

Paul Flickinger

Class of 1965

Throughout his time at Wooster High School, Paul Flickinger was never involved in clubs or art organizations, due to the fact that high school did not have them when he was attending.

Flickinger, who attended Wooster High School from 1961 to 1965, did however manage to take as many art-related classes as were available to him. Before he graduated, his greatest achievement during his high school career would be the creation of a full-sized figure of a woman seated on a rock.



From Wooster, Flickinger then moved on to Western Michigan University where he graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. He then attended the University of Michigan and earned a Master of Fine Arts degree. Flickinger was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to teach in Eastern Europe, and from his travels, he studied in Japan and also taught ceramics in Ethiopia with his sister.

He is a professor at Western Michigan University while also serving as Chair of the 3-D Area of Kalamazoo Institute of Arts.

Flickinger temporarily set aside his career in order to establish the organization, *Clean Water for the World*, a not-profit that provides “simple adaptable water purification systems at no charge to communities without access to clean drinking water.” He notes, “Children throughout the world suffer immensely due to our world water crisis. Someone has to step up to the plate to help. It’s my turn.”

Flickinger has won and acquired many grants and awards. In 1992, he won the Kalamazoo Area of Show Signature Group Award. Also, in 1999 and 2002, he received third place in the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts Area Show. He received the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo Emerging Artist Grant in 2001. His most recent award is the Fulbright Senior Specialist award, given to him in 2005.

— Drew King-Smith, *student interviewer*

“A career in the arts is the most exciting and challenging career you could choose.”