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# THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN PRESS BULLETIN

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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.

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MADISON, WISCONSIN

Vol. 32, No. 5

## Students In Cities Receive Directions For College Work

### Off-Campus Groups Get Tips On How to Study For Best Results

Four hundred extension students in State University credit classes throughout Wisconsin are having the benefit of university advice on how to get the most out of their college programs through systematic study and proper use of time and talents. The new counseling service of the University Extension division is helping members of classes in 16 cities to adjust themselves to the demands of a university program.

As vehicles of information, two booklets have been prepared for extension students: A handbook outlining the university's rules for freshmen and sophomores, and one on "how to study," written by Dr. Lewis E. Drake, of the department of psychology, and Dr. J. L. Bergstresser, the extension counselor.

Students are informed concerning the academic requirements, the place of correspondence study in completing a class program, campus regulations affecting extension students, and transfers to the campus. Some causes of student failures are listed and remedies suggested. Among the causes noted are too heavy a load, poor study conditions or habits, lack of interest in the subject, ineffective study methods, lack of background, difficulties in taking examinations, and lack of aptitude for scholastic work.

Students are encouraged to seek help, either from local school advisers or the extension counselor, in making adjustments in the interest of improved scholastic records.

To new extension students, friendly counsel is extended in messages by President C. A. Dykstra, Dean F. O. Holt, and Assistant Dean Bergstresser. Each recommended the formation of habits and attitudes that hold the most promise of effective scholarship and the development of understanding in changing times.

## High Schools and State University Join In Plan For Sparta Speech Meet

In cooperation with the State University, the Wisconsin High School Forensic association, embracing nearly 400 schools, will conduct a speech institute at Sparta, on January 8, for high school students and teachers of the speech arts. Subjects on the program include debate, dramatics, declamation, oration, extemporaneous speaking, and reading.

Members of the University speech faculty to participate are Prof. H. L. Ewbank, Prof. Ethel Rockwell, and Harriett E. Grimm, together with Prof. Raymond H. Myers of the Milwaukee Extension center. Miss Delia Kibbe will represent the state department of public instruction on the opening program. E. J. McKean, superintendent of Tomah schools and recently elected chairman of the state forensic association, will make the introductory address.

The day's program will conclude with a public debate, between two teams from the University of Wisconsin on the current question relating to the proposed unicameral legislature. Professors Ewbank and Myers will act as critic judges, and Robert Capener, Sparta high school student, will preside.

The following schools have indicated a purpose to send representatives: Arcadia, Bangor, Camp Douglas, Cashton, Cochrane, Elroy, Galesville, Granton, Hillsboro, Hixton, Holmen, Kendall, LaCrosse (Central high and state teachers college), Mauston, Melrose, Mindoro, Necedah, New Lisbon, Sparta, Taylor, Tomah, Viroqua, West Salem, Whitehall, Wonewoc.

## Co-eds Still Holding Scholastic Edge Over Men Students At U.W.

Woman students at the University of Wisconsin continue to hold a slight scholastic edge over man students, figures showing scholastic averages for State University undergraduate students revealed recently.

The compilation, arranged by the statistician's office, revealed last semester's scholastic averages for all students in the University, for man students, woman students, fraternity and non-fraternity men, sorority and non-sorority women, and for dormitory residents. The figures also show grade averages by courses of study.

The averages showed that the woman students again led man students enrolled in State University courses of study by slightly more than one-tenth of a grade point during the semester. This has been the approximate margin of scholastic leadership which University of Wisconsin co-eds have held over man students for the past several years.

The scholastic average for all undergraduate students in the University last semester was 1.545 grade points per credit hour of studies taken, which is the equivalent of half-way between "fair" and "good" grades. All man students earned a grade point average

## From Badger Cities

### 55 U. W. SENIORS NAMED TO ROA

Fifty-five seniors in the advanced corps of the University of Wisconsin Reserve Officers' Training corps recently received junior membership in the Reserve Officers' association, corps officials at the State University have announced.

The Reserve Officers' association is a society for members of the Officers' Reserve corps. It was formed to support and assist in the development and execution of a military policy for the United States which will provide adequate national defense.

Among the State University seniors from Wisconsin homes who received membership in the Reserve Officers' association are the following:

Raymond J. Bliese, DeForest; John C. Burkholder, Hudson; Harry F. Crowe, Eagle; James J. Dickson, Edgerton; Jerome Fleming, Chilton; Aodver Haugh, Stoughton; David W. Iunghuhun, Beloit; Robert E. Joanis, Washburn; Vernald G. McIlhattan, Spencer; Melvin M. Mueller, Marshfield; Gordon L. Paust, Columbus; Francis J. Stumreiter, Fifield; Robert Taylor, La Crosse;

Harold J. Trainor, Beloit; Eugene Dille, Fond du Lac; Herbert C. Geitman, Jr., Beaver Dam; Dale K. Greenwald, Chippewa Falls; Joe A. Maldari, Redgranite; John W. Mann, Hartford; Frederick E. Mueller, Prairie du Sac; Matthew J. Veal, Stoughton; Henry K. Voigt, Sheboygan; August L. Ferber, Sauk City; Joseph M. Hogan, Waunakee; Raymond J. Miller, Green Bay;

Carlyle W. Pritchard, Plymouth; Harold E. Rucks, Fond du Lac; Paul B. Schupener, Waukeshia; George F. Westerman, Darlington.

### BADGER STUDENTS RECEIVE HONOR

Earning high grades during either their first semester or first year in the University of Wisconsin, 21 men students were initiated into Phi Eta Sigma, national freshman honorary scholastic fraternity, at the State University recently. Selection for membership into the society is based on a high scholastic attainment of at least 2.5 grade points per credit of studies taken during the freshman year in the University. In order to achieve this average, the students must earn at least half "A" and half "B" in all of their studies.

Those from Wisconsin homes who were initiated into the society included:

John Dunster, Hayward; Francis Gehin, Brooklyn; Norman Jacobson, Mondovi; Edmund Kanzenback, Portage; Daniel Mansowitz, Appleton; George Matson, Frederic; James Schopp, West Allis; Curtis Stueber, Racine; Ralph Westphal, Randolph; Robert Wilfong, Racine; William Williams, Racine; Ivan Witt, Fredonia.

## U. W. Men Take Part in National Science Meets

More than 60 faculty members represented the University of Wisconsin at the annual conferences of several dozen national scientific and professional education organizations held during the last few days of December in 11 different cities scattered throughout the eastern half of the country.

Widely known for their work in their respective fields, these Wisconsin educators and scientists represented nearly every major department of the State University at the conferences. While some of the Wisconsin representatives presided over sectional meetings or led round table discussions, others presented papers of educational or scientific significance. Many of them are officers of the organizations whose sessions they attended.

The national scientific and educational meetings attended by State University faculty members during the last few days of the old year are as follows:

National Association of American Geographers at Ann Arbor, Mich.; Pennsylvania Education association at Harrisburg, Pa.; American Political Science association at Philadelphia; American Economic association and American Association for Labor Legislation, Atlantic City, N. J.; Association of American Law Schools, Chicago; Geological Society of America, Washington, D. C.; American Sociological society, Atlantic City; American Chemical society, Richmond, Va.;

American Association of Teachers of Journalism and American Association of Schools and Departments of Journalism, Columbus, Ohio; the Music Teachers' National association, Pittsburgh; American Statistical association and the American Marketing association, both also at Atlantic City; the American Business Writing association and the National Business Education association, Chicago; the Modern Language Association of America, Chicago; the American Association for the Advancement of Science, at Indianapolis; and the National Association of Teachers of Speech, in New York City.

of 1.507 for the semester, while all woman students earned an average of 1.619.

The figures showed that non-fraternity men led fraternity men by an average of 1.535 to 1.443, while sorority women led non-sorority women with an average of 1.631 to 1.613 grade points per credit of study taken. The scholastic average for men's dormitory students was 1.630, while for the women's dormitories the average was 1.781.

## Badger Lakes Studies Gain National Fame

### Work Attracts 10 Scientists from Other States, Two Foreign Nations

Another indication that the widespread fame of Wisconsin's lakes investigations, which have been carried on for many years under the direction of two University of Wisconsin scientists, has spread throughout the nation and even the world, is revealed in the annual report of the investigations for 1937.

The report shows that during last summer, when field investigations were being conducted at the Trout Lake headquarters of the survey in Vilas county, 10 scientists from outside the state, many of them of either national or international reputation, came to Wisconsin seeking information concerning the lakes investigations or to do lakes research work.

### From Foreign Lands

Two of the 10 scientists came from foreign countries. They are Dr. Z. Kozminski, of the Wigr Hydrobiological station at Suwalki, Poland, who studied the productivity of 17 Wisconsin lakes during the summer, and Dr. R. L. A. Beauchamp, who was formerly naturalist in charge of the British Freshwater biological station on Lake Windermere.

Other scientists from outside Wisconsin who came to the headquarters of the state lake investigations last summer were: Dr. Minna E. Jewell, of Thornton Junior college, Harvey, Ill.; Dr. W. A. Spoor, of the University of Cincinnati; Dr. T. H. Frison, director of the Illinois state laboratory of natural history; Dr. H. H. Ross, a member of the Illinois laboratory staff; Dr. H. J. Van Cleave, of the University of Illinois zoology department; Dr. J. K. G. Silvey, of the North Texas state teachers' college biology department; Dr. G. W. Prescott, of Albion college, Michigan; and Paul S. Conger, research associate of the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

The world-wide reputation of Wisconsin's lakes investigations has been revealed in the past by the large number of letters which are received each year from all parts of the nation and from many different countries asking for scientific information concerning them.

### Important to State

The Wisconsin investigations were started nearly half a century ago by Dr. E. A. Birge, famous scientist and president-emeritus of the State University. Because of their early start and continuous progress, it is said that Wisconsin's investigations of its lakes are far ahead of those of other states. At the present time, the investigations are directed by Dr. Birge and Chancey Juday, professor of limnology at the University.

The investigations are of great importance to Wisconsin since their main purpose is the scientific conservation of the state's natural resources as far as the state's lakes and streams are concerned. Main practical objective of the investigations is to determine the number of fish and the amount of fish food in various lakes, and to learn methods of increasing both. If such results can be scientifically achieved in Wisconsin lakes, much of the state's conservation problem will be solved.

## Bacteria Specialist Returns to Wisconsin

Elizabeth McCoy, who has been on leave of absence from the staff of the University of Wisconsin college of agriculture since last July, returns this month, January, to resume her duties in bacteriological research.

During the past six months, she has been carrying on research on food problems at the Hooper institute, San Francisco, a section of the University of California. She has been specializing particularly in the investigation of bacteria which are able to live in the absence of free oxygen. Many such bacteria cause canned foods to spoil.

Miss McCoy, a member of the staff of the University's college of agriculture since 1925, is a Wisconsin graduate, earning her doctor of philosophy degree in 1928. During the academic year 1929-30, she carried on research at the Rothamstead agricultural experiment station in England, on a fellowship awarded by the National Research Council.

Since 1930, Miss McCoy has been assistant professor of bacteriology at the University of Wisconsin.

## It's the Common Things That Cause Farm Fires

Whenever there is a farm fire, there are eight chances out of every ten that it was caused by one of the following commonplace causes: defective chimney and flue; sparks on combustible roofs; lightning; spontaneous combustion; careless use of matches; smoking; careless use of gasoline and kerosene; defective and improperly installed stoves and furnaces; faulty wiring; and misuse of electric appliances.

So says Harry E. Roethe, former Grant county man now with the United States Bureau of Chemistry and Soils. He lists four simple precautions to reduce needless waste from farm fires. They are: use of fire resistant roofing; dispose of waste and rubbish; never use gasoline or kerosene to start or revive

## Rural Builders Plan County Conferences

The latest practical developments in the construction of modern farm buildings will be considered by rural contractors, carpenters, masons, and interested farmers in a series of county-wide rural structure conferences to be held in 22 Wisconsin counties during January.

At these meetings, arranged by county agents in cooperation with S. A. Witzel, extension agricultural engineer of the University of Wisconsin college of agriculture, particular emphasis will be given to dairy barn and milk house construction as a means of enabling dairy farmers to meet the requirements of milk ordinances and milk markets. Other things to be given consideration include insulation, ventilation, foundations, paved lots, and drainage.

Meeting dates in January for these counties include: January 4, Racine; January 5, Milwaukee; January 6, Waukesha; January 7, Washington; January 10, Green; January 11, Lafayette; January 12, Grant; January 13, Crawford; January 14, Vernon; January 15, La Crosse; January 17, Outagamie; January 18, Brown; January 19, Shawano; January 20, Clark; January 21, Dunn; January 22, Pierce; January 24, Washburn; January 25, Sawyer; January 26, Rusk; January 27, Price; and January 28, Oneida.

## Reveal What to Look For In Purchase of Electric Appliances

Various characteristics to look for in the purchase of eight different kinds of electrical appliances ranging from incandescent lamps to household refrigerators are listed in a 21-page mimeographed pamphlet entitled "Suggestions on Appliance Selection," recently compiled by Prof. Royce E. Johnson, director of the Electrical Standards laboratory at the University of Wisconsin.

The pamphlet is based on research and tests conducted in the laboratory on various brands of the different kinds of electrical appliances. The pamphlet contains charts showing the efficiency and energy requirements of some of the different brands of appliances.

Such electrical appliances as incandescent lamps, floor and table lamps, electric irons, clocks, mixers, ironers, washing machines, and household refrigerators are covered in the pamphlet, which concludes that: "Service and performance or 'net usefulness' is what the user expects from appliances, and the more cheaply these can be obtained, the better—provided no life, health or property hazard is incurred." "As a result of the variation in the quality of appliances, the State University's Electrical Standards laboratory has tested various types of common household electrical devices," Prof. Johnson explains in the pamphlet.

"The tests we have made indicate that there are noticeable differences between brands of appliances, and the more testing we do the more we are convinced that the state ought to do for its industries and commercial concerns what it does for its agricultural interests; namely, actively to pursue research and development work for the benefit of its industries. Active assistance to many of its industries would not require a great expenditure, since much equipment and personnel are already available in the laboratories of the University.

"Such a research program would benefit everyone," Prof. Johnson contends. "Manufacturers could build better equipment, dealers would have less service trouble, and users would receive more for their money. This program could accomplish the results desired by those who advocate comparative tests of appliances for the benefit of the users, and do it in a constructive, rather than a destructive, manner."

## Former Badger Is New Science Editor

Firman E. Baer, known by many Wisconsin farmers, has been named science editor of a national farm magazine. He carried on research in soils in Wisconsin for several years.

Baer is a native of Germantown, Ohio. While studying at the University of Wisconsin college of agriculture, he was head of the department of soils at the Ohio State university. He was also for a time on the staff at the University of West Virginia. He is the author of two books on the handling of soils and has carried on research in soils both in France and Germany. Since 1929, he had headed the research work carried on by a nationally known fertilizer company.

In a recent article Baer cautions against too much cultivation, by stating that half as much cultivation might make farmers more money because too much cultivation makes the soil into dough instead of keeping the crumbliness of its virgin condition. An advocate of more acres in grass crops, this soils expert is convinced that corn belt farmers with a suitable livestock system of farming can produce just as much cultivated crops on half the normal cultivated acreage and keep more of the farm in grass.

a fire; and guard against over-heating of stoves and furnaces and clean smoke pipes at least once a year. Roethe is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin college of agriculture.

## Badger Alumni to Celebrate U. W. Founders' Day

### To Celebrate 88th Birthday of State U. Throughout State, Nation

For the second consecutive year, alumni of the University of Wisconsin who are scattered throughout the state and nation will literally join hands on an evening early in February to participate in a coast-to-coast celebration of the State University's annual Founders' Day, it was revealed today by John Berge, executive secretary of the Wisconsin Alumni association at Madison.

Mr. Berge announced that tentative plans were already being made for a campus faculty-alumni celebration of the University Founders' Day with a huge dinner meeting scheduled to be held in the Memorial Union building at the University. He also announced that many other Wisconsin alumni clubs in Wisconsin, in the east, middle-west, and on the west coast were also making plans to hold Founders' Day celebrations in their own communities on the same evening that the dinner meeting is held on the University campus.

### Have Prominent Speakers

The exact date in February on which the celebrations will be held has not yet been chosen, Mr. Berge said. The date will be near Feb. 5, however, since this is considered to be the date of the University's birthday anniversary. According to preliminary plans, several prominent speakers will be on the program for the Founders' Day celebration on the campus, along with other features.

The University of Wisconsin's Founders' Day this year celebrates the 88th anniversary of the opening of the State University's first class on Feb. 5, 1850, under the supervision of the University's first professor, John W. Sterling. The first class consisted of 20 students, and its meeting place was a rented, red brick building erected in 1847 for the Madison "Female Academy." The rectangular structure consisted of only two stories. Each side had 11 windows and a door, and the front and rear boasted a large door plus five windows. A board fence outlined the dimensions of the school grounds.

### 88th Birthday of U. W.

When Prof. Sterling opened the first class, he did not lecture to a true collegiate audience. While a college of arts, literature, and science had been organized by board of regent action in January, 1849, no students were found qualified to enter, and so the pupils were all given a preparatory course of instruction on payment of \$20 tuition each.

Today, the State University's 10,800 students go to their classes in an institution of several colleges and many departments, housed in nearly 100 buildings, and do their studies under the supervision of a comprehensive faculty body whose fame has placed the University of Wisconsin in the front rank of American colleges and universities.

## U. W. Atom-Busting Machine Praised At National Science Meet

High praise for the superior advantages of the high voltage atom smashing equipment developed in the physics laboratory at the University of Wisconsin by Dr. R. G. Herb and his associates, was given at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at Indianapolis, Ind., recently.

Prof. Gregory Breit of the University of Wisconsin, reading one of the three invited papers at the opening session of the physics section of the association, declared in a review of recent progress in the understanding of atomic nuclei, that the apparatus which has been built up at Wisconsin scores several points over the larger and more elaborate cyclotron outfits used for breaking up nuclei at other institutions throughout the country.

There is no longer any novelty to physicists in breaking down atomic nuclei and thereby changing one element into another. What they are interested in learning now is the why and the how of the changes that go on while the phenomena is taking place. The Wisconsin experiments are made by means of an electrostatic generator in air enclosed under pressure in a steel tank. Though electrostatic generators have been in use for nuclear research for some time, none, Prof. Breit pointed out, have been so reliable in operation and control as the machine developed by Dr. Herb and his collaborators.

Dr. Herb's setup is especially good for determining how the number of smashed atomic nuclei varies with the energy of the bombarding protons or other projectiles and is much superior in this respect to the highly expensive and complicated cyclotrons.

It is also particularly suitable for determining the amount of energy released when the nuclei are broken down. In this way, the stability of nuclei, the knowledge of which is essential for determining the arrangement of particles within the nucleus and the forces that hold them together, is measured accurately.