



# March 26, 2001 Wyandotte Distinguished Graduate Inductee



## Judith L. (McGeachy) Kuipers, Ph.D. Class of 1955

The fine education she received at Theodore Roosevelt High School laid the foundation for Dr. Judith Kuipers' distinguished career in higher education. From Roosevelt, she went on as a General Motors scholar to Michigan State, earning a B.S. in Child Development and Teaching. That was followed by a Master's Degree in Guidance and Counseling from Central Michigan and a Doctorate in Human Development and Early Education from Michigan State University.

These beginnings led to Kuipers current position as President of the Fielding Institute, Santa Barbara, California; a graduate school, offering distance learning programs for mid-career professionals worldwide. Prior to joining the Fielding Institute last August, Kuipers held a variety of distinguished positions in higher education: Chancellor, the University of Wisconsin-Lacrosse for nine years; Vice President for Academic Affairs, California State University, Fresno, for seven years; Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Oregon State University for five years.

Kuipers also served as Professor and Department Head of Child and Family Studies and an A.C.E. (American Council on Education) Fellow serving as Assistant to the Chancellor at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; Associate Professor and Acting Director of the Research Institute for Family and Child Studies, Michigan State University; and teaching/research assistant professor at Colorado State University.

Dr. Kuipers has co-authored a book, written dozens of articles and conducted seminars, and presented papers worldwide. In 1994, she received a Fulbright Award to East Germany to examine higher education in the new German states.

Her demanding schedule has not kept Dr. Kuipers from civic involvement and family life. Volunteerism has ranged from advocating for educational programs within the Hmong Asian community, to helping implement community-wide programs for at-risk children, to organizing informational forums and speaking to numerous civic and service organizations. She and her husband Gerald have three children and five grandchildren.