



Inside the library, when it occupied what is now Ford Hall.

“The University library is not a building; it is what one finds within that building – the resources and tools of research.”

E. WOLFRED ERICKSON, SPEAKING AT THE 1967 LIBRARY DEDICATION, AS QUOTED BY PROVOST RON COLLINS AT THE DEDICATION OF THE BRUCE T. HALLE LIBRARY ON OCT. 9, 1998

The Library

With some miscellaneous books and some congressional documents collected by Professor Daniel Putnam, the first library opened in 1853 in the Main Building.

When that building burned in 1859, 1,500 books were destroyed. The state Legislature appropriated \$2,000 to replace books, but the collection remained inadequate.

As a last resort, an appeal was made to the students, who agreed to pay \$1 each above the tuition fee, for two terms, toward the purchase of more books.

Putnam served as librarian, but without pay, until 1882.

The first appointed librarian, Florence Goodison, served from 1884 to 1890. She earned \$310 for 10 months of work.

The Normal library was the first in the state to use student assistants. However, only students who volunteered for an hour a day could access the stack room. “No credits are given for this work; but the free access to the shelves at all times during the day, the knowledge

acquired of books and library work, and certain other privileges, are considered a good equivalent,” the 1918 College catalog wrote.

In 1918, the Reading Room featured 3,000 volumes and 225 newspapers and periodicals, and “comfortable seating capacity for 130.”

As head librarian, Genevieve Walton planned the first library building for the campus in 1930.

“The modern era of the Normal library may be said to have begun with the coming of Genevieve M. Walton in 1892,” Egbert R. Isbell wrote. She served for 40 years, and helped secure the first separate library building, which opened Sunday, Jan. 7, 1930. The \$250,000 facility had room for 150,000 volumes, and its reading room could accommodate 400 patrons.

The new library occupied what is now Ford Hall, and featured an open atrium with skylights. Walton’s office was furnished in her favorite color: plum.

In 1964, E. Wolfred Erickson, head librarian from 1952-69, announced that

a new library would be built: 136,000 square feet, with room for 350,000 volumes.

The new building saw several changes in library operation, such as open stacks instead of closed stacks. The Dewey Decimal System – first introduced in 1897 – was replaced by the Library of Congress call number system. Separate divisions had their own staffs of specialists, and each floor had its own smoking room.

With the new building, magnetic strips were added to books as part of an electronic anti-theft system.

Before the new building opened, Erickson expressed concern about outgrowing the facility. He already was discussing a 75,000-square-foot addition to the east, a plan that never materialized.

He bemoaned the lack of resources for the library in a 1964 newsletter:

“Unless we begin immediately to make plans for the acquisition of materials and provision of staff we will be in even more serious trouble several years



An undated photo from inside the library in the Main Building, also known as Old Pierce Hall. Genevieve Walton is on the far right in the back row.

from now than we are at the moment. And at the present time we are in serious trouble.”

Additional resources did come, as did computers for the circulation system, in 1972. “All you’ll need is your student ID and the IBM card that goes with the book,” said Associate Director Sul H. Lee. “The library assistant will take the

ID and card, feed them into a machine ... and that’s it.”

The Library was officially called the Center of Educational Resources for a period, but that name was dropped in 1986.

Student initiative in 1992 has been credited with starting the drive for better library facilities, and in May 1998 the

new Bruce T. Halle Library was unveiled: 270,000 square feet, with room for 800,000 volumes. The \$41-million facility includes power and data lines at each study carrel for students’ laptop computers.

“I am told that this was perhaps the last time that the student body coalesced behind an issue on campus,” Adrienne

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

In 1964, the Board of Regents approved the first increase in library fines in 30 years. The new fee schedule, as of Oct. 1:

Books — 10 cents per day.

Pamphlets — 2 cents per day.

Phonorecordings — 25 cents for the first hour and 50 cents for each additional hour.

Overnight reserve materials — 25 cents for the first hour and 50 cents for each additional hour.

3-day and 7-day reserve books — 50 cents.

...

Predicting the future

"In the future, authorities say, curriculums will emphasize teaching not so much what the facts are, but how students can gather the facts they need, analyze them and make their own decisions. ... The Wall Street Journal in a recent series predicted that by the year 2000 — from your home — you can help your teenage son with his essay on the causes of World War I by transmitting a request for a bibliography on the subject to a local library's computer, which would respond by causing a reading list to be printed out on a device in your home."

— Ben G. Wright '34

Chairman and President of This Week Magazine, speaking at the EMU Library dedication on May 12, 1967



The design and architecture of the Bruce T. Halle Library provide stunning new views for campus.

A sampling of software available in the Halle Library's multimedia production area in 1999:

Adobe After Effects

Adobe Premier

Microsoft Office

Adobe Illustrator

Claris Home Page

Quark XPress Passport

Adobe PageMaker

Claris Works

Quicktime VR Studio

Adobe PageMill

Macromedia Director Studio

Ray Dream Studio

Adobe Photoshop

Marsh, Student Government president in 1998-99, said at the dedication.

"On a university campus, classrooms are important, laboratories are important, faculty are important, advisers are important, student activities and opportunities are also important, but students in 1992 believed and students in 1998 still believe that the library is the centerpiece of the university," she continued. "A great library makes a great university, and we have a great library."

The library staff, which started with one volunteer in 1852, numbered 88 when the Halle Library was dedicated on Oct. 9, 1998.



Fifteen years of Honors

As early as 1959, faculty members discussed special Honors courses and other ways of encouraging and rewarding superior academic performance. Among a recommendation from Faculty Council in 1959 was to include during commencement week "a Junior Tea, an Honors Convocation and Commencement honors," according to a newspaper article.

In the 10 to 15 years prior to the creation of the Honors Program in 1984, EMU provided honors sections at the discretion of the college in which the course was offered. The method was practical but not satisfactory. The creation of an Honors Program was inevitable.

In March 1983, the EMU Board of Regents ordered a feasibility study for the purpose of establishing an Honors Program. Professor Robert Holkeboer conducted the study and presented the results. The Regents approved the proposed program in June 1983. Holkeboer was appointed director of the Honors Program, remaining until 1992.

Holkeboer saw the benefits of the Honors Program to be enhancement of "the University's image by demonstrating a commitment to excellence, helping recruit and retain outstanding faculty, stimulating new opportunities for grant support (and) producing a body of supportive, highly professional alumni."

Pilot courses for the program began in September of 1983. The first official

Honors Program courses were offered in the fall semester of 1984. From that moment on, the Honors Program has been a highly active, often groundbreaking asset to the University.

The first three years of the program saw a Summer Institute for Talented and Gifted high school sophomores. The Honors Program garnered its first grant in 1985. Course offerings increased. In that same year, Honors students and faculty established a mentoring program.

With that effort, a pattern of cooperative effort and instruction by volunteerism emerged, a pattern that continues today. Witness to that pattern is the Honors Program anti-drug effort of 1989 and the success of the Health Administration Program in that same year. In 1991, participants in the Honors Program tackled racism. A 1992 project on the environment took Honors students to Yellowstone National Park. The program also lent hands and hours to the fledgling SOS Crisis Center in Ypsilanti in 1993. By 1995, the cumulative efforts of education through volunteerism became a mandate of the program.

But volunteering was not the only venue in which EMU Honors Program students and faculty would shine. Honors Program scholarship and research activity distinguished the program from early on. Faculty were given release time grants for Honors Program work. Students started publication of

The Honors Journal, a juried journal for student research articles. Cultural explorations of Canada and Mexico helped to build perspective on the United State's place within its North American neighborhood.



Robert O. Holkeboer



William A. Miller

The University recognized the high level of scholarship produced by Honors Program students with the establishment of the Undergraduate Assistantship program. The report of Undergraduate Assistants' research became an annual event in 1991 with an exhibit held at Ford Hall. An Honors team won the 1993 College Bowl. An opera written by an Honors student won recognition in 1990. The American Council on Education appointed Honors Program Director Holkeboer to a fellowship in 1992.

The Honors Program demonstrated its lighter side with events such as the 1985 Brain Buster competition. Sophomore Brian Compton won a Commodore computer as a prize that year. Trivia competition at the president's residence followed in 1990.

Philosophy Professor William Miller joined the office in 1991, and by 1996 was appointed director.

While there are no typical Honors students, and many are laudable, one student received particular attention via the Eastern Echo in 1989.

"I always felt that I wasn't as smart as everybody else because I was a high

school dropout." That self-effacing statement came from Lynette Dzedzic on the occasion of her graduation from EMU with Honors and a degree in Special Education. Dzedzic's educational saga began with Adult Education and culminated at the 1989 EMU fall commencement exercises. She entered the Honors Program in Special Education when it was just beginning and has the distinction of being that department's first Honors graduate.

Her work at EMU touched on affective, cognitive and psychomotor domains. She accomplished all of this over a 12-year period in which she worked and supported a family, in addition to pursuing her education. Dzedzic's experience demonstrates that Honors students fit no particular socioeconomic mold, but rather are typified by intelligence, persistence and the desire to surmount almost any challenge.

The many forms of technology



Switchboard operators at EMU, February 1969.

The University Instructional Computing Center opened Feb. 1, 1964 in the basement of Goddard Hall. The computing center's equipment: an IBM 1620 Data Processing System, an IBM 1622 Card Read-Punch and an IBM 026 Key Punch. The processor could add approximately 2,000 digits per second. It possessed "a large and flexible repertoire of commands," according to the Faculty Bulletin.



A secretary works in the computing center, February 1969.



A student gets hands-on instruction in 1997.



At work in a computer room in 1978.

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At a status report on student and faculty computing in 1997, Executive Director of University Computing Al McCord reported the following:

Through the student general fee, instituted in 1994, Learning Resources and Tech-

nologies received \$3 from each student credit hour. In 1995-96, \$3 million was spent on the University computing labs. Before the general fee there were fewer than 60 student workstations. As of early 1997, there were 154.



A FORTRAN compiler in the computing center, 1970.

Students from Dr. Richard Vile's Math 137 class began circulating a petition in the fall of 1977, asking students to withhold tuition payments. The reason? Repeated breakdowns of keypunch machines in Instructional Computer Services, which students said interfered with their ability to complete assignments.

In 1980, the name of the Mathematics Department was changed to the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science.

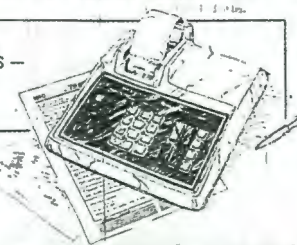
The wave of the future

In response to the burgeoning computer industry, a new major and minor degree program in Business Computer Systems started in 1972. "IBM has made it big selling computer hardware," said Dr. Roger Hawkins, head of the department. "Now computer software selling will emerge."

A new dial telephone system, "by which all telephone users will be able to obtain direct connections with other telephones inside the college without the aid of an operator," started operations in April 1957. Calls off campus, except for offices with full-time secretaries, still required operator assistance.

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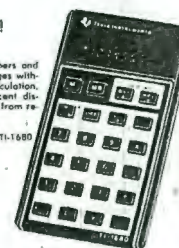
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An ad for calculators from the 1978 Eastern Echo.

Supply and demand: Parking on campus

Rare has been the article in the student newspaper when the words “parking” and “problem” were not linked in the same sentence.

Parking has long been a target of student ire, as evidenced in this 1963 letter to the editor from “Munson Hall Car Owners”:

We ... wholeheartedly protest the grave injustices being imposed upon us by the Administration.

Last semester, a \$4 car registration fee was imposed upon us. We were not consulted beforehand.

We protest vigorously the high fines we are forced to pay for the most minute infractions.... (We) can ill afford to dish out \$2 for parking an inch over a parking line or some other such minor violation.

Even William Smart, director of the Physical Plant, was quoted in the 1977 Eastern Echo as saying, “As everyone knows, the parking situation on campus is horrendous – it’s just atrocious.” This after the University opened the 700-space Parking Structure in 1969.

Paying for parking and actually finding a space have become two distinct issues over the years.

In 1977, the University dropped the \$10 registration fee to park on campus.

In 1978, the University was charging 23 cents per credit hour for parking. Also in 1978, as the Regents approved building the Oakwood Lot, they told the University administration to “give serious consideration” to building a 640-space



The Eastern Echo commented regularly on the status of parking on campus. This editorial cartoon ran in April 1992.

parking structure on the lot next to Pease Auditorium. Regent Edward McCormick abstained from voting on the parking lot. “I take strain with a lot on the perimeter of the University when it might affect people to view us as some kind of shopping center as they drive by,” the Echo quoted him as saying.

The permit system was eliminated in 1979.

A meter system was eliminated in

1985, replaced with another parking permit system. Student commuters paid \$30 for fall and winter semesters, \$20 for evening fall and winter semesters, and \$15 for spring and summer terms.

Those 1985 changes came following a consultant’s report, which said that 1,100 more parking spaces would be needed just to meet existing demand. At the time of the survey, 5,822 spaces existed, but 1,243 of those were somehow restricted, and not available for general use by students or staff.

The report indicated the possibility of establishing a shuttle bus system from the West Campus spaces – something that had been tried in 1977. A survey revealed that 90 percent of students drove alone to campus, and that 16 percent of those surveyed had attempted to park somewhere else before parking where they did.

While 2,923 spaces were allotted for commuting students, demand may be as high as 6,800, the 1985 report said.

By 1993, there were 6,987 spaces available on campus.

Students, though, continued to avoid

the West Campus parking, in favor of attempting to find a space closer to their classes.

A 1996 Eastern Echo feature attempted to prove once and for all which form of parking was more efficient – using the West Campus “Outer Space” and shuttle, or cruising for a space on the central campus. With watches synchronized, Mike Olsen and Julie Huntington set out from the Denny’s on Washtenaw. Huntington, who went directly to West Campus parking, arrived at the Echo’s office more than 10 minutes ahead of Olsen, whose attempts at finding spaces were chronicled in the paper with a detailed map.

An accompanying article described the terminology that students had adopted for different types of parking styles:

The Dog: These people mark their territory by parking their car at the ends of the aisles.

The Vulture: These people constantly circle hoping and looking for an opportunity to swoop into a parking spot in the territory of one of the Dogs.

The Parasite: Waiting at the campus side of the parking lot for people to walk to their car. The parasites often try to speak to their host to form a bond while they follow them to their parking spot (“Psst – hey buddy, are you leaving?”)

The Hyena: These people go the wrong way up the aisles hoping to prey on the opening while a car backs out of a spot blocking the way of the vultures, parasites and the dogs.

The drive for Eastern's 'Cadillac'



Construction of the intramural facilities, July 1981.

The impetus for an intramural athletic facility arose from a visit to the dentist.

Richard Robb, a dentist and chair of the Board of Regents, said at the May 16, 1979 meeting that the director of intramurals, "a very fine gentleman who never complains," alluded to inadequate facilities during a recent dental visit.

The patient was Bob England, whose vision and planning made the facility a campus landmark and a model for similar buildings on campuses throughout the United States.

Discussions about a new facility had occurred in the early 1970s, with talk of a new arena on the West Campus. Also considered at the time was converting Rynearson Stadium into a domed facility. In 1976 the Regents approved further study of building a domed facility on the West Campus, then converting Bowen Field House for intramural use.

That plan was scrapped in favor of a new intramural facility on central campus, in part due to the efforts of student Harold Farris, who did extensive marketing among students to earn their support for a new building. Students also were insistent on having a major role in the management of the facility. There were fears that the facilities would be dominated by Intercollegiate Athletics.



Bob England

The \$15.5-million "Rec/IM" opened in the fall of 1982 and immediately became a "must-see" on campus tours. Local media called it the "Cadillac" of intramural facilities, and likened the facility to an "ultra-ritz resort" hotel. The 25-yard by 50-meter indoor pool was the largest in Michigan when the building opened.

Originally named the Lloyd W. Olds Student Recreation Center, it was renamed the Olds/Robb Student Recreation and Intramural Complex in 1993, after the outdoor lake facility was added. Robb, who had strongly supported the project, retired in 1992 from the Board of Regents after 25 years of service.

The much-discussed all-events building for West Campus, for which an ice rink once was considered, didn't materialize. Years later, in 1998, the \$29-million Convocation Center opened (without an ice rink) on West Campus. The Convocation Center is being funded by increases in student fees.

Nearly 20 years old, the Rec/IM remains state-of-the-art in equipment and programs due to England's stewardship.