



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

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# 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.

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.

February 28, 1934

MADISON, WISCONSIN

Vol. 29, No. 34

## Debate Finals In High School Loop Set for March 22

### Enrollment for Forensic Meets Shows 15 More Schools Strive For Honors

This year's competitions in debate and dramatics among Wisconsin high schools show an increase of 15 schools over last year, the news letter of the Wisconsin High School Forensic association noted this week. These activities are sponsored by the department of debating and public discussion of the University Extension division.

The state debate, to determine the high school debate title, will be held in the state capitol March 22. The University Forensic board, through Howard Schneider, president, extended the board's offer to be host to the high school finalists in Madison. "The economic, social, and political chaos," he ventured, "demands more than ever that ideas be clearly presented; the spoken word is of vast importance in the formation of policy. The ability to present one's ideas will be no small factor in determining one's economic security."

#### 9 Schools Compete

Debate results in the central and southern sections give nine schools the right to compete in the semifinals to be held before Feb. 28. Winners to debate in the first triangle in the central section are Wittenberg, Shawano, and New London; in the second, Port Edwards, Tigerton, and Redgranite; in the third, Wisconsin Rapids, Tomah, and Adams. In the southern section the series is narrowed down to Baraboo, Stoughton, and Fort Atkinson, in the first triangle; to Kenosha, Waukesha and Mayville in the second, and to Oconomowoc, West Allis, and Milwaukee Washington high in the third.

#### Make National Survey

The Wisconsin contests in speechatory, extemporaneous speaking and reading, and declamation—will be held at Madison on May 3 and 4. Registration closes March 3. The date and place for the state dramatic contest are to be determined by the high schools participating.

Recent developments in high school debating, as reported in the news letter, included two tourneys of practice debates in the southern section—one held at Wisconsin high school, Madison, with nine schools represented, some by as many as 15 debaters each; and a day of practice debates at Baraboo with seven schools participating.

Prof. Gladys Borchers, university department of speech, reported that the committee for the advancement of speech education in secondary schools is making a nationwide survey of the amount and nature of speech training. All speech teachers are being listed. For this survey Fred Baxter, director of debate at Neenah high school, represents Wisconsin.

## Judges Get Amateur Plays; 21 Vie for State Drama Honors

Twenty-one short original plays have been submitted for judges' review in the Wisconsin Dramatic guild's annual play-writing contest. The plays come from nine cities—Green Bay, Milwaukee, Madison, Mt. Horeb, Muscoda, Waupun, Eau Claire, Lancaster, and Whitewater.

The plays were received by the bureau of dramatic activities of the University Extension division and have been sent to the judges, who are Prof. Claude L. Shaver, drama department, University of Louisiana, and author of several popular short plays, who is now on leave at the University of Wisconsin; Prof. Mary K. Reely, Wisconsin Library school; and Richard S. Davis, drama critic, Milwaukee Journal.

Of the plays submitted, seven are by members of "little theatre" groups, six by individuals unaffiliated with a dramatic group, five by members of women's clubs, and one each by members of high school, college, and church drama clubs.

The two best plays in each classification will be presented during the guild's festival week, April 2-8, at Milwaukee.

## Badger Frosh Don't Believe in Staying From School a Year

Slightly more than 76 per cent of the members of the freshman class at the University of Wisconsin this year graduated from high school in June, 1933, revealing once more that the young men and women of high school age who intend to go on to college to finish their education can't see much use in staying out of school a year or so before taking up their university studies.

Only 20 per cent of the freshman class members were graduated from high school during the three years from 1930-32 inclusive, while only about 3 per cent of the class obtained their high school diplomas prior to 1930.

This small percentage seems to prove that once a student leaves school, the job of going back to continue one's education in college is too difficult for the vast majority, no matter how good the intentions were upon

## Wisconsin's Conservation Problems Tackled on Five Scientific Fronts During Past Year, Report Shows

Problems in the conservation of the natural fishing resources of Wisconsin's lakes and streams were tackled along five different fronts during the past year by a group of scientists of the University of Wisconsin, the annual progress report on lakes of the state has revealed.

The investigations, which aim to place present-day methods of fish conservation on a scientific basis, were carried on during 1933 with the financial cooperation of the U. S. bureau of fisheries, the state conservation department, the Wisconsin Alumni Research foundation, and T. E. Brittingham, Jr., of Madison.

Two State University scientists who supervised the work are Dr. E. A. Birge, 83-year-old president emeritus of the University, and Dr. Chancey Juday, professor of limnology. Members of their field party who worked with them last summer at the Trout Lake laboratory in Vilas county included Dr. V. W. Meloche, professor of chemistry; H. C. Baum, S. X. Cross, A. D. Hasler, R. Hunt, R. R. Langford, W. E. Militzer, Edward Schneberger, H. A. Schomer, John Schreiner, W. A. Spoor, and L. R. Wilson.

#### Seek to Protect State

The main objectives of the work during the past year included the determination of the physical, chemical, and biological conditions for fish life in lakes of the state, the kind and quantity of food eaten by the various species of fish, the number and kinds of parasites harbored by the fish, the rate of growth of the more common species in different lakes, the determination of the total fish population

of some of the lakes, and the determination of a method of increasing fish food in the lakes through the use of ordinary farm fertilizers.

Results already gained from this five-point investigation are giving Wisconsin conservation workers information necessary to an intelligent restocking of the state's lakes and streams with fish. Such work is extremely important to the state, which must always protect its ever-growing resort industry, and guard its well-earned reputation as resort center and recreational playground of the middle-west.

#### Birge Continues Work

Continuing his study of the penetration of lake waters by the sun's rays, as a part of the general problem of determining the food growth possibilities of lake algae and large aquatic plants, Dr. Birge sought during the past year to determine the extent of changes in the transparency and color of the water in Wisconsin lakes from year to year. His investigations have already proven that these changes occur, and they must be taken into consideration in any solution of the food growth problem.

Experiments relating to the growth of algae—small plant forms which furnish food for fish—were carried on during the summer. Plankton observations, involving the study of organic matter in the plankton of the lakes, were also made.

#### One Question Solved

One interesting question raised in the 1932 session of the state legislature was answered by the investigation

tions of parasites carried by fish-eating birds in this northern Wisconsin region. Exactly 61 birds were examined, and among them were two species, herring gulls and least bitterns, which had not been examined before.

Both of these birds were of considerable interest because they harbored the adult stage of the fish parasites known as "grubs" when they become encysted in the flesh of the fish. Blue herons also serve as hosts for this parasite, and the question was raised in the 1932 legislature as to whether it would be possible to control the distribution of this parasite among fish by wiping out the blue heron.

#### Seek to Reduce Waste

Since the parasite is carried by two other species of fish-eating birds found in this region, and thus may be distributed among fish by them, it would be useless to try to control the "grub" parasite by killing off the herons, the report maintains.

Both growth and population studies of fish in several lakes were carried on during the summer. These studies are important in determining the food content of the lakes and the advisability of restocking. The food content of some lakes will support only so many fish, and when this population limit has been reached, the rate of growth of fish has been slowed down so much as to make it wasteful to "plant" more fish in the lakes, even though there is no proof that fish are actually starving to death.

## Seek to Improve Social Life At State University

### Plant Operators of State Attend Short Course

Superintendents and operators of municipal water departments of cities and villages located in all parts of Wisconsin went "back to school" last week as their annual four-day short course got under way at the University of Wisconsin.

The water department men spent four days of intensive study in the hydraulic and sanitary engineering laboratories at the State University, under the guidance of state engineering experts, to learn the latest methods of operating a water plant economically, and at the same time guarantee the public a safe and adequate water supply at all times.

Fifteen lectures and eight laboratory demonstrations, given by state engineering and health experts, were crowded into the four-day course, which was built around the practical work of Wisconsin municipal water-supervisors and plant operators.

Cooperating with the University department of hydraulic and sanitary engineering in sponsoring and arranging for the course were the Wisconsin section of the American Waterworks association, the bureau of sanitary engineering and the hygienic laboratory of the state board of health, and the Wisconsin League of Municipalities.

A partial list of those enrolled in the course at its opening Tuesday included the following:

E. S. Cary, Evansville; J. E. Towne, Waupun; E. A. Bratz, Two Rivers; E. E. Schneider, Cedarburg; G. Schneider, Monroe; J. W. Meyers, Kenosha; W. H. Thorne and E. A. Harlander, both of Hudson; B. Page, Page; G. A. Corine, Superior;

H. G. Reichardt, Watertown; F. W. Gates and F. M. Porter, both of Elkton; J. W. Krause, Brookfield, Ill.; J. J. Angel, Jefferson; F. H. Robb, Columbus; F. O. Drow, Tomah; H. Spencer, Marshfield; F. K. Quimby, Racine; D. L. Bothan, F. M. Brewer, and A. N. Melhouse, all of Madison;

E. W. Storm, Algoma; W. U. Gallaher, Appleton; J. E. Johnson, Menomonie; A. Marx and A. Guyette, both of Menasha; C. A. Dahle, Stoughton; W. E. Fevry, Beloit; R. S. Houts and C. J. Hebsaile, both of Rice Lake; A. W. Hebsaile, Wauwatosa; L. Volk, Rhinelander; and C. O'Neill, Lake Geneva.

## U. W. Fraternity Grade Average Higher, Report

Reports received from the National Interfraternity conference place scholarship averages of fraternity men at the University of Wisconsin as above that of non-members.

The report said that a national survey in 156 colleges and universities shows that fraternity men ranked higher scholastically, and outstanding performances were registered by groups at only six of the nation's leading universities, among them the University of Wisconsin.

A total of 2,104 chapter groups, comprising 70,000 men was in the study, with the schools studied representing an enrollment of 250,000.

graduation from high school.

With the exception of 1922, freshmen at the state University this year have graduated from high school every year since 1918, and only one member of the first year class obtained her high school diploma prior to the World War—in 1906 to be exact. Two other members of the class entered the University without the advantage of a high school diploma, the figures show.

A social survey of rooming houses, fraternities and sororities, and dormitories on the Wisconsin campus upon which can be based a program for the constructive use of leisure and the improvement of social life in student homes at the University of Wisconsin is now being conducted by several civil works research workers, it was learned today.

The research workers are now gathering data through personal interviews with students and others in the University community. The project is under the general direction of Porter Butts, director of the Wisconsin Union, and has been organized with the aid and counsel of the University civil works committee on research.

The project is designed to reveal why students live where they do and how their place of residence affects their life at college; how to improve the social environment and strengthen group life in student residence units; and how to give further help to students in solving their social, recreational, and economic problems as individuals.

An elaborate questionnaire bearing on the above objectives has been prepared and is being used by the investigators in holding their interviews. It is hoped that 1,000 students, representing a sampling from all types of student houses and all classes of the University population, plus 110 Union Assembly and 65 Women's Self-Government Association house representatives, will have been interviewed before the project ends.

## Badger Scientists to Present Papers at Academy Meet

Many University of Wisconsin faculty members will present papers at the 60th annual meeting of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters to be held at Appleton on April 6 and 7, it was learned today.

Meeting jointly with the Wisconsin Academy will be the Wisconsin Archaeological society and the Midwest Museums conference. Members of all three societies were invited to attend the joint meeting and take part in the program in an announcement sent out by H. A. Schuette, associate professor of chemistry at the State University, who is secretary of the Academy.

Scientific papers in archeology, history, literature, and the social sciences; and in botany, zoology, physics, chemistry, astronomy, mathematics and applied science will be presented at the meeting.

Prof. Lawrence M. Gould, Carleton college, will give an illustrated lecture on some phase of his experiences and observations as geologist with Commander Richard Byrd's first South Polar Expedition at the annual dinner of the Academy to be held on April 6.

As geologist with the first Byrd expedition to the south polar regions, Prof. Gould made two geological excursions away from the base camp in Little America. The first trip was by aeroplane, which almost ended tragically when the plane was wrecked in a blinding blizzard. The second trip of some hundreds of miles was made by dog sled by the eminent geologist.

Four thousand farm homes in Wisconsin, at their own request, are receiving bulletins giving details of the agricultural service of WHA, state radio station at the University of Wisconsin.

Competitive classes for four separate groups of championship softball teams will be held in the Wisconsin playground softball tournament at the state fair park, West Allis, this year, according to A. F. Wieden, general chairman.

A new class C for urban championship teams representing towns up to 5,000 population is the new and added class for 1934. The three additional classes are Class A, for rural championship teams; Class B, for 4H championship teams; and Class D, for open individual teams. Each of the classes will have a separate manager and the tournament will be held during the Wisconsin State Fair, August 27 to 31.

A limit has been placed upon the number of teams which may compete in each class, according to the plan. Class A may have 16 entries; Class B, 16 entries; and Classes C and D may have 8 entries each. Last year a total of 36 teams entered the tournament.

Championships in the 1932 tournament were won in Class A by Kenosha county, and in Classes B and D by teams from Rock county.

The expanded 1934 tournament, made possible by Ralph Ammon, manager of the state fair, will be held as a cooperative arrangement involving the Wisconsin College of Agriculture, the Athletic Department of the University of Wisconsin and the State Fair Board.

## 3,000 Citizens of State Attend U. W. Labor Institutes

Approximately 3,000 Wisconsin citizens have attended the three Labor Institutes sponsored by the University of Wisconsin school for workers in industry in cooperation with the labor councils in three cities of the state during the winter months, it was learned from Miss Alice Shoemaker, executive secretary of the workers' school, today.

Institutes have already been held in Madison, Sheboygan, and Milwaukee, and several others are now being planned for other Badger cities. Although the exact dates have not yet been set, an Institute will be held in Kenosha sometime early in March, Miss Shoemaker said.

Each of the three Institutes held so far has attracted approximately 1,000 people, according to Miss Shoemaker. Each Institute lasted four days, with discussion classes in economics held preceding the general evening meetings, which attracted large crowds.

University of Wisconsin faculty members, state labor leaders, and several well-known civic leaders in the communities in which the Institutes were held gave the main speeches on the programs, with general discussion of the evening's topic following. Various "New Deal" policies of the federal government constituted most of the topics discussed.

## Holmes Named Head of U. Landscape Division

Laurence G. Holmes, of Rock county and a graduate of the Wisconsin college of agriculture with the class of 1925, has been appointed extension landscape architect at the University of Wisconsin to fill the position left vacant by the resignation of Norman A. Morris. Morris recently resigned to take charge of extension landscape work at the Iowa State College of Agriculture.

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## Library As Adult Education Agency Is Study Subject

### Problems of Small Community In Serving Adult Needs Are Covered in New Course

The needs of librarians in the smaller towns in making the public library serve for greater educational advancement are recognized in a new course of study offered by the University of Wisconsin Extension division, announced this week by Dean Chester D. Snell.

Entitled "The Library as an Adult Education Agency," this correspondence course, a first venture in this field of library service, aims to furnish the librarian in the small community with a better background for practical and intelligent planning making the library a more effective aid to adult education.

#### Many Topics Covered

Preparation was by Prof. Ida M. Gangstad, in charge of the Extension courses in library methods, and Mrs. Jessie Luther, a Wisconsin librarian and instructor of long experience.

Topics covered include reading and study aids for the librarian, adult learning, reading courses and lists, collecting and reorganizing materials for a new program in adult education, readers' advisory service, library work with groups, alumni education, radio education and the public library, university extension and the public library, and Wisconsin libraries and adult education.

#### Aid Adult Education

Account is taken of the large increase in leisure time and consequent larger use of libraries, new trends in reading interests, marked increase in number of men using library facilities, recent research and studies proving the ability of adults to learn, and a shift in interest within the library itself from books to people.

The dominant aim of the course, according to the introductory outline, is to emphasize the practical need of the librarian to redirect her thinking about the whole matter of adult education, to reorganize library facilities, to inaugurate new projects, and in general to reshape the library's program to give a larger measure of education for adults.

## Twelve More Badger Counties Hire Farm Agents to Aid Work

Twelve additional Wisconsin counties have recently been added to the list of counties employing agricultural agents to assist farmers with their federal, state, and individual programs of work.

But nine counties are now without such agents. Fifty counties have regular county agricultural agents or County 4-H club