

Robert Felkel Honored for 40 Years of a Remarkable Teaching Career



Left: Dr. Felkel in Querétaro, México, for the Alumni Reunion in summer 2011.

Right: Dr. Felkel with graduate students Andrew Hansen and Amy Olivares who were in Querétaro for WMU's summer study abroad program.

Dr. Robert Felkel recently marked 40 years of teaching at the Department of Spanish at Western Michigan University. Professor Felkel first came to Western in 1971 and received his Ph.D. from Michigan State University in 1973. He specializes in medieval and Spanish Golden Age Literature, with a concentration on *Don Quijote*, by Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra. He is currently working on a book-length manuscript he has provisionally titled *A Tour of Don Quijote*. In addition, he has published articles on aspects of contemporary Spanish culture. Dr. Felkel has long been revered by students and colleagues for his deep commitment to his professional career, which he has pursued with the utmost fervor, enthusiasm, and excellence. Since 1980, he has been an undergraduate advisor, guiding hundreds of majors and minors on their professional paths. In his office, he always keeps fresh-cut flowers and candy, and if you arrive by 8 o'clock in the morning, you can hear recordings of Gregorian chants emanating from there.

Dr. Felkel's profound dedication to his students through teaching and service resulted in him being recognized in 1989 with the WMU Association Teaching Excellence Award, the highest recognition that WMU grants to its most outstanding educators. His commitment to service is also demonstrated in his countless hours of volunteer work for Saint Augustine Cathedral and for Hospice Care of Southwest Michigan, where he has been serving faithfully for twenty years.

The Department of Spanish is honored to have Dr. Robert Felkel among its most outstanding senior members.