Western Michigan University Newsletter, September 1970

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Apollo 13 Astronauts Made Honorary WMU Alums

Hot evening sunlight was the setting as the three U.S. Apollo 13 Astronauts drew a standing ovation from the Waldo Stadium audience of nearly 10,000 persons, including 2,550 graduates, before and after the three were awarded honorary doctorates by Western at its August Commencement. All three received the honorary degree of Doctor of Science.

Although the astronauts were the highlight of a commencement program which did not have a speaker, eleven students were awarded earned doctor's degrees and five WMU alums received Distinguished Alumni Awards.

The alumni awards went to: University of Michigan political science professor Dr. H. Gardner Ackley, former chairman of the U.S. President's Council of Economic Advisers and former U.S. Ambassador to Italy; Margaret E. Feather, who has served many years as a key WMU financial aid adviser and before that on the staff of the WMU Dean of Students; Dr. Homer H. Stryker, who has been an orthopedic surgeon for nearly 50 years and during that time invented numerous orthopedic bed and brace devices for patients; Dr. Merze Tate, who has been a history professor for many years at Howard University after studying at Oxford University in England and becoming the first Negro woman to enroll at Radcliffe College and earn a high research degree there; and David Wayne, noted stage, screen and TV actor, who has been a great source of inspiration and encouragement to young actors and actresses.

Among the 11 persons who were awarded earned doctorates were six who hold previous degrees from WMU, five of those with bachelor's degrees: Thomas W. Asmus and Bruce L. Jensen (both in chemistry); Charles H. Link, Ralph C. Skrocki and Lloyd G. Swierenga (all in educational leadership); and Robert H. Poel (science education).

Capt. Lovell, in making the response on behalf of himself and his two colleagues after they were awarded their honorary degrees, said there are two types of governmental programs: one that uses resources and one that creates them.

He noted that the nation's space program has helped to create resources, "not the program by itself," he said, but in its side benefits to
A number of Kalamazoo area news men and film crews were at the news conference.

other programs which combat pollution, poverty and hunger in our nation, in reply to criticisms of space spending by the U.S.

At an earlier press conference in the WMU Student Center shortly after arriving in Kalamazoo via air from the Glenview, Ill., Naval Air Station, Lovell had said "We'll find out just how mature the space program is" while answering a question about future advances in space exploration despite budgetary cuts.

However, all three were agreed that answers to our world problems of overpopulation, pollution and adequate food supplies may be found through space exploration and the necessary developments and research to carry it out.

On hand for the press conference were three TV movie cameras, several radio reporters, and six news men. The astronauts were greeted at the Kalamazoo Airport by about 1,000 persons.

Included among the WMU August graduates were 57 who received diplomas with high honors. Of these, four women were graduated summa cum laude (with a grade point average of 3.9 or more on a 4.0 scale) : Kathleen M. Earles, Uldis V. Miervaldis, Brenda K. Mitchell, and Monica E. Nahm, all of Kalamazoo.

The program listed another 19 as magna cum laude graduates (3.7 to 3.89 grade average) and 34 as cum laude (3.5 to 3.69).

One of the summa cum laude graduates, Mrs. Kathleen Earles, completed her four years of college work only two years after graduating from Kalamazoo Central High School in spite of having a baby during that period. She was able to take some college credit courses while still in high school, which helped her scholastic acceleration.

**Golden Anniversary Breakfast**

The event-filled summer commencement day began with the traditional Golden Anniversary Breakfast for the class of 1920 which was attended by a record 80 guests in the Student Center. Among those who attended were Ernest Giddings of Ann Arbor, Mich., 1920 class president; Fred W. Adams, vice chairman of the WMU Board of Trustees; Mr. Marion Sherwood, who was a faculty member in 1920 and was also the first president of Western's Alumni Association; Mrs. Lillian Waldo, widow of Dr. Dwight B. Waldo, Western's first president; and WMU President James W. Miller, who spoke briefly and read certain items in a 1920 Brown and Gold yearbook about some of the class members in attendance.

WMU's First Upward Bound Graduate Is Also First in State

The WMU August commencement was also noteworthy in that Robert I. McCoy of Benton Harbor became the first graduate under WMU's Upward Bound program, which was begun in 1966. McCoy, who plans to enroll in WMU's Graduate College this fall to study in the social sciences, majored in pre-law and political science at WMU. He completed the four years of scholastic work in three years.

After receiving his master's degree at Western McCoy says he hopes to work in public administration for several years and then enter law school. His ultimate goal is to work in social service administration.

McCoy is the first Upward Bound student to be graduated from any Michigan college or university.

**WMU Seeks to Integrate Political Issues With Fall Semester Material**

WMU will not have a "political campaign recess" this fall, but there will be opportunities for students to direct their energies into the campaigns of their favored candidates. The furlough plan was recently rejected by a special committee of faculty and students.

In a report to the WMU Faculty Senate, the special committee said the plan would "permit the University to meet its primary academic responsibilities and would, at the same time, permit students who wish to participate in the political process to do so with the greatest possibility of engaging themselves in a meaningful way. In addition, the plan performs the essential task of protecting the individual volition of both students and faculty."

The general recommendations of the special committee include suggestions that ways be found by instructors to integrate various political issues with course subject matter or
if this is impossible because of subject matter, to amend so far as possible schedules of exams and due dates for papers to accommodate student political participation; that the administration be encouraged to facilitate responsible individual and group involvement in social and political affairs to the fullest extent compatible with the educational mission of the University; that students be encouraged to accept individual responsibility in personal involvement in the political process, via available courses, study projects, and association with social and political agencies at the national, state and local levels.

A Look Back—
We Must End Violence
On Campuses and Abroad

The month of May, 1970 is considered in many quarters as one of the most sobering and tragic in the annals of American higher education and virtually everyone in academe is adamant that it must not be allowed to happen again.

First, the killing of four students at Kent State University followed in a few short days by the deaths of two Jackson State College, Mississippi, students has left its mark on our eyes senseless, shocking and virtually everyone in academe is considered in many quarters as one of the most sobering and tragic in the annals of American higher education.

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In reflecting back on that critical time, it might be well to recall the statement made in response to the Jackson State tragedy by WMU President James W. Miller, WMU Faculty Senate Pres. David W. Adams, and Ethan Vinson, president of the Associated Student Body of WMU:

"The response of massive, brutal, and tragic gunfire by law enforcement officers on the campus of a sister institution, Jackson State College, Mississippi, leading to the deaths of two black students, is in our eyes senseless, shocking and shameful. Following as it does a progressive series of violent acts on campuses, particularly the earlier slayings on the campuses of South Carolina State College and Kent State University in Ohio, it must be seen as a dramatic link in a long chain of brutality and unreasoning use of force that threatens to shackle the land. Its special significance lies in the fact that recent confrontations have seriously threatened the very life and purpose of colleges and universities, where the challenge to social and political institutions should be met with reason, not force.

"We share the grief of the families of the slain students and the moral outrage of students and faculty at Jackson State College."

Only eight days earlier, at a campus memorial for the victims of the Kent State University shootings, WMU vice president Russell H. Seibert spoke in place of President Miller who was out of town.

In an excerpt, Dr. Seibert said, "There is a new awareness that in our society there should be no place for violence — neither violence abroad, nor, more emphatically, violence at home.

"Today we have met to memorialize the violent deaths of four students in a neighboring state. Perhaps their deaths should lead each one of us here today to ask himself to what degree he, personally, has contributed to this Age of Violence. It is easy — sometimes very exciting — to demonstrate, to parade, to shout names. It is particularly easy to blame a scapegoat for all that goes wrong: the military-industrial complex, the President, the blacks, the whites, the establishment, the communists, big business. In times of emotional stress, irrationality is quick to take over. But no bright new worlds have been born of irrationality."

Dr. Seibert had said the Kent State students were shot down as they sought to make known their opposition to a conflict costly in American lives and waged at the expense of reforms much needed at home, in reference to the Vietnam conflict.

Faculty, Emeritus Deaths

DR. WILLIS DUNBAR

An apparent heart attack while on a mid-August vacation in Petoskey, Mich., claimed the life of Dr. Willis Dunbar, professor and former history department head and a WMU faculty member since 1951.

A long-time member and official of the Michigan Historical Commission and Michigan Historical Society, Dr. Dunbar wrote a number of historical books on Michigan subjects, including two on Kalamazoo, one on Kalamazoo College (he was a 1924 graduate of that school), one on Michigan's railroads, one on higher education in the state, the four-volume "Michigan Through the Centuries," and others.

Dr. Dunbar held masters and doctorates from the University of Michigan.

He had served for a time as Dean of Kalamazoo College and also as a history professor there for 15 years.

DR. ROBERT FRIEDMANN

Dr. Robert Friedmann of Kalamazoo, who retired as a professor from Western's faculty in 1961 after serving 16 years as a philosophy and history teacher died July 28 at his home.

Born in Vienna, Austria, Dr. Friedmann left his native land in 1939 to teach in England and at Yale University, and in 1940 became a research fellow in Mennonite and Anabaptist History at Goshen College, Goshen, Ind.

Shortly after joining Western's faculty in 1945 he introduced the teaching of philosophy at WMU.

Dr. Friedmann earned his doctorate at the University of Vienna.
WMU's Reading Center and Clinic recently was given a reading eye camera ensemble by the Education Development Laboratories, a division of McGraw Hill. Dr. Dorothy McGinnis, seated, director of the WMU clinic, here demonstrates the operation of the unit as, L to R in the rear, Bud Locke and Gerald Wood of E.D.I. and WMU President James W. Miller watch.

The instrument, being used primarily for basic reading research in the clinic, records on film a person's eye movements made during the reading process, thus providing objective evidence of the manner the person being tested uses his eyes while reading.

Student Environmental Cleanup Activities

One of the first environmental efforts of a new ecology group called Clean Environment Coordinating Committee, organized by two WMU students this spring, was a "Roadside Trash Cleanup Operation." Dennis Dudley, a Kalamazoo sophomore, and Stuart Mortensen, then a senior from Breedsville, Mich., the co-chairmen, said the group was formed to coordinate the efforts of all Kalamazoo area anti-pollution groups.

New officers elected by Alpha Beta Epsilon, WMU's alumnae sorority in southwestern Michigan, include, left to right: president Mrs. Beatrice Maynard of Battle Creek, president-elect Mrs. Miriam DeHaan of Kalamazoo, vice president Mrs. Mary Ellen Doe of Muskegon, recording secretary Mrs. Shirley Bundy of St. Joseph, treasurer Mrs. Barbara Rams of Muskegon, historian Mrs. Marion Krall of Watervliet, and adviser Mrs. Harriet Oliver of North Muskegon. Not shown are chaplain Mrs. Wilma Calkins of Grand Rapids and corresponding secretary Mrs. Frances Miller of Battle Creek.

Annual Fund Drive's Most Unusual Donor Was a Sailor

The story of perhaps the most unlikely contribution to WMU's Alumni Fund Drive began in, of all places, a trash can aboard the U.S.S. Josephus Daniels. In the crew is an unidentified Western alum. Included in his mail one day was a copy of the WMU Newsletter and Alumni Events. Along with it was an envelope in which he could send to his alma mater a contribution to the fund drive. However, he merely tossed the publication and envelope into the trash can.

Another member of the crew, Christopher N. Thorpe, found the newsletter and the envelope. This non-alumnus wrote James R. Foster, annual fund director, "I read your Alumni Newsletter with great interest, as I have never before heard of this school."

Along with his letter was a contribution of $25 to WMU's annual fund drive.

Middle-Junior High Conference Oct. 30

The 6th annual Middle and Junior High School Conference at WMU on Oct. 30 will feature keynote speaker Dr. Gerald Weinstein, professor of education at the University of Massachusetts. The conference theme, "Humanizing the Middle School Curriculum," promises some highly introspective remarks from a series of 12 speakers plus a panel of middle and junior high school teachers.

Also on the program, which runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., is Charles A. Smith, associate professor of English