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Western Michigan University Newsletter, July 1957

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Dr. Paul V. Sangren has announced the appointment of Dr. Charles T. Brown of the department of speech as director of a Center for Communication Research. The appointment is effective September 1, 1957.

The Center is being established in order to search for ways to improve human communication. The need for understanding and better handling of communication becomes increasingly apparent. The more industrialized the nation becomes the more occupations evolve that demand specialized skills in communication. Moreover, tensions in daily living and in the world are constant reminders that human survival depends, in part, upon adequate communication. The Center for Communication Research is designed to explore the more basic communication problems.

The first project will be a study of listening. People who cannot listen effectively cannot think, learn, and adapt effectively. The observation of a classroom, committee meeting, conference, or neighborhood argument, indicates that many people, in all walks of life, do not listen very accurately. The purpose of the study will be to search for the basic skills in listening and the techniques for teaching people how to improve these skills.

When approaches to the listening problem have been exhausted, study will move on to other projects which are now in the formative stage.

Dr. Brown joined the Western Michigan faculty in 1948, following seven years on the faculty of Florida Southern College. He is a graduate of Westminster College and the University of Wisconsin.

Dr. Brown is also the author of a popular college text, Introduction to Speech, published in 1955.
Fifteen additions to the fall faculty of Western Michigan University will be introduced in this issue of the News Letter. It is hoped to complete this year's new people with the September issue.

Brief sketches follow:

Gerald L. Bodine, assistant professor of education. Bodine comes to the campus from Kalamazoo College where since 1951 he had served as chairmain of the department of education, director of placement and registrar.

He graduated from Wisconsin State College and Northwestern University, undertaking doctoral studies at the latter place. His teaching experience prior to coming to this city was in Milwaukee. His wife is a teacher at Kalamazoo Central high school and they have three children.

James A. Davenport, assistant professor of education. No stranger to Western is Davenport, as he earned both baccalaureate and master's degrees here. He has taught in Battle Creek, served as a principal there and for the last two years was principal of the Cathedral Avenue school, Garden City, N. Y. Also in his background is Air Force duty as a pilot and five years as a pilot for Pan American World Airways. His wife is the former Barbara Price of Kalamazoo and they have three children.

Arthur Eresman, assistant professor, campus school instrumental music. Following graduation from Baldwin-Wallace College and the Eastman School of Music, Eresman has taught in four Ohio schools, lastly at Findlay. He will direct the University High band and teach some music education. The Eresmans have one child.

Robert R. Fink, instructor of music. From a busy summer at the New England Music Camp, Oakland, Me., Fink will come to the campus this fall to teach French horn and other wind instruments. A native of Belding, he holds BM and MM degrees from Michigan State University and this last year has studied at the Eastman School of Music while teaching at the State Teachers College, Fredonia, N. Y. He is married and has one daughter.

Dr. Frances S. Hardin, assistant professor of business. Mrs. Hardin moves to Kalamazoo from Muncie, Ind., where she has taught for the last two years at Ball State Teachers College. She holds degrees from the University of Nebraska and University of Colorado. Her teaching has also been as a graduate assistant and at Colorado Women's College.

Mrs. Hardin in 1955 had a business-education fellowship from the American Foundation for Economic Education, and spent it in studying the Rocky Mountain Telephone Co., Denver. Her husband is deceased and she has one son.

Eugene C. Kirchherr, instructor of geography. Kirchherr is a graduate of Chicago Teachers College and Northwestern University. This past year he has been a pre-doctoral fellow at Northwestern, and before that was a graduate teaching assistant there. In 1955-56 he was assistant to the director of special studies, Real Estate Research Corp., Chicago. He is married.

John W. Klousia, assistant professor of education. With degrees from Cornell College and the University of Colorado, Klousia has continued his graduate study at the University of Virginia. This summer he has been visiting professor in education in family finance at the latter campus. While on military leave he was head of the social studies department at a preparatory school for the U. S. Naval Academy. For the last eight years he has taught at Rochester, Minn., and before that at Iowa Falls, Iowa. He is married and has two sons.

Dana G. Kurfman, assistant professor of education. Kurfman has taught the last two years at the University of Illinois high school and before that at Edgerton and Chippewa Falls, Wis. He is a graduate of Beloit College and the University of Chicago, and now is a doctoral candidate at Champaign. He will teach both in the University high school and School of Education. A native of Chicago, Kurfman is married and has two children.

Dr. Dorothy McCuskey, associate professor of education. Dr. McCuskey comes to Western with a broad experience in education, having taught for the last four years at Bowling Green State University, and also serving as curriculum coordinator for that Ohio city's public schools. She has also taught at the University of North Carolina and at the Teacher Training Center, Seoul, Korea.
Dr. McCuskey served as a commander in the Waves during World War II and after that was curriculum coordinator for the Wisconsin department of public instruction. She holds degrees from The College of Wooster, Radcliffe College and Yale University.

Since 1948 she has been a trustee of The College of Wooster, and has been a leader in Ohio’s Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. Her published works are numerous.

Margie J. Miner, assistant professor of physical education for women, Illinois State Normal University has been the teaching area for Miss Miner since 1952, and before that she taught for three years at the Illinois Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Children’s School there. She has also taught at Tulsa, Okla., since graduating from Western Illinois State College and the University of Wisconsin. Her mother now resides in East Lansing.

Charles E. Osborne, instructor of music. Osborne lived for some years near Richland, and holds BM and MM degrees from Michigan State University. He has taught at Southwestern Louisiana Institute, and for the last three years at Montana State University. Woodwinds is his principal field of interest. Mr. and Mrs. Osborne have two children.

Dr. Thane S. Robinson, assistant professor of biology. Dr. Robinson has taught since 1955 at the University of Kansas, where he received both AB and Ph.D. degrees in zoology. He is married and has two daughters.

Anita F. Tedford, instructor of physical education, campus school. After graduation from Eastern Illinois State College, Miss Tedford taught for two years at Taylorville, Ill., returning to the campus a year ago to complete her master’s work. Her home is in Robinson, Ill.

Dr. M. Glen Wilson, Jr., assistant professor of speech. Dr. Wilson has taught at West Virginia University, Duke University, Ohio State University and Eastern Kentucky State College. His studies have been at West Virginia and Ohio State, where last year he was editor of the OSU Theatre Collection Bulletin. Work at Western will be in theatre and speech. Dr. Wilson is married.

William J. Yankee, instructor of psychology. Yankee is a familiar figure in Kalamazoo, beginning with his police work while still an undergraduate student. He has now completed his master’s degree on the WMU campus, while serving as Friend of the Court for Kalamazoo County. Yankee was a graduate assistant in psychology this last year. He is married and has two children.

Petition for New Honor Society

Petitions for membership are now being prepared for Omicron Delta Kappa, a national honor society for university men; and in the spring a new men’s honor society was colonized on the campus to begin such action.

First named to the new men’s group were Richard Barnhill, Wayne; John Berryman, Algonac; Donald Brems, Grand Haven; Robert Geiger, Flushing; Thomas Goldsberry, South Bend; Jeremiah Halbert, Staten Island, N. Y.; John Milnes, Coldwater; Thomas Rowley, Berkeley, and Spencer Smith, Oshkosh, Wis.

Faculty advisors are Dean J. Towner Smith, Dr. Chester L. Hunt and Charles Starring.

The Hercules Powder Company has granted a $500 scholarship for 1957-58 in paper technology.
Seibert Reviews Developments of First 'U' Year

An increasing interest in research and an awareness of the new responsibilities brought about by University status are labeled as noteworthy developments of the year at Western Michigan University by Dr. Russell H. Seibert, vice president for academic affairs, in a communication to the faculty.

"For as many years as we can see into Western's future, good teaching must be our primary goal. Good teaching, however, is commonly stimulated by fruitful research, and it is hoped that we can give increasing support to persons interested in and capable of serious research.

"Particularly impressive this year are some of the intellectual stirrings that have occurred at various points. Self-criticism and self-evaluation on the part of individual faculty members and departments have had healthy results."

Dr. Seibert also called attention to the dangers of isolation of various departments from other segments of the University as growth continues, and cited the efforts of the committee on teacher education in drawing membership from all aspects of the institution as healthy in fighting isolation.

"As we look into the years ahead, all of us are frequently overwhelmed by the large number of students for which we will be responsible, but let us not be so concerned with the numbers that we forget that our primary concern must be with the quality of education that we offer. Nor must we forget that numbers consist of individuals and that individuals are the persons with whom we are dealing."

Dr. William Engbreton, a member of the School of Education faculty since 1954, has been appointed associate secretary of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education at Oneonta, New York.

Football 1957

Sept. 21—at Central Michigan
Sept. 28—Miami (Band Day)
Oct. 5—Marshall College
Oct. 12—at Bowling Green
Oct. 19—Washington (Homecoming)
Oct. 26—at Toledo
Nov. 2—at Ohio University
Nov. 9—at Western Reserve
Nov. 16—Kent State (Dad's Day)

The first gift to the new University Student Aid Endowment Fund came in the gift of a block of Sutherland Paper Company stock by Al Pugno '33, now a resident of Fremont. Others gifts may be forwarded to C. B. MacDonald, comptroller.