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## Willis F. Dunbar

Mr. President, I have the honor to present to you an alumnus who has had a distinguished career as teacher, news commentator, and historian.

Born in Hartford, Michigan, he graduated from Kalamazoo College in 1924. It was from the University of Michigan that he received that "union card" of academic life, the Ph.D. He returned here to teach. A loyal alumnus, he was not only a very able teacher of history but also directed the band and, what has fixed him forever in the tradition of the College, wrote our Alma Mater song. From 1938 to 1942 he was Dean of the College.

In 1943 he left this campus to become the Director of Education and Public Affairs of the Fetzer Broadcasting Company. While there he was, and he has ever since remained, an illuminating and trusted analyst of the news, the presenter of countless programs about life in Michigan, and a welcome feature of election-night broadcasts. Since 1951 his radio and television career has been limited because in that year he joined the already very good department of history at Western Michigan University; since 1960 he has been its head.

Serving as president at various times of Kalamazoo's Community Chest and of the Symphony Society, he has also been a highly prominent, a leading member of the city commission.

Professionally, he has been president of both the Historical Society of Michigan and the Michigan Historical Commission. He has also found — or made — opportunities to be a very prolific writer. His first book was written in collaboration with Professor Charles T. Goodsell and was the "Centennial History of Kalamazoo College," published in that notable year 1933. He has since produced "Kalamazoo and How it Grew" and, on the state in general, "The Michigan Record in Higher Education" and in particular his two most extensive works "Michigan through the Centuries" and "Michigan, A History of the Wolverine State," which last appeared not many weeks ago. His books have been interesting and have been written with the same fine directness and clarity with which he speaks.

He has throughout his life brought luster to Kalamazoo College. On behalf of the Faculty of Kalamazoo College, I take pleasure in recommending that upon Willis F. Dunbar be conferred the honorary degree, Doctor of Laws.