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Eastern Michigan University

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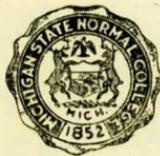
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MICHIGAN STATE ~~NORMAL~~ COLLEGE
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ALUMNI NEWS LETTER



1920

COMMENCEMENT WEEK

Baccalaurete	-	-	Sunday, June 20
Class Day	-	-	Monday, June 21
Alumni Day	-	-	Tuesday, June 22
Commencement	-	-	Wednesday, June 23

ALUMNI NEWS LETTER

After the tedium of the long winter your Alma Mater sends you greetings. With the glorious flowering of the springtime all about her she sends you greetings. Greetings that will turn the leaves of your memory book to the bright pictures of your happy student days; that will renew your interest in your old school and stimulate your loyalty as never before.

With the greetings the Normal College sends you a very cordial invitation to spend the Commencement Days with her. If you are of the class of 1915, or 1910, or so on back, you will especially want to come, for this is the time for your quinquennial reunion. Write to the friends in your class and arrange to meet them here. Come and renew old friendships with classmates and faculty. We shall look for you.

When you return you will find not a few changes in and about the old college. The shrubbery planted last year around the buildings is flourishing. Similar planting is being added to the grounds of the brick house on Forest Ave., where President McKenny has again taken up his residence. In the northwestern part of the campus hundreds of young trees have been planted where in future years they will fringe a series of lakelets.

On May 12 the College gathered on the hillside just north of the Science Building, there to dedicate with appropriate ceremony a Sylvan Theatre in memory of the Normal boys who served in the World War. A row of

Norway spruces stands there as a tribute to those who did not return.

These lads who were sacrificed in the great conflict are not the only recent losses the college has sustained. The kindly, gracious presence of Prof. Strong will be missed by all returning alumni. The memorial service in his honor during commencement week will give you an opportunity to render a tribute to his distinguished service in the cause of education.

Another figure, familiar through many seasons, will no longer be with us. Through the death of Andrew J. Campbell we have lost one of the most interesting and interested alumni. Since his graduation in 1859 he had not failed to attend commencement.

Faculty Changes

Prof. Wilber has been appointed Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction. Prof. Norris, of the Latin Department, has been transferred to take his place in the Department of Education.

Prof. A. G. Erickson is now superintendent of the Public Schools of Ypsilanti. He will be succeeded by Mr. R. A. Wells, Prof. of Mathematics and Dean of Park College, Parkville, Mo.

Miss Crystal Worner has gone to Grand Rapids as Director of Physical Training in one of the large high schools of that city. Miss Anna Wolfe has taken her place in the gymnasium.

Prof. Paul B. Samson accepted in October the position of Boy Scout Executive in Toledo, Ohio. His work here is carried on by Mr. J. H. McCullough, who comes to us

from eight years' experience in Carnegie Institute in Pittsburgh and two years in the aviation service.

Miss Ora B. Wilcox succeeds Mrs. Mary Cawood Hamilton in the Geography Department.

Mr. Carl Lindegren leaves us next fall on a year's leave of absence to be assistant to Mr. Herbert Witherspoon of New York City. This temporary vacancy will be filled by Mr. Walter Leary of the Witherspoon studio.

Professors Jefferson and Alexander will teach in the University of California during this year's summer school. The latter will conduct the summer choral work. He is taking with him as accompanist James R. Breakey, one of the gifted young men of last year's graduating class.

Departmental Changes

The new departments announced in last year's alumni letter have been organized and they give promise of most satisfactory and continued development.

The Rural School Department is in charge of Miss Ella Smith, '09. The Stone Schoolhouse between Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor furnishes the opportunity for practice work.

Prof. Elliott's special study and experience in the field of education for defectives, together with Miss Blanche Towne's able assistance, has insured for that department such a successful year that the college feels justified in transferring the department to Detroit, where it will have a much larger field for development.

Through affiliation with the Interdepartmental Social Hygiene Board of Washington, D. C., and the financial assistance we have received from that board, we have

been enabled to secure Mrs. Glenadine Snow, our physical examiner for women, for full time. Prof. Phelps of the Natural Science department has also been given a paid assistant from the same fund, and our general lectures on various phases of hygiene have been increased. Still more assistance from that board is expected for next year.

The course in agriculture has been extended, a soil laboratory built adjacent to the greenhouse, new gardens laid out, and the work placed in charge of Prof. J. Milton Hover, '08, who comes to us from the Agricultural College of West Virginia. We are looking toward an affiliation with M. A. C. whereby the first two years of Agricultural work under the Smith-Hughes Law may be taken here.

The Normal College is one of two schools in Michigan doing teacher-training work under the Smith-Hughes Law. The Head of the Home Economics Department, Mrs. French, is loaned to the state for part time in supervising vocational home economics in the public schools.

Changes in the Curriculum

Among the new courses may be cited that in Mental Hygiene given by Prof. Phelps. This takes into consideration the physiological effects of pain, hunger, fear, and rage, and is proving especially suggestive to teachers.

Prof. Lathers' course in Play Production, offered for the first time last summer, has given valuable experience to the members of the class and no little entertainment to the public admitted to the Little Theatre on Thursday afternoons.

To meet the new state law requiring the teaching of physical training in all schools our physical education courses are being modified. The women students are divided into three groups according to the teaching positions they plan to hold—primary, intermediate, and high school. A part of the work given to each group is designed to fit them for teaching physical training under supervision.

Special Features

As usual the school has been fortunate in the special opportunities for the enrichment of college life that it has been able to offer to its students. Among these are the concerts, given by members of the conservatory faculty and the Normal Choir. The Christmas Concert given by the latter under the able direction of Prof. Alexander was of unusual beauty and dignity. The choir was asked to repeat it both in Detroit and in Ann Arbor.

Our community orchestra, with Mr. Jesse Crandall as director, has added much to the life and pleasure of the college.

The lecture course brought to the city speakers of national fame. The presentation of Twelfth Night by Prof. Lathers and his class in Play Production filled Pease Auditorium with an enthusiastic and appreciative audience.

Mme. Borgny-Hammer, the greatest living interpreter of Ibsen's women, especially Hedda Gabler and Hilda, honored us with her presence. She and her company presented "Hedda Gabler" and "The Master Builder."

The intellectual climax of the year came with our Mid-year Conference in January.

Several exhibits have been held in the Art Gallery,—etchings by prominent American artists; wood block prints in color by Helen Hyde; a collection of Chinese articles loaned by Miss Adams; a collection of oil paintings, mostly figures and portraits, by the Italian artist, Alexandre Valerio. It is of interest to note that Mr. Valerio has been in Ypsilanti for a year and expects to remain some time longer. He is conducting a class in oil painting for a number of the special art students.

Recreations

Jack has had no chance to be dull boy this year and Jill has had no want of play. Besides the many group parties there were the all-school affairs to which everybody came and where everybody enjoyed himself. There were games for those who liked to play them; there was dancing for those light of foot; there were community singing and programs of all kinds. The annual Christmas Party was a big success from the dance of the snow fairies in front of the auditorium to the last gay moment in the gymnasium where Christmas gaiety had reigned supreme.

Student Activities

Our athletic record has been creditable, especially in basketball. We lost only two games of the series. Coach Ryncarson deserves much credit for the splendid work he has done with the men.

The various athletic tournaments and contests have shown no end of spirit, particularly the basketball tournament in which thirty-two high school teams participated.

The college has been readmitted to the Michigan Inter-Collegiate Athletic Association, which will stimulate

interest in all outdoor sports, especially track athletics and tennis. Mr. C. P. Steimle, '02, has been appointed the faculty representative.

At the International Student Volunteer Convention held in Des Moines, Iowa, this winter the college was represented by its full quota of fourteen delegates. This opportunity, which comes but once in four years, afforded our students contact with one of the world's greatest religious movements.

Platform activities have moved forward prosperously. The Lincoln and Webster debating clubs for men, and the Wodeso and Willard debating clubs for women have maintained a steady interest. The two debates held with Hillsdae College both resulted in victories for Ypsilanti. In the state contest in oratory at Adrian College our orators made a good showing. The freshman speaking contest to occur the first week in June is to be a new departure. Contestants are to draw their subjects two days before the preliminaries. They will be judged upon their ability in organizing and presenting ideas.

Organizations

The year's work in the Christian Associations has been marked by a number of significant features. The Y. M. C. A. has taken possession of its new quarters on the ground floor of the Administration Building.

The Y. W. C. A. has been fortunate in securing as general secretary on full time Miss Gertrude C. Reading, '08. An unusual number of interesting visitors have been entertained by the associations during the college year. Among them are native workers from China and Japan,

and our own Mrs. Helen Elgie Scott, '01, now of Osaka, Japan.

The various Department Clubs have had a successful year, and have added two new ones to their number—the Natural Science Club, and the Garden Project Club. The latter was organized specifically to raise funds for the purchase of a hand tractor to be used in connection with the work in agriculture.

The County Clubs have existed at the Normal off and on for some time; this year has witnessed a revival of interest in their possibilities for creating a family spirit in the college, and linking us with the local communities represented here. Good work has been done: letters have been written to the graduating classess of the high schools; sets of excellent stereoscopic views, made by Professor Gorton, are being circulated among the schools of the various counties. It is hoped by this to attract the attention of June graduates to the educational advantages found in Ypsilanti.

Peregrinations of the Faculty

When the faculty went over to Detroit in December for a dinner with the Alumni teaching there every one had such a good time that it was voted to make the joyous affair an annual occasion.

During Education Week a goodly number of trips were made by members of the faculty who helped to arouse general interest in education throughout the state. Later, others visited high schools, talking to pupils about the advantages of higher education and the special values to be found in the profession of teaching.

Our Attendance and the Teacher Shortage

While the attendance has been better this year than last it still shows the effect of the war and the exceptional financial openings which have called so many away from the schoolroom. We have fared no better nor worse than other normal schools. Such institutions stand at the center of public school life. It is with no small concern that they note the ebbing supply of teachers in these critical days. The Michigan State Normal College turns to you, its alumni, in the confident hope of your wholehearted and immediate cooperation. The country must have teachers. You know the quality of the training we stand ready to give them. What are you doing about it?

And now—

“Come down to Kew in lilac time,
It isn't far from London.”