Western Michigan University Newsletter, October 1970

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Fall Enrollment Soars to 21,713

Western's fall semester enrollment shows an increase of nearly 1,600 over that of 1969 to reach a total 21,713, according to Clayton J. Maus, dean of admissions and records. Enrollment in the fall of 1969 was 20,125. This fall's enrollment gain represents an increase of about eight percent over the 1969 figure.

The continuing trend of more community college transfers is demonstrated by the fact that WMU again has more junior and senior students than freshmen and sophomores. The Graduate College has an enrollment of 2,821, which is an increase of more than 300 over last year's 2,515.

This fall the number of non-Michigan residents dropped sharply to 1,456, a decrease of 16.6 percent. Out-of-state student enrollment at WMU is now six percent, as contrasted to the nine or ten per cent of recent years.

Dr. Lloyd Swierenga Named Pres. Miller's Admin. Assistant

Dr. Lloyd G. Swierenga, Ed.D., '70 who also holds two other degrees from Western, has been named administrative assistant to WMU President James W. Miller. He succeeds Thomas E. Coyne, who earlier this summer became vice president for student services.

While working toward his doctorate in educational leadership, Dr. Swierenga served in several offices of WMU's general administration as part of a year's internship.

In another appointment by the WMU Board of Trustees, Dr. Hans Engelke, who has been a member of the WMU faculty and Waldo Library staff since 1961, was named acting director of libraries at WMU. He succeeds Peter Spyers-Duran who has left to become director of libraries and professor of librarianship at Florida Atlantic University.
Dow Chemical Co. List of Gifts to WMU Mushrooms

Included among a large number of recent gifts of machines and technological devices given to WMU by the Dow Chemical Co., Midland, Mich., is an impressive unit called a "Weatherometer" which can simulate a variety of weather conditions in a central chamber. It will be used to test the "weathering" abilities of paints, wood, glues, plastics and other soft materials by Industrial Education faculty and students at WMU.

Dr. Philip L. Bruce, associate professor of industrial education says the Weatherometer not only simulates rain, sunshine, heat and cold, but contains scientific recording devices which provide precise information about the soft materials under varying weather conditions.

Other surplus equipment donated to WMU by Dow Chemical includes a small plastic extruder, a high-temperature pyrometer for recording temperatures too high for a normal thermometer, chemical glassware, plastic molding equipment, a centrifuge, tensile tester and a steam generator.

Dow's Aid to Education program has recently benefited WMU's Departments of Art, Paper Science and Engineering, Biology, Home Economics and Chemistry via materials and equipment donations as well as general university scholarships, fellowships, matching grants and development aid grants for new educational programs.

Large Mott Foundation Grant Assists WMU Comm. School Development Cen.

Western's Community School Development Center in the College of Education is being assisted by a $100,000 grant recently received from the Charles S. Mott Foundation. The center is directed by Dr. Gerald Martin, professor of teacher education, with Dr. Roland Frank, associate professor of teacher education, now the associate director of the center.

During the past school year the WMU Community School Development Center served 42 school systems in 10 southwestern Michigan counties. During the current school year, services will be expanded to serve 52 districts in 16 counties.

The WMU center's training and consultation services include adult education, senior citizen education, elementary and secondary school enrichment programs, and many recreation programs for the various local school districts which request them.

Western's center is one of 10 in the nation supported by the Mott Foundation.

WMU Upward Bound Program Receives U.S. Education Office Grant

Western's 1970-71 Upward Bound Program is being supported through a recent $136,492 grant from the U.S. Office of Education.

The Upward Bound Program is aimed at helping young people from low income families to develop an incentive for advanced education at the college level. The program evaluates their potentials and encourages them to enroll in a college or university.

In addition to the federal grant, WMU provides more than $34,000 as its share in the Upward Bound Program, which is directed by Luther Dease.

WMU, Berrien County Churches Aid Migrant Worker School Program

Some 86 children of migrant workers in the west Michigan area benefitted this summer from the cooperative school project by Western Michigan University and the Berrien County Council of Churches. WMU supplied the teachers, all enrolled in its program for teaching of the disadvantaged, while the Council of Churches furnished the health, service and nursery staff.

The WMU students all had previous teaching experience, but not with disadvantaged students.

Mrs. Beverly Kaiser, head of the Brandywine Elementary Schools, directed the migrant worker school this summer.

To obtain a 1970 Brown & Gold, send a $5 check payable to the Brown & Gold, to the B & G, Student Services Bldg., WMU, with your social security number.
Standing next to the van are, L to R: Rep. William Weber of Kalamazoo, former WMU political science professor and a member of the Michigan legislative committee on consumer problems; C. L. Breidenstein of the Better Business Bureau of Metropolitan Detroit; and WMU faculty members who took part in the inaugural seminar in Michigan on consumer problems: Dr. William F. Morrison, general business professor; Dr. Max O. McKitrick, associate professor of business education and administrative services; and Dr. Darrell G. Jones, professor and head, Department of Business Education and Administrative Services.

WMU Hosts First Seminar on Consumerism Held in Michigan

Some 95 public and private school teachers in Michigan attending a three-week program seminar on consumerism at WMU this summer, the first of its kind in Michigan, took part in another first during the program. They provided the inaugural use for a specially rigged motor van owned by the Better Business Bureau of Metropolitan Detroit, which has seating for 16 persons to view movies or hear lectures.

Dr. William V. Weber, State Representative from Kalamazoo who was on the seminar program, said, "One thing I am convinced of is that the problems of the consumer must be brought to the attention of the public through the schools. I am pleased that Western Michigan University is the first institution of higher education in Michigan to promote consumer education in the state." Dr. Weber is a member of the Special Committee on Consumers' Problems of the Michigan Legislature.

The teachers who attended the pilot seminar at WMU will teach classes on consumerism at their respective schools this fall.

The new vehicle is intended to be used mainly to cooperate with all community and governmental consumer agencies for travel into neighborhoods for the purpose of providing free confidential public service to individuals. This includes advice on how to buy economically, on money management, on confidential counseling in consumer matters, and on handling complaints.

Pres. Miller Says WM Will Not Tolerate Disruption, Disorder, Destruction

Speaking before a group of some 900 parents, new students and others on Aug. 30 and reiterating his remarks at the University Convocation several days later, WMU President James W. Miller said his policy regarding "dissent, disruption and disorder" had not changed in his 10 years as WMU president.

He said, "As a university we shall continue to support peaceful dissent. To do less would be to forsake our obligation to society and ourselves. While we both support and encourage dissent, we have not, cannot, and will not tolerate disruption, disorder, or destruction.

"We must and we shall oppose the invasion by any person on this campus of the rights of the person and property of others. This university is not and will not become a sanctuary for those who wish to avoid the consequences of their acts. If we are to have freedom, there must be some measure of restraint."

WMU Aids in Laser Cane Research to Aid Blind

The answers to the workability of a revolutionary concept which would allow blind persons to move about somewhat normally are being sought by students and faculty in Western Michigan University's Blind Rehabilitation Institute. The research involves a white cane made of superstrong lightweight material fitted with a series of three transistorized laser beams, connected to two audio signals, and a pulsator over which one finger of the hand holding the cane is placed.

The three laser beams, which may be focused for different distances, are directed upward, straight ahead, and downward. The intensity of the audio signals and the pulsator warns the cane-holder of an obstruction above or ahead, or a hole or abyss in his path.

Donald Blasch, director of WMU's Institute of Blind Rehabilitation, said the electronic cane was being used outside of normal classroom procedures to evaluate its potential use and the ability of blind students to adapt to it. The device was developed by Bionic Instruments, Inc., of Bala Cynwyd, Pa., three years ago following 12 years of research at a cost of about $300,000. Only 12 such canes are in existence, all being evaluated at blind rehabilitation centers. The U.S. Veterans Administration is keenly interested in the device and has extended several research grants to the firm.

Because the firm had little or no criteria on what might be the best techniques for using the laser cane or how it might be accepted by the blind, it called on blind rehabilitation institutes around the nation, including WMU's, to help supply this information.
Death Claims Two Noted Emeriti

DR. JAMES O. KNAUSS

Dr. James O. Knauss, who was a Western faculty member for 30 years including 11 years as head of the History Department, died on Aug. 29 in a Kalamazoo hospital at the age of 84. Dr. Knauss retired in 1956.

After retirement Dr. Knauss organized and headed Western’s University Archives for three years. He was also responsible for initiating the first courses in Michigan, Latin American and Far East history at Western.

A noted authority on Michigan history, Dr. Knauss was asked and wrote volumes on Western’s first 25 years and also on its first 50 years. He held degrees from Lehigh University, Harvard University and Cornell, where he earned his doctorate.

MR. HERBERT W. READ

Death stilled the intense spirit of Herbert W. “Buck” Read on August 15 at Newport Beach, Calif. at the age of 90. Mr. Read, for whom WMU’s 10,000 capacity Read Field House is named, was WMU’s most renowned basketball coach, compiling a won-lost mark of 355-166 between 1922 and 1949 when he retired, including many wins over some of the top collegiate squads in the nation. His teams were invited to play in New York’s Madison Square Garden five times against the best in the nation just after World War II and won four of those games.

Mr. Read in 1929 was one of the first college cage coaches to switch to the fast break offense and it paid off in a 16-0 season mark, his only undefeated team.

WM School of Social Work Receives $160,000 to Develop Training Program

Western’s School of Social Work has been awarded a $160,000 grant from the National Institute of Mental Health to develop a training program in community mental health. Mrs. Clarice Platt, director of field education in social work, will head the new program.

The new program is designed to give students an opportunity to gain firsthand knowledge and skills in mental health theory as well as in practice. During the course a faculty field instructor and six graduate students will spend two days every week working with mental health programs and problems in Kalamazoo county.

A master’s degree in social work may be obtained by completing the training program.

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

and alumni events

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