



# **The University of Wisconsin press bulletin.**

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To Editor:—The news in this bulletin is prepared especially for the press, and is released for publication on the date below. Please address exchange copies to Editor, 711 Langdon Street.

Release Wednesday, Sept. 13, 1939

# THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN PRESS BULLETIN

The purpose of this Bulletin is to bring to the newspapers of Wisconsin and their readers—the people of the state—pertinent news and information concerning their State University. The University Press Bureau will gladly furnish any special news or feature stories to editors. Address letters to R. H. Foss, editor, Press Bureau, University of Wisconsin.

MADISON, WISCONSIN

## High School Youth Ready For Year of Forensic Activity

The forensic year in Wisconsin high schools will open this fall with a goal of 400 member schools in the Wisconsin High School Forensic association and a participation that will engage thousands of young people in competitive debate, dramatics, and public speaking in every forensic district, leading to determination of state title honors next year.

Last year the association was made up of 395 schools, and every county in Wisconsin was represented in the competitions. Estimates compiled by Miss Almere Scott, of the debating department of the University Extension division, indicate that fully 20,000 high school students participated in last year's scheduled program carried on by the forensic association, and that 45,000 took part in activities not scheduled in its regular program.

These activities are sponsored by the department of debating and public discussion, and the bureau of dramatic activities of the University Extension division and by the University department of speech.

The debate question this year involves the merits of the ownership and operation of the railroads by the federal government. Schools have until Dec. 15 to register for debate competition, and until Nov. 1 for dramatics, with Nov. 17 set for the latest date for the first round.

Four speech institutes are tentatively planned, as follows: **Ladysmith**, Oct. 27; **Madison**, Nov. 17-18; **Lake Geneva**, Dec. 1; **Tomah**, in January.

The annual meeting of the state forensic board is scheduled for Nov. 1 and the association meeting will be held Nov. 3 at **Milwaukee**.

In the association's News Letter for September, State Supt. John Callahan commended the association's state-wide forensic training program as on a par with any other line of work in high schools in its educational values.

## Alumni To Publish New U. W. History

The first authoritative history of the University of Wisconsin since the late Prof. J. F. A. Pyre published his history of Wisconsin in 1920 will be prepared by the Wisconsin Alumni Association during the coming year, it was revealed recently by A. John Berge, general secretary of the Association.

Interest in the history lies in the fact that each chapter will be a combined biography of one of the eleven University presidents and a recounting of the events at the University during his stay in office. The history will be presented in a series of installments in The Wisconsin Alumnus, official publication of the Association, and when completed will be printed in book form.

Each of the eleven chapters will be prepared by a different individual, each particularly qualified to write upon his or her chosen subject. Authors will be selected from the University faculty and alumni body. The first installment is scheduled to appear in the November, 1939, issue of the Wisconsin Alumnus.

## Finishing Touches Being Put To Union Addition At U. W.

War in Europe reminds Wisconsin graduates once again of the memorial to the State University's own soldier dead at Madison, the Memorial Union, meeting, eating, and activities crossroads for 7,000 students a day during the school year.

Long over-crowded, the Memorial Union is extended this season by a new \$950,000 wing, paid for by alumni subscriptions and a \$266,000 PWA grant. The new addition which opens officially the week of Oct. 8, houses the Wisconsin Union theater, a smaller laboratory theater, workshops for theater and many other activities, meeting rooms for student groups, Camera club and Hoofers units, bowling alleys, game rooms, theater dressing rooms, and many other new conveniences.

Opening week for the new wing starts Sunday, Oct. 8, and will feature tours of inspection, radio programs, the presentation of the New York Theater Guild production, "The Tamming of the Shrew," with Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne, son and daughter of the state of Wisconsin, who make their summer home at Genesee Depot.

Thirteen hundred comfortably upholstered seats have been put in place in the larger theater, the curtain is hung, and equipment will soon be in place to provide the best possible technical background, not only for the Lunt's rollicking production of Shakespeare's comedy, Oct. 9, 10, and 11, but for the concerts, student theatricals, lectures, dance recitals, and other programs to follow.

Well-equipped dressing rooms are located downstairs. The "star" dressing room will be first used by Lynn Fontanne at the opening of the new theater. She will be followed during the winter by many other stage and concert notables, among them Ezio Pinza, the Metropolitan opera basso, and Marian Anderson, American contralto.

Backstage, on the tremendous 70-foot high stage, Fred Buerki, stage technician, can be seen directing the

## U. W. Welcomes Large Freshman Class to Campus This Week

Approximately 2,500 young men and women, most of them from Wisconsin homes, are becoming members of the University of Wisconsin's Class of 1943 this week as they gather on the State University campus to register for their freshman year of study.

Wednesday, Sept. 13, marks the opening of Freshman Period for the hundreds of first year students who are expected to enroll in the University this year. Although classes do not start until next Wednesday, Sept. 16, all freshmen are required to be on the campus a week early to give them an opportunity to become acclimated to University life before the sophomore, junior, senior, and graduate students return to their studies.

With applications for entrance at the same high level that they reached last year, it is expected that the freshman registration will be about the same as last year when about 2,500 first year students were enrolled.

### Faculty Aids Fresh

The Freshman Period program is being carried out this week under the direction of more than 200 faculty members and with the aid of about 300 upperclass men and women students who are acting as "brothers" and "sisters" to the first year students.

Purpose of the period is primarily to give freshmen an opportunity to receive first impressions of the State University from members of the faculty who are interested in developing a realization that the University of Wisconsin is a human institution and that the faculty is interested in the problems of the individual student.

During the entire week from Sept. 13 to Sept. 20, when classes begin, the first year students will take part in numerous activities, the most significant of which is an individual conference for every freshman with a member of the faculty. The remainder of the program provides for registration, the administration of certain placement tests, physical examinations, study lectures, various college assemblies, and a sufficient amount of social and recreational activity. Next

### Graduating Classes Donate Variety of Gifts To State U.

Funds for libraries, class reunions, student awards, the improvement of student health, student loans, and graduate and undergraduate scholarships are but a few of the many senior class memorials left the University of Wisconsin by departing senior classes.

A \$1,000 library fund was granted the Memorial Union library by the class of 1927. The yearly income from this fund buys the current books on the library shelves.

The class of 1929 left a \$2,000 memorial fund, the income of which goes to senior class officers once every five years for the purpose of financing class reunions.

A yearly award to the undergraduate student producing the best original composition in oil or water color painting, sculpture, or graphic arts is provided for by a \$1,000 fund left by the class of 1930.

In 1931, \$500 was donated to the University student health department, while a similar sum was given to the Wisconsin Crew corporation.

The now-famous Wisconsin toboggan slide was made possible by a gift of \$500 from the class of 1933. This class also donated \$254 for the equipping of an office now occupied by Ray L. Hilsenhoff, student financial adviser.

A student loan fund for needy seniors was established by the class of 1934, while Katherine Cornell, famous Broadway actress, donated \$500 to be added to the \$1,200 scholarship fund given by the class of 1936.

This year, the graduates left \$500 to the new Union theater wing, and \$200 to be added to the existing scholarship fund at the University.

### Employers May Now Call For 'Wisconsin Trained' Men, Women

Through the cooperation of the Wisconsin Alumni club of Milwaukee, and the state employment service office in that city, employers may now stipulate "Wisconsin trained" when asking for job applicants, since State University graduates will be so listed.

Milwaukee alumni of the University of Wisconsin are launching a new program to increase the hiring of graduates of the State University in Milwaukee, according to announcements which have been sent out by the alumni organization.

Rubens R. Clas, president of the group, and Waller Carson, club secretary, emphasized that the new plan is not meant to replace present placement activities of the University's various schools and colleges, but rather to supplement these.

Under the plan, senior students living in Milwaukee register at the state employment service. Vocational guidance and advice will be given by the University and its Milwaukee Extension division. In addition, a special folder of available "Wisconsin trained" persons will be prepared.

Installation of new equipment, and the placing of settings and machinery from the former small university theater in Bascom hall.

MADISON, WISCONSIN

## 1,000 Attend Two U. W. Science Meets

The University of Wisconsin campus, ordinarily quiet during the early part of September preceding the opening of the regular school year, was a scene of busy activity last week as two national science meetings were held on the campus. The two scientific meetings brought to the campus more than 1,000 physicians, medical scientists, and mathematicians from every state in the Union.

More than 700 medical men and women attended the sessions of the Institute for the Consideration of the Blood and Blood-Forming Organs, held Monday through Wednesday in Agricultural hall, while more than 300 mathematicians attended their 45th summer meeting during the week in Sterling hall on the Wisconsin campus. The joint mathematical meeting was attended by members of the American Mathematical society and the Mathematical Association of America.

The Blood Institute was the third science meeting of its kind to be held at the University of Wisconsin during the past three years. The other two were the Cancer Institute, held three years ago, and the Symposium on Chemical Kinetics, held last June. All of these scientific meetings are evidences of the University of Wisconsin's continued emphasis on science research for the benefit of mankind.

## Soap Bubbles Help Solve Stress, Strain Problems of Aircraft

Solving the problem of aircraft stress and strain is one of the latest uses scientists have found for soap bubbles. Prof. H. W. March, of the University of Wisconsin mathematics department, and G. W. Traynor, now chief of the forest products division of the national forestry service, have successfully used soap bubbles in determining the twist resistance of all kinds and shapes of airplane wing beams.

The problem that faced the two men was to develop a scientifically accurate method of testing the wing beams, since the usual mechanical tests were not accurate enough and mathematical computations would take far too much time.

Consequently they turned to a procedure involving the soap bubbles. Taking sample beams, they hollowed them out, and used them as pipes from which to blow bubbles in something of a pin-cushion shape. Next, the experimenters cut in aluminum plates holes the size and shape of the beams being tested. After spreading the bubble films over the holes, they measured the volume of the slightly inflated bubble by contacts with a sharply pointed micrometer screw.

The theory involved was that "the air capacity of the transparent pin-cushion was a direct measure of the twist resistance of the solid beam started with."

Soon after problem, this time one that had to do with the soap bubbles themselves, faced the experimenters. They were forced to develop a more resistant solution from which the soap bubbles were being blown, because the micrometer screw frequently pierced the bubble.

Airplanes, tall buildings, and other similar objects benefit from the practical application of this experimentation. The change from wooden to metal construction of airplane bodies has been made more rapid by the research.

## 145 Grad Students Get Fellowships And Scholarships At U. W.

To help them continue their education and as a reward for their outstanding scholastic work in the past, fellowships and scholarships have been awarded to 145 young graduate students by the University of Wisconsin for the coming year.

Of the total awarded, six were Adams fellowships, 53 were Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation fellowships and scholarships, 64 were University fellowships and scholarships, and 10 were Wisconsin scholarships.

The Adams fellowships are awarded annually by the University to outstanding students in English language and literature, Greek, or history; the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation fellowships and scholarships are granted to young men and women of exceptional talent and originality; the University fellowships and scholarships are awarded on the basis of outstanding scholastic work and ability; and the Wisconsin scholarships in the Graduate school are given only to distinctly superior Wisconsin graduates who are candidates for advanced degrees.

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## High School Students to be Guests Of U. W. at Texas Grid Game Oct. 7

Thousands of high school students of the state will be the guests of the University of Wisconsin, October 7, with the Wisconsin-Texas football game as the featured attraction, it was announced today by the University athletic department. Every student will be furnished with a free reserved seat ticket, the only charge being 25 cents for a souvenir program of the game. Further details of the day's program for the entertainment of the high school visitors will be announced soon.

Principals—or teachers whom they designate—will handle the program coupons, which will also include the complimentary student tickets. The University's invitation includes students of both public and private high schools.

Many students are expected to make a picnic occasion of their visit to the University, bringing their lunches. In case of rain, the huge Wisconsin field house, seating over 12,000, will be available for the student lunches.

In addition to the High School Day, Oct. 7, the athletic department will grant a special rate of 40 cents to high school students at the Marquette, Indiana and Iowa games, and 50 cents for the Purdue game, the 10 cents additional charge for the Purdue game being a contribution to the United States Olympic fund, which is being made throughout the western conference.

## ATTENDS WORLD MEET

H. L. Ibsen, a former member of the University of Wisconsin staff reported upon recent scientific findings before the international genetics congress held recently in Edinburgh, Scotland. Ibsen, now professor of genetics at Kansas State College, spoke on "Pigmentation in Relation to Color Inheritance in Mammals." He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin College of Agriculture in 1912 and was an assistant in the genetics department from 1913 to 1916.

## State's Idle Youth Offered Plan For Further Education

Findings indicating that, one year after graduation, between 30 and 40 per cent of the 28,429 young people who finished Wisconsin high schools in 1938, many of whom have excellent college ability and are eager for further educational opportunity, were idle in their home towns, was the surprising disclosure coming from a survey made in a representative number of Wisconsin communities. The survey was made by University of Wisconsin Extension field representatives in cooperation with high school officials.

One of the most frequent notations after names was "At home doing nothing." From one district the findings, covering 4,300 graduates one year out, revealed over 1,000 "doing absolutely nothing," and 500 more "doing practically nothing." This indicated, the report continued, "that here in the most prosperous part of the state about 35 per cent of the graduates of last June (1938) are spending their time in idleness."

In one group of cities 23 per cent of the graduates were listed as away from home; 20 per cent were enrolled in University extension centers at home; and 30 per cent were idle. Another 10 per cent had only odd jobs.

In a group of cities without Extension centers were held, 7 per cent more students remained at home than in non-center cities, and there were 5 per cent fewer idle.

The answer to the local problem, according to Extension officials, lies in local educational programs created by local boards, designed to enable young people who are financially handicapped to continue their education at or near home at least expense. Under the University Extension plan, it is possible for local boards, through cooperation with the University, to provide educational opportunities through enrollment in local Extension classes that offer the full freshman college-credit program, which will assure credit at the University or at any college. The cost would be shared by the local board, the University, and the student, thus limiting the student's expense materially. Further saving is effected by the student's living at home.

Non-credit subjects also are available in local Extension classes. Last year University courses in credit and non-credit subjects were offered in 329 classes in 56 cities, attended by 6,897 students. In every community visited by field representatives, high school graduates have been warned of dangers in signing contracts for courses from commercial correspondence schools without the most careful scrutiny, and urged to seek advice from high school officials before committing themselves. At the same time, they were familiarized with the University's correspondence courses as a practical and economical opportunity of making their free time count educationally if niable presently to go away to college.

## U. MUSEUM SPECIMENS REVEAL WISCONSIN GEOLOGICAL HISTORY

The skeleton of an American mastodon, measuring 9½ feet high, has the distinction of being the largest specimen in the geological museum on the second floor of Science hall on the University of Wisconsin campus. The remains of this elephant was found near Boaz, Wis.

This is just one of the many unique specimens and exhibits in the museum which depict the geological history of Wisconsin through the ages.

Another outstanding exhibit is a typical cross-section, measuring 11 feet high and 12 feet wide, of a lead-zinc deposit of southwestern Wisconsin. This cross-section represents such a deposit at a depth of 250 feet and a width of 300 feet.

In another section of the museum, rock specimens are illuminated solely by invisible ultra-violet radiation, beautifully colored by the phenomenon called fluorescence. Since white light is composed of the various colors, minerals show colors according to their ability to absorb and reflect the component parts of white light. The effect of the shorter wave length of the ultra-violet radiation is to produce the colors in the various rock species.

Many similar displays throughout the museum consist of rock specimens, arranged economically; mastodon tusks, mastodon bones, iron meteorites, Wisconsin minerals, animals of the mesozoic seas, representations of prehistoric reptiles, plants and animals, and the preserved tracks of a small dinosaur, which were found at Turners Falls, Mass.

**U. W. GRAD GETS NEW POST**  
Earl H. Hanson, of the animal husbandry staff of the University of Wisconsin College of Agriculture, has resigned to accept a position as head of the vocational agricultural department at Litchfield, Minn. Hanson, a native of Stoughton, is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, class of 1935, where he took special work in animal husbandry and education.