



Western Michigan University
ScholarWorks at WMU

WMU President John Dunn

Office of the President

11-29-2016

25-Year Club

John M. Dunn

Western Michigan University, john.dunn@wmich.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/dunn>



Part of the Higher Education Commons

WMU ScholarWorks Citation

Dunn, John M., "25-Year Club" (2016). *WMU President John Dunn*. 616.

<https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/dunn/616>

This Speech is brought to you for free and open access by the Office of the President at ScholarWorks at WMU. It has been accepted for inclusion in WMU President John Dunn by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at WMU. For more information, please contact wmu-scholarworks@wmich.edu.



25-Year Club
Dr. John M. Dunn
11/29/16

- Good evening. Thank you, Sue, for that kind introduction. It is my pleasure to be here this evening at an event that honors a significant part of the Western Michigan University success story--you.

- Always one of my favorite evenings of the year, this is a simple, uncomplicated, joyful event with just one goal--to say "Thank You" to each of you being honored here this evening for choosing to build your professional life around this great university. Thanks to all of you for committing your energy, intellect and passion to making Western Michigan University the vibrant institution it is today.

- While we have 41 new members of the 25 Year Club, we have two people among our honorees who were first welcomed into the 25 Year Club the same year the rest of our honorees began their careers at WMU. Those two, apparently, liked the concept and have continued on through 30, 35, 40 and 45 years of active service. Tonight we pay special tribute to Dr. Richard W. Malott, professor of psychology, and James VanDePolder, associate professor of engineering design, manufacturing and management systems. They both are celebrating 50 years as faculty members. And they become the 5th and 6th members of our growing 50 Year Club. (Pause for applause.)

- **Richard Malott** is a behavioral psychologist and devotee of B.F. Skinner who was invited to apply and came to WMU in 1966 to join four other gifted behavior analysts to begin what ultimately became the world's best undergraduate, master's and Ph.D. programs in behavior analysis. Fifty years later, Richard Malott still

takes joy in "seducing innocent students into behavior analysis" and applying the strengths of that discipline to the goal of improving the lives of autistic children and their families. To that end, he's relied on such publications as his textbook "Principles of Behavior," now in its 7th edition. And just for fun and a little extra leverage, he also published the now defunct "Behavior Man," "Behavior Woman" and "Captain Contingency Management Comics." Ladies and gentlemen, join me in a round of applause for this great colleague Richard Malott.

- **James VanDePolder** was recruited to WMU by a faculty mentor just as he was finishing his own undergraduate degree and teaching high school automotives. James VanDePolder, in turn has made it part of his life's work to build the same kind of strong relationships with his own students, turn those relationships into lifelong friendships and then start the process again by teaching the children of those students-turned-friends. One of his former students followed along the same path and is now a WMU professor emeritus. After 50 years, the technology has changed. He's now immersed in electric-hybrid vehicles, self-driving cars and the chance to reduce greenhouse gasses and pollutants. But his love for teaching has remained steadfast. Ladies and gentlemen please join me in a round of applause for a truly great Bronco, James VanDePolder.

- To each of this evening's honorees, I want to offer my personal welcome. I congratulate you on your well-deserved membership in the WMU 25-year Club. It's a wonderful club, with just one annual celebration like this to welcome its new members. Your dues have been paid--perhaps many times over--through your years of service. All we ask is that you enjoy being honored this evening, that you enjoy the company of your fellow club members and that you return for an evening like this during future years to help welcome new members.

- Many of this evening's attendees are here with a loved one being honored. I offer you a special note of thanks as well. Thank you for being a supportive part of the Western Michigan University family and for making tonight's celebration possible for those we are honoring.

- As Sue Stapleton just told you, 1991 was a great year. It was the hiring year for 41 people who went on to build their careers here. Once inducted, those 41 will be among 414 active employees and 738 retired employees, bringing the 25 Year Club total membership to 1,213.

- All of you-- past inductees and the new members being honored this evening-- have built this University. You have built this University's physical structure and, more important, its reputation. You have provided the credentials and structure that allow us to stake our claim as a learner centered, discovery driven and globally engaged national research university.

- We celebrate your dedication and recognize you for your talent and long service to WMU. The success of any great university is directly related to faculty and staff who are focused, passionate and proud of their contributions to the University and its students. We salute your years of service and the opportunity to be your colleagues. And we salute all that you have done to make this a Great Day to be a Bronco.!

Thank you.