

General Revision In Engineering Curricula Announced By Hammond

Quitters Sorry -But Too Late

Boys who quit school before they should, almost invariably regret it and would like to return after it is too late, according to a 10-year study just completed by Dr. C. S. Anderson, professor of agricultural education.

Dr. Anderson found that only one-third of a group of young farmers who left school before graduation had expressed a desire to be farmers.

"Many of these who had no desire to farm might have learned about other ways to make a living if they had stayed in school longer," he stated. "Schools should have followed up these boys to find out why they quit and to encourage them to return."

The principal reasons for leaving school were a chance for a job, failure, disinterest, social maladjustment, inaccessibility of schools, and home and family influence. Dr. Anderson urged that more effort should be made to arouse the interest of retarded pupils and those of lower intelligence, and that more guidance should be given in the choice of agreeable work.

"Unless this is done, the new 18-year age limit will cause numerous disciplinary problems for teachers," he explained. "For those who are already out, evening classes should be organized which give the kind of practical agricultural courses these young men want to study."

Leaders Will Attend Penn's Bi-Centennial

President Ralph D. Hetzel, Arnold C. Laich '41, All-College president, and William B. Bartholomew, senior class president, will officially represent the College at the University of Pennsylvania's Bicentennial Celebration Week, it was announced recently.

With special convocations, general sessions, conferences, and scientific and cultural exhibits among its features, the program commemorating the founding of Penn in 1740 will be held on the campus from September 16 to September 21.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt will be the guest of honor on September 20 when he will receive an honorary doctor of law degree.

Of 75 students at Sam Houston State Teachers College, Huntsville, Texas, who were asked to name the school song, only six knew, says The Houstonian.

Thanksgiving Moved Back To November 28

Thanksgiving, which has been kicked all over the College calendar since President Roosevelt announced his views on the subject a year ago, is going to be observed in its traditional spot, November 28, by the College this year.

This was decided by the College Senate on June 6 after Governor James announced Pennsylvania would not observe President Roosevelt's earlier date of November 21.

Last year Pennsylvania and the College adjusted their schedules to observe the early Thanksgiving. The College had planned to observe the early holiday this year but changed when Governor James adopted the later date.

Because the shift was not made until June, both the College Catalog and the Student Handbook incorrectly carry the earlier date. The holiday as now approved by the Senate will begin at 11:50 a.m. Wednesday, November 27, and end at 8 a.m. Monday, December 2.

Pan-Hel Clears Sorority Problems

A clearing house for inter-sorority problems, Panhellenic Council is comprised of two representatives elected from each sorority and meets bi-weekly to treat problems common to the sororities as a unit and further friendly relations among groups.

The presidency and vice-presidency rotate among these groups, with the vice-president automatically succeeding to the presidency the following year.

Proposed Panhellenic ruling are brought to the chapter meetings of each sorority for a vote. No ruling becomes effective until it is approved by all sororities.

Harriet Singer '41 will head the council this year with Arita L. Hefferan '41 as secretary and Norma P. Stillwell '41, treasurer.

Food Study Made

The average farm family of five plus one laborer consumes \$350 worth of home-produced products a year, according to a seven-year study of 1262 Centre County farms made by J. E. McCord, professor of farm management and agricultural economics.

Changes Broaden Scope of Course

The School of Engineering has announced a general revision of its curricula to effect increased thoroughness of learning, concentration on essential subject matter, and greater emphasis on science and the humanities.

Effective this semester, the changes, as described by Dean H. P. Hammond, recognize that "the present-day engineer must have not only mastery of the fundamentals of science and engineering, but that he must also be a broadly educated man having an appreciation of the impact of technology on the modern world."

The purpose is not to make students work less, but better to concentrate their efforts in the interests of a thorough mastery of their courses, he said. The number of courses will be reduced from an average of 7.1 per semester to 5.73, and in some cases there will be mergers of closely related courses to allow concentrated effort.

"We know that our average student spends about 54 hours per week on classroom and outside studies," said Dean Hammond. "We want to apply that time to better advantage so that more attention will be given to technology, basic sciences, and economics, and to the relationship between science and technology and our social order."

"The changes are in accord with modern trends and especially with the recent findings of a committee on curricula of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education. So far as I know, Penn State is the first institution to put the committee's recommendations into effect following the publication of its report."

For the approximately 1,000 engineering students at the College, the immediate effects of the new plan will include:

More time on mathematics, physics and mechanics, and slightly less time on engineering specialties.

At least one humanistic course per semester, including courses combining work in both English composition and literature. Reading of good literature will be emphasized.

For the first time, every engineering student will be required to take a course in public speaking.

Greater freedom in choice of elective courses. Electives now provided for the freshman year will be cancelled in favor of senior year electives, "where it is expected that the greater maturity of the student will insure better results."

Consolidation of many engineering courses, mainly by combining laboratory and classroom work in the same subjects.

Dean Hammond has been interested in revision of engineering curricula for some time and was the chairman of the committee that studied this subject for the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education.

The changes will apply to all departments in the School of Engineering. They are the departments of architecture, civil engineering, electrical engineering, industrial engineering, mechanical engineering, and engineering mechanics.

'Don't Carve Desks,' Freshmen Are Warned

The cooperation of the incoming freshmen is requested in refraining from carving fraternity insignia, and initials on desks and tablet arms of all classrooms.

"For the sake of the future and the pride of the Class of 1944, please refrain," Ray V. Watkins, College scheduling officer, requests.

First atom-smasher at a woman's college is being installed at Smith.

Engineering's Dean



Dean Harry P. Hammond, now in his fourth year as head of the School of Engineering, has announced a sweeping revision of the curricula to give it a broader scope. The change is the result of a careful study carried on over a long period of time. (For details see column three.)

"The Yanks Are Not Coming" was the theme of Hunter College's peace strike.

Texas Technological College at Lubbock is organizing a polo team.

NYA Applications Threaten Record

Although the College has not been officially notified of its Federal appropriation for 1940-41 NYA work, it was learned yesterday that the work will definitely be continued.

Applications are pouring in and threaten to top the mark set last year when over 1400 students applied for work. At that time jobs could be provided for only about half of the applicants. Because the appropriation is not a lump sum but spread over three periods the number of students employed varies from time to time. However, it is expected that the usual number will lie between 600 and 700.

The rate of pay will be 35 cents an hour, the same as last year. Students work from 35 to 40 hours each month and receive from \$12.25 to \$14. Maximum earnings for the College year approximate \$100.

Application blanks may be obtained at the NYA office, 208 Old Main. They must be completely filled out and certified by the parent or guardian of the applicant. Jobs are limited to students between the ages of 16 and 24.

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