the University of Georgia. She attended two National Defense Education Act Summer Institutes focusing on German, the teaching of German, and Germany. Additionally, she took supplemental classes at Western

Michigan University to enhance her teaching of English as a second language.

Prior to coming to Western, Lovey taught English and German at a variety of public schools in both Ohio and Germany. She joined the faculty of Western Michigan University in 1976, in the Career English Program, now called the Career English Language Center for International Students. She taught most of the classes offered in addition to getting involved in the acculturation process of her international students. She was described by the director as, "...devoted to student welfare and serving as surrogate mother to hundreds of students over her years of teaching." In addition to teaching, Lovey has been involved with most of the department committees, has attended and participated in many professional organizations, and has taken classes to enhance her professionalism.

At the university level, Lovey served the AAUP as Association Council representative and on two of its negotiations teams and served as Senator to the Faculty Senate. She has taught German as well.

At the community level, if it has something to do with German, Lovey is there. She directed and taught in the Elisabeth Mayer Samstagschule from 1976-1994; she is a guest lecturer in the Personal Enrichment Program with Portage Public Schools; and she is a resource person for the teaching of German throughout the area.

In her retirement, Lovey plans to teach German wherever she is called, travel around the U.S. and abroad, and spoil her granddaughter.



**Richard A. Wright**  
Professor of Philosophy

Richard A. Wright was born in Newark, New Jersey. He received his bachelor of arts degree in philosophy from Baylor University. He went on to receive both his master and doctoral degrees in philosophy from the University of Illinois. He has developed particular expertise in logic and health care ethics.

His academic career began at Talladega College where he developed a comprehensive philosophy program. He then joined the faculty at the University of Toledo. There he taught, served as Assistant to the Director of the honors college, and was an Adjunct Professor at the Medical College of Ohio with appointments in both the College of Medicine and the School of Nursing. Richard was then appointed Director of the Biomedical and Health Care Ethics Program at the University of Oklahoma. While there, he held numerous positions in the ethics and health care fields. He was also a member of the Governor's Bioethics Task Force. He has received over \$1,000,000 in grants and numerous awards in support of his work.

Richard joined the faculty at Western Michigan University in 1993. During his tenure here, he has served as Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, Interim Vice President for Information Technology, Associate Vice President for Research, and Dean of the College of Aviation. Additionally, he has served as Interim Registrar, Interim Director of Financial Aid, and Interim Director of Academic Computing Services.

Of special interest to Richard is woodcarving, especially the period from 1100 to 1600, focusing on ecclesiastical carving. He is also interested in collecting out-of-print books on woodcarving techniques, processes, and procedures. Not surprisingly, his retirement plans include establishing a woodcarving business on Cape Cod.



### **Roger M. Zabik**

Professor of Health, Physical Education, and  
Recreation

Roger M. Zabik earned his bachelor of science degree in physical education and health from Ball State University, and his master of science and doctoral degrees in measurement and evaluation from Indiana University.

Roger began his career at Western Michigan University in 1967. He and his colleague, Mary Dawson, were instrumental in the development of the undergraduate and graduate programs in Exercise Science. Through their efforts, state-of-the-art labs housing biomechanics and exercise physiology were included in the construction plans of the Student Recreation Center. Always concerned with the academic achievement of his students, Roger chaired or served on numerous thesis and dissertation committees throughout his career. His professional accomplishments include articles in a wide variety of refereed publications and presentations at the national, regional, and local levels. He has served in several leadership roles at Western, including chair of the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation for fifteen years and Acting Associate Dean of the College of Education for four years.

In retirement, Roger plans to spend more time with his wife, three sons, and several grandchildren. Additionally, he is looking forward to extensive travel and golfing.



## Alma Mater

### *Brown and Gold* Western Michigan University

Western we sing to you, Brown and Gold.  
Western we bring to you, faith untold.  
    You challenge and inspire;  
    Your hope is our desire;  
We sing to you our Alma Mater  
    Brown and Gold.

(James Bull '57 and Walter Gilbert '64)



**The Faculty Retirement Recognition Committee  
of the  
Faculty Senate**

Darryl A. Salisbury (Chair), Career English Language Center  
for International Students  
Bernadine (Penny) Carlson-Carmichael, Emerita  
Thomas Gossman, University Ombudsman  
Charles Spaniolo, Emeritus  
Ellen Van Arsdale, WMU Bronson School of Nursing  
D. Terry Williams, Department of Theatre

*Special appreciation is extended to*

The Office of the President  
Suzanne M. Davenport, Faculty Senate Office  
Catering Services  
University Relations  
J.B. Printing Company  
and all of the others who participated in planning this event.



