LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

What are the words of that old country song “... ain’t it funny how time slips away.” Even though the grammar is not correct it certainly does express how time flies.

Several people who responded to the last newsletter said that they wanted to know something about the current faculty and staff in the department now. So this newsletter, and the next are devoted to letting you know about our current faculty and staff and their activities. Since we now have 16 faculty and several more staff members, that is more than one newsletter can handle so I have divided them up. This year we have three new faculty members: Karim Essani, William Jackson, and Brenda Johnson. We are featuring them plus our faculty. In the next newsletter we will feature the rest of our staff.

Just a brief update on departmental activities since the last newsletter: (1) You will notice that we have changed our name. We are now the DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES. We are still housed in two buildings, McCracken and Wood Halls. (2) We are in the process of preparing a proposal to the administration for the implementation of a Ph. D. in Biological Sciences program. We hope to have that in place within the next three to five years. (3) Our greenhouse expansion project is still on the drawing boards but we are optimistic that it will move forward soon.

Your response to the newsletters has been gratifying. We definitely enjoy hearing from you and we always appreciate your financial assistance. Until next time, I remain

Sincerely,

Richard W. Pippen, Professor and Chair
W.M.U.'s Biological Science Team
Feature Page - Our New Faculty

Karim Essani is one of the new faculty members that started teaching this Fall. He was born in Karachi, Pakistan. He received his Ph.D from the University of Western Ontario and comes to us from St. Jude Hospital in Memphis, TN.

Dr. Essani has a strong research interest in molecular and immunological aspects of virus infections.

Dr. Essani’s wife, Dr. Naem Essani, is also an immunologist and visiting research scientist in his laboratory.

William F. Jackson is one of the three new faculty members this Fall. He is a native of Detroit and is married to Debra Ellen-Budde Jackson. They have two sons William Carl and Jeffrey Donald.

Dr. Jackson received his Ph.D from Michigan State University in 1979 in Physiology.

His current research interests include vascular reactivity, microvascular blood flow control, and comparative cardiovascular physiology.

Dr. Jackson’s outside interests include swimming, fly fishing, winter sports, and listening to jazz music.

Brenda Johnson is the third of our new faculty members. She is originally from North Carolina and received her Ed.D from the University of South Dakota in Elementary Education with a Science Education Emphasis. She is married to Thomas Johnson and they make their home with their two daughters in the Kalamazoo area.
The "Old Timers"

Leonard J. Beuving received his Ph.D in Zoology from the University of California at Berkeley in 1968. Dr. Beuving has been teaching at Western Michigan University since 1971, he has been involved in teaching many courses such as Human Physiology, Endocrinology, General Pathology, and Pathophysiology.

His current research interests include ultrastructural evaluation of cells from chronic alcohol treated animals. Dr. Beuving is also the director of the Center for Electron Microscopy.

In Dr. Beuving's spare time he enjoys furniture making. Dr. Beuving is married to Diane Charron-Beuving and has three children: Jeffrey, Kristen, and Lauren.

Richard Brewer teaches Ecology and Ornithology courses. Dr. Brewer received his Ph.D from University of Illinois in 1959. Dr. Brewer's research interests lie in population and community ecology.

His text "The Science of Ecology" was published last year and has been fairly widely used at other schools. He is currently working on editing The Michigan Breeding Bird Atlas which if all goes well, will be published in 1991. He was recently elected President of the Board at the Kalamazoo Nature Center.

Dr. Brewer also has two sons.

David P. Cowan has been teaching at Western Michigan University since 1979, a year after he received his Ph.D in Zoology from the University of Michigan. He is involved in teaching courses in Evolution, Animal Behavior, and Entomology. Dr. Cowan’s research interests lie in Evolutionary Ecology and Behavior of Insects.

Dr. Cowan is married to Jane Cowan and they have two boys and one girl.
Elwood “Woody” Ehrle has been teaching in the Department of Biological Sciences since 1984 with teaching interests in Plant Biology, Plant Morphology, Systematics, Environmental Biology, Applied Botany, and Bryology. Dr. Ehrle has research interests that include Plant taxonomy, Bryology, Isotope usage, and Higher Education Administration.

Dr. Ehrle continues to work through American Council on Education offering developmental workshops for Chairs and Deans based on his experience as Chair, Arts and Sciences Dean and Academic Vice President.

He is excited about plans for expansion of the Dept. Greenhouse and is currently involved in fundraising plans.

Dr. Ehrle is married to Nancy Ehrle and they have two adult sons.

Students are great, classes are full. Would love to hear from alumni.

Robert C. Eisenberg is the Graduate Advisor for the Biological Sciences Department and he is also involved in the Department Doctoral Committee. Dr. Eisenberg’s areas of teaching include Microbiology, Bacterial Physiology, Gene Cloning, and General Biology.

Dr. Eisenberg received his Ph.D from North Carolina State University in 1966 and has been at Western Michigan University for several years.

Dr. Eisenberg has two adult children and a couple of grandchildren.

Joseph G. Engemann is involved in many current research projects and preparing publications in:
Role of sperm whale in recycling nutrients in marine ecosystems. (paper in preparation jointly with Dr. P. Kangas of EMU);

Pogonophora (beard worms) as a link of the two main lines of animal evolution (the protostomes and deuterostomes); Isopod embryology, evidence for exceptions to the "biogenetic law";

Extremely long life cycles of Pogonophorans and possible coexistence of "ancestral forms" with their various descendents; an exception to a commonly accepted phylogenetic principle;

Michigan Bryozoa (for Michigan Academy symposium scheduled for March, 1990) (joint authorship will recognize contributions of David Flanagan);

Animal Evolution;

Development of creativity;

Dr. Engemann has been with the University since 1960; his second revision of his Invertebrate Zoology text published in 1981 (first revision, published in 1968) has gone out of print and he is lamenting having to use someone else's text next year.

Dr. Engemann's wife's name is Nancy and they have two girls and one boy.

Gyula Ficsor has been teaching with Western Michigan University since 1966, two years after he received his degree from the University of Missouri in Genetics.

He was born in Hungary and is delighted to see that the revolution of 1956, in which he participated with his brother, resulted in a Free Hungary.

Dr. Ficsor's areas of teaching include Genetics, carcinogenesis/ mutagenesis, and recombinant DNA. He also has research interests that include molecular mutagenesis in mammals and detection of human papilloma viruses.

Dr. Ficsor's professional goal is to help the Ph.D program in the Biological Sciences become a reality.

Dr. Ficsor is married to Sarolta and they make their home in the Kalamazoo area. They have two children, one boy and one girl.

Stephen Friedman received his Ph.D from the University of Illinois in Microbiology in 1962. He has been with the University since 1966.

He is involved in teaching Microbial Genetics and the Nurses' Microbiology course. He has research interests that include molecular biology of bacterial plasmids and ecological genetics of bacteria.

Dr. Friedman is married to Ranja Friedman and they have three children.
Leonard Ginsberg teaches courses in Cell Biology, Embryology, and Human Genetics in the Biological Sciences Department. His current research interest is In Vitro Toxicology. He is cooperating with individuals at the Upjohn Co. in the development of techniques used for the testing of drugs and chemicals that would reduce the number of animals needed.

Dr. Ginsberg’s personal interests are computer programming, gourmet cooking, and traveling.

Dr. Ginsberg is married to Linda Ginsberg.

Edgar Inselberg has been with Western Michigan University since 1966. He received his Ph.D from the University of Illinois in 1956. Dr. Inselberg’s current research interest is Photosynthesis. Dr. Inselberg has one daughter and is married to Rachel Inselberg.

Cecil McIntire is involved in teaching Human Anatomy, Histology, Biology of Aging, and Biology of Additive drugs. His current research interest is in auditory and vestibular otopathology.

Dr. McIntire received his Ph.D from Wayne State University in 1976 and began teaching with Western Michigan University in that same year.

Dr. McIntire is married to Susan McIntire.

Richard W. Pippen has been Chair of the department since 1976. He received his Ph.D in Botany from the University of Michigan in 1963.

In the 26 years Dr. Pippen has been at Western
Michigan University he has taught a number of courses including: Introduction Plant Biology, Systematic Botany, Biology of Vascular Plants, Biology of Non-vascular Plants, Tropical Biology, and Marine Biology.

He received the Alumni Teaching Excellence Award in 1970 and again in 1982 (the first faculty member to receive this award twice).

Dr. Pippen’s research interests include the systematics, life history and reproductive biology of the Cacalioid complex, Indian Plantains (Aster family), in North America including Mexico; pollination biology and isolation mechanisms in *Aureolaria*, False Foxgloves (Figwort family); and vegetational studies of wetlands.

Dr. Pippen is active in The Michigan Botanical Club and The Nature Conservancy and serves on the Board of Directors of both. Dr. Pippen enjoys wild flower photography and working with computers.

Dr. Pippen’s wife is Sally, they have one adult son.

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**Jack S. Wood** is currently teaching Human Physiology and Environmental Biology. He received his Ph.D from Michigan State University in 1960 and came to Western Michigan University in 1963.

Dr. Wood is married to Shirley Wood and they have two adult children.

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**Gifts to the Biological Sciences Department since January 1989**

Miss Sandra Kuentzel of Portage, Michigan
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Klobucar of Schoolcraft, Michigan
Miss Denise Dion of Dearborn, Michigan
Dr. Leslie Brown of St. Joe, Indiana
Dr. Darrell Latva of Tinley Park, Illinois
Dr. Janette Sherman of Alexandria, Virginia
Mr. and Mrs. Victor Pajunen of Leonard, Michigan
Dr. and Mrs. C. Caldwell of East Grand Rapids, Michigan
Mrs. Coral Gibbs of Scotts, Michigan
Mr. Gary Miller of Grand Rapids, Michigan
Dr. William Wissinger of Olean, New York
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Johnston of Walnut Creek, California
Mrs. Betty Yagi of Kalamazoo, Michigan
Dr. Kent Kurtz of Ontario, California
Mrs. Kathleen Ann Neal of Kalamazoo, Michigan
Mrs. Hazel Rood of Richland, Michigan
Mrs. Carol Ann Dullam of Kalamazoo, Michigan
Mr. and Mrs. O’Day donation of Weeping Fig Tree
Mr. and Mrs. George Spray designated for additions to Greenhouse Collection
Mrs. Julie Bielat donation of microscope

**Faculty Departmental Gifts since January 1989**

Dr. and Mrs. William Van Deventer (Emeriti)
Dr. Richard W. Pippen
Dr. Leonard Ginsberg
Dr. and Mrs. Gyula Ficsor
Dr. and Mrs. Elwood Ehrle designated for Greenhouse Fund
Dr. Elwood Ehrle mounted and identified specimens of mosses and liverworts