

## W. R. Breneman

Kalamazoo, Michigan may have many claims to fame, but to thousands of past and present Indiana University students, Kalamazoo is known as the starting point for a journey through time in the "Christmas" lecture of Professor W. R. Breneman. He delivers this lecture annually during the last class period before Christmas vacation, and although specifically directed to his general zoology class, so many non-class members attend that extra sessions have to be provided. Last December alumni came from as far away as Philadelphia once more to "take the trip." Filled with humor, facts, and food for thought, "Kalamazoo to You" has been a tradition at Indiana University for over thirty years.

Professor Breneman was born June 3, 1907 in Indianapolis, Indiana. He attended Manual High School, and in 1930 received an A.B. degree from Indiana Central College. In the same year he married Mary Alice Petty of Peru, Indiana. Awarded a teaching assistantship, Professor Breneman came to Indiana University and in 1934 earned the Ph.D. in Zoology. In 1935-36, he taught at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and then returned to Bloomington to begin his illustrious career with the Zoology Department and Indiana University.

Professor Breneman is a master teacher. His lecture, "Kalamazoo to You," although special, is in fact only a summation of the teaching talent he displays to his classes every semester. Professor Breneman, known to his students as "Brene" or "Dr. B.," has received the Lieber Award for Distinguished Teaching, the Sigma Delta Chi Brown Derby Award for Most Popular Professor, and the Senior Class Teaching Award. His ideas and advice on teaching and testing methods have been sought many times. His teaching skills also have been evident in his role as speaker at a COAS-Graduate School Alumni Institute and in his well-received textbook, *Animal Form and Function*.

Besides being an excellent teacher, Professor Breneman has been a leader in endocrinological research. The work he did as a graduate student and as a National Research Council Fellow at Wisconsin (1934-35) pioneered studies in what was then the embryonic field of endocrinology. His list of publications and his list of invitations to speak at international symposia indicate continual growth with the field. Local recognition of Professor Breneman's accomplishments in

research resulted in his appointment in 1962 as the Luther Dana Waterman Professor of Zoology. His interest in research continues; he published several papers last year and is preparing several more. He has combined his teaching and research skills with his close personal interest in and involvement with his students by directing thirty-five of them to their Ph.D. degrees.

Professor Breneman's common sense, wisdom, and organizational ability have been eagerly sought and have been used by Indiana University in many areas of service. To name but a few of his positions, he has been Sigma Xi local chapter president, officer in the Men's Faculty Club, chairman of the Athletic Committee, Faculty Council member for twenty years, Big Ten Faculty Representative for ten years, member of many search committees (including two for Indiana University presidents), Chairman of the Zoology Department, and Grand Marshal of the University. He has given monumental service on a three-member University Study Committee. Why he has participated in so many activities, activities that many colleagues would consider an infringement on research time, is seen in a quotation from his reply to a member of the Board of Trustees who had praised his performance on a particular committee assignment: "Your praise is unnecessary because I feel that anything I can do to serve Indiana University represents an obligation on my part. The University has been overly generous to me and I deeply appreciate everything."

The sense of responsibility and loyalty he has felt to Indiana University is part of his life. It encompasses his family: his wife Mary Alice, his children Bill, Bruce, and Miriam, and his nine grandchildren. It extends to the Methodist Church, and to his Alma Mater, Indiana Central College, which has presented him with its Distinguished Alumnus Award and an honorary degree.

To Professor Breneman we say, "Thank you for a job well-done," and to steal the last line from the Kalamazoo lecture—and to paraphrase Tiny Tim—"God bless you and yours."

Frank J. Zeller