Dominating the academic portion of the Liberal Arts complex is the George Sprau faculty office tower, the first high-rise structure on the Western Michigan University campus. The tower provides office space for one hundred sixty faculty members associated with the three departments housed in the William R. Brown classroom building.

From the tenth floor, which is a faculty commons, there is the wondrous view of a growing campus, one where the physical growth is matched by intellectual growth. The ever-changing outline of the campus reflects the viability of a community intent on searching out new knowledge and imparting it to men and women eager to prepare themselves for a meaningful life, one that will reflect credit on themselves, their alma mater and be the personification of service above self.

On the first floor of the tower is a students' commons, a place for relaxation or study.

Between the commons for students and the one for faculty are the offices. On each floor is a secretarial-reception area and a conference room. The building is serviced by two elevators and a double stairwell.

The tower is connected with the Brown classroom building at the basement level and at the second floor level, an arrangement which signifies that faculty interest knows no barrier and does not end with an exit from the classroom. It serves to show also that student interest may be pursued in the office of the faculty member, a process which is highly encouraged on this campus.

There are men for whom towers should be named. They give a unique quality to the landscape wherein they dwell. They present a clarity and stability against the sky, and ask us to look up. Such a man is Mr. George Sprau. As a scholar, a teacher, a colleague, he has left his mark on his time and his image against our sky.

Born of German-American parents on a farm near Millville, Ohio, George Sprau might naturally have followed his father in the operation of a farm, but a congenital nearsightedness, which made it difficult to follow the furrow and carry on the work of a farmer, drew him to school teaching and to the professional, scholarly life. He took his undergraduate work at Ohio Northern University and at Ohio University. While there he met Miss Frances Williams, also a student, whom he later married.

Mrs. Sprau is a most genuine person, gifted in her own right, perceptive and warm. Their three children are Louise (Mrs. Richard O'Dell) of Marquette, Michigan; Dorothy (Mrs. Theodore Snavely) of New York City; and George W. Sprau of Kalamazoo.

It was during his first year in the graduate school at Harvard that Mr. Sprau met President Dwight B. Waldo who persuaded him to come to Western State Normal School in Kalamazoo instead of accepting a similar offer from the University of Maine. He came to Western in 1909 as a member of the English Department, and during his first sabbatical leave, 1915-1916, traveled independently in England and received his M.A. from Harvard in 1916.

Mr. Sprau has always been interested

Sprau Tower