

# *The College of Health and Human Services*



An undated photo of an early Home Economics classroom.

“The Board of Regents approved plans on Sept. 18 (1974) to form a new college at the University. It will be called the College of Human Services. Jan. 1, 1975, is proposed as the effective date for the establishment of the new college.” The Eastern Echo reported this action by the Board of Regents on Oct. 7, 1974. Initial programs included Home Economics, Nursing, Medical Technology and Occupational Therapy. Quoted in the same article, Raymond A. LaBounty, assistant vice president for Instruction, said that the College of Human Services “will provide the framework for the expansion of health-related service occupations.”

Since its inception, the College has added programs in Social Work, Health Administration, Dietetics, Interior Design, Hospitality Management and Fashion Merchandising. The programs fall under the purview of four departments – Human, Environmental and Consumer Resources; Social Work; Nursing Education; and Associated Health Professions. These additions warranted the expansion of the college’s name to the College of Health and Human Services in 1982.



This student was part of a Home Economics brochure in April 1976.

The Department of Nursing Education (now the Department of Nursing) was in its second year of operation when it joined the College of Human Services. Since then, the program received accreditation in 1978 and added a degree program for registered nurses. In 1994 the Board of Regents approved a Master of Science in Nursing. Students in that program will, according to Focus EMU, “become leaders in promoting health in organizational and political arenas.”

Occupational Therapy’s roots can be traced to the World War II era, when a

training program for therapists for the rehabilitation of the disabled (mentally, emotionally, physically) was, with the encouragement of the Medical Superintendent of the Ypsilanti State Hospital, Dr. Inch, initiated at the Normal school. Normal’s pioneering affiliation with a recognized health institution was preceded only by the program at Western Michigan University (then Western State Teacher’s College). Occupational Therapy now forms the largest program within the Department of Associated Health Professions.



The Home Economics Boutique was a popular way for students to show their handiwork. This one was in November 1976.

## Health and Human Services alumni

These are a few of the many notable alumni from the College of Health and Human Services:

**Ken Arney**

Honored in 1983 as director of Social Services at Chelsea Community Hospital

**Jean Bazela**

Honored in 1983 as senior district manager at Roche Biomedical Laboratories

**Irma Casanova**

Honored in 1986 as a Catholic Social Services employee

**David L. Dawson**

Honored in 1983 as administrative associate of Surgical Nursing at the University of Michigan hospitals

**Jennette King Dittman**

Honored in 1983 as associate professor of Home Economics at North Dakota State University

**Deborah Johnson**

Honored in 1986 as an instructor at North Country Community College in Saranac Lake, N.Y.

**Leah Kamil**

Honored in 1992 as director of the Occupational Therapy division of the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Department at University of Michigan hospitals

**Margaret M. Kirchman**

Honored in 1983 as associate professor of Occupational Therapy at the University of Illinois at Chicago

**Karen Momenee**

Honored in 1986 as an occupational therapist in the Monroe County Intermediate School District

**Rosemary R. Schuett**

Honored in 1992 as manager/supervisor of member service for M-Care at the University of Michigan

**Kathy Stinehour**

Honored in 1986 as general sales manager at WLUP-FM radio in Chicago

The study of Health Administration, another of the Associated Health Professions programs, provides training in delivering health care to the indigent and populations traditionally known as medically underserved. In recognition of its advanced scholarship, curriculum and service to the community, the Health Administration program in 1982 received membership in the Association of University Programs in Health Administration.

Administered under the Department of Associated Health Professions, Clinical Laboratory Sciences (originally Medical Technology) is the only diagnostic program of study in the College of Health and Human Services. Work by staff and students in this program has advanced changes in medical technology through concentrations in histotechnology, cytology and cytogenetics.

The Department of Social Work has a long history of graduating professionals who became leaders in human services. The Social Work program is the largest undergraduate program of its kind in Michigan. The Master's of Social Work was created in 1995, and accredited in that same year.

Among the College's distinctions has been its pioneering work in gerontology. The multi-disciplinary program in gerontology – moved to the Department of Social Work in 1982 – offers a more holistic view of the life experiences of older adults, and aims to prepare students to be more effective and compassionate practitioners.

Of all the departments within the College of Health and Human Services, the Department of Human, Environmental and Consumer Resources has the longest history. More significant, it had



Taped interview training was part of this Social Work class, November 1982.



An Interior Design class, March 1995.

to fight harder for its existence than its sister departments. The department is the outgrowth of Michigan State Normal College's Department of Domestic Sciences.

That department's existence was particularly hard won. Indeed, Domestic Sciences found foothold at the Normal only because of the earlier acceptance of Manual Training (later known as Industrial Arts). The Domestic Sciences program began in the Training School in fall 1903, taught by Annette F. Chase. Egbert R. Isbell wrote:

*Miss Chase, aware of existing prejudice against manual arts in higher education, took pains to argue the importance of her subject. She made use of the college newspaper to explain that domestic science involved more than cooking and sewing, that it possessed also an intellectual side. She pointed out that those taking her course would be required to read in history, nature study, chemistry, bacteriology, physiology and hygiene.*

In Miss Chase's own words, quoted by Isbell, "One of the primary objects of the work ... is to bring the home and school life into closer relation, and to awaken enthusiasm for the common duties of life, and a respect for self activity and the working man and his tools."

In 1918 Michigan State Normal College gained distinction as one of two



This Medical Technology lab was photographed in October 1982.

Michigan colleges to receive federal funding under the Smith-Hughes Act for the training of domestic science teachers. That distinction was maintained throughout a series of name and curriculum changes that eventually resulted in the Home Economics Department.

Isbell perceived a shift in focus during the mid-1960s. He wrote that in 1966-67, "emphasis was placed on Home Economics as providing for a wide variety of professional opportunities" evidenced by the introduction of a new curriculum – Home Economics for Business – and preceded in 1964-65 by the extensive offering of Home Economics graduate courses. It is just as likely that the perceived shift in emphasis merely reflected the change in American lifestyles brought on by a blurring of the lines between home and business, a change that continues today.

## IN BRIEF

Ronald Scott, Pearl DiMattia and Gudrun Burtz were recognized by the Board of Regents on June 20, 1973 for their efforts in starting a baccalaureate program in Nursing at EMU. The program had recently been approved by the Michigan Board of Nursing.

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The Institute for the Study of Children and Families was created in 1978, with \$30,000 in initial funding for the first six months of 1979. It was proposed by Angelo Angelocci, Donald Lopnow, Patricia Ryan and Bruce L. Warren to include four types of programs: research, demonstration, educational and consultation services.

"The Institute would provide an opportunity for Eastern to develop new programs, upgrade some of its traditional programs, increase its service and responsiveness to the larger community and increase the University's potential to engage in basic research," the proposal stated.

Now called the Institute for the Study of Children, Families and Communities, it has offices in King Hall.

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The Department of Home Economics was renamed the Department of Human, Environmental and Consumer Resources on Aug. 26, 1984.

## The early days of Occupational Therapy

A history of Occupational Therapy at Eastern by Antje Price '44, contains the following observations:

"Fundamental to the history of the OT program at MSNC is the fact that its first four years coincided with World War II, which profoundly affected the school and the students." Therapists in military facilities increased from 12 OTs in 13 Army hospitals in 1941 to 900 at 76 sites in 1945.

The first two Occupational Therapy students registered in the fall of 1940. "The course officially began in the fall of 1941 with Beatrice Wade OTR, an experienced therapist ... as director and teacher, and 13 students."

"Initially Miss Wade retained the curriculum recommended by Dr. (Charles) Elliot, while inviting students to evaluate courses they were taking and asking a few to try ones not on the list; as a result, Bacteriology was added for value of content and quality of instruction, Genetics rejected as irrelevant, and Sewing dropped because what little the students learned was not worth the constant pressure to switch to Home Economics."

During the 1942-43 year, "For the OT students, having to do most of their homework outside of craft classes had some interesting side-effects," Price wrote. "Tatting was found to be a successful antidote to sleep in extremely boring classes such as Principles of Teaching. An OT student in the library might be asked for a quick loan of the sandpaper she was sure to have in her notebook. In the dorm, one student was sternly confronted by the Head Resident who had spotted a liquor flask in her window sill, only to discover that it contained a solvent for her woodworking project."



An Occupational Therapy class, 1975.



Practicing in an Occupational Therapy kitchen, January 1975.

The Department of Human, Environmental and Consumer Resources offers studies in dietetics that lead not only to degrees and certification, but also pave the way for advances in nutritional counseling and outreach to the community at large.

The program in Fashion Merchandising reaches beyond the standard consumer, business and design programs to teach students about the design needs of non-traditional groups. One class accepted the challenge to work with patients and health care providers in designing hospital gowns that meet a variety of standards, including patient comfort, environmental concerns, treatment needs, and cost factors.

This department also implemented a Textiles Institute intended to train students for work in the textiles field and to supplement training for employees of major Michigan companies in advancements in the field of textiles. The foundation for that program was laid in 1979 with the creation of a minor in Clothing and Textiles.

The Department of Human, Environmental and Consumer Resources rounds out its course offerings with programs in Hospitality Management – most recognizable in the student-operated Eagle Club Restaurant – and in Interior Design, whose students have won the state portfolio competition for the past 14 years.

In 1995 the College of Health and Human Services boasted the highest alumni employment rate among EMU's five colleges. 100 percent of Occupational Therapy, Clinical Laboratory Science and



Community health care training in 1988.

Dietetics graduates are employed. 100 percent of Nursing graduates are employed within one month of graduation and 98 percent practice in southeastern Michigan, the college reported.

More than 90 percent of EMU's Occupational Therapy graduates pass the national certification exam. In July 1996, all EMU students passed the exam on their first try.

The American Academy of Medical Administrators honored the Health Administration program with national recognition for academic excellence and student research.

The faculty in the Department of Social Work rank third nationally in scholarly activity among baccalaureate social work programs. The Alzheimer's Care and Training Center, an outgrowth of the College's geriatric education grant, is a national leader in the area of Alzheimer's and dementia research.

The College of Health and Human Services extends its services and scholarship into the international arena with participation in several programs. A

Geriatric Studies Exchange Program involves students and faculty from Mexico and England. To further international study opportunities for its students, the Hospitality Management program finalized an articulation agreement with the Trade Winds Institute of Management in Bombay, India.

Even considering the dramatic curricular changes

since Domestic Science began in 1903, Miss Chase's words about courses "to bring the home and school life into closer relation, and to awaken enthusiasm for the common duties of life, and a respect for self activity and the working man and his tools" seem to remain an apt description of today's College of Health and Human Services.

In the fall of 2000 the College will move into a new building where Goodison Hall once stood. Its design was based on several key program philosophies:

- The application of information technology to strengthen the communication links between faculty and students and prepare students to succeed in a technology-based world;
- Collaborative use of work space;
- A sustainable, energy-efficient, ecologically sensitive design; and
- A model barrier-free learning environment.

## College of Health and Human Services Deans



John Robert Boissoneau



Peter Dual



Elizabeth King

In less than 10 years, the College of Health and Human Services had four different deans – three permanent and one interim. The first, John Robert Boissoneau, held the position from the College's inception in 1975 until he resigned in 1980. Boissoneau oversaw the expansion of College programs and the achievement of full accreditation for all programs within the College of Health and Human Services.

Peter A. Dual replaced Boissoneau in 1980. His two-year tenure saw the continued growth and reorganization of the College. Lyla M. Spelbring stepped into the dean's shoes in 1982 and carried the College through until Elizabeth King, the current dean, accepted the

position in 1983.

King brought stability and broad experience to the College of Health and Human Services. She fostered excellence in teaching and scholarship within the College, and nurtured the growth of its outreach programs.

King's professional activity in such organizations as the American Society of Allied Health Professions provides an example of the standard expected from students and faculty alike. Under her guidance, the College has achieved recognition as a producer of high-quality allied health professionals and hospitality service employees. King's tenure also has been highlighted by excellent planning and faculty development.