



10-1940

The Bulletin, series 36, no. 3, October (1940)

Moorhead State Teachers College

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Recommended Citation

Moorhead State Teachers College, "The Bulletin, series 36, no. 3, October (1940)" (1940). *The Bulletin (Newsletter/Journal)*. 62.

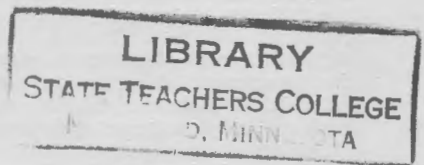
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Moorhead State Teachers College

Moorhead, Minnesota

News Letter



THE BULLETIN

Entered at the Post Office at Moorhead, Minnesota
As Second Class Matter.

October, 1940

Series 36

No. 3



Dear Friend of M. S. T. C.

The pages of our Western MISTIC and the local city papers carry on the story of colorful and spectacular college life from day to day. Meanwhile the regular academic business of education goes on at Moorhead State Teachers college efficiently, but quietly. Once in a while we feel you would like to know something about the little publicized, but very important work of teaching. Here are a few current reports from our department heads.

Education

The last year or so has brought several changes in the education department, both in personnel and course emphasis. The changes in courses have been of a progressive nature, and personnel changes have been in keeping with M. S. T. C. standards of teacher replacements. In keeping with the new educational trend, the department has added audio-visual aids and psychology of elementary school subjects. During the winter term courses will be offered in school law and high school administration. These should benefit the ordinary classroom teacher almost as much as the prospective administrator. These courses will be followed in the spring by courses in elementary school organization and administration, in adolescent psychology, and a course emphasizing the needs of the exceptional child. Next year it is planned to offer philosophy of education as a required subject. Many of the electives are aimed at the needs both of the undergraduate and graduate student.

Other items of interest regarding the department of education are:

Dr. E. C. Bolmeyer has accepted a position as deputy commissioner of education at Jackson, Mississippi. His place was filled by Dr. E. M. Spencer, who has his A. B. from Iowa State college at Ames, and his M. A. and Ph.D. from the state University of Iowa. His major field of study was in elementary education and his minor in educational psychology. His Ph.D. dissertation dealt with "The Retention of Orally Presented Materials." He has had sixteen years of public school experience, coming to M. S. T. C. from the Kansas State Teachers college at Emporia.

When Miss Margaret Beiri resigned because of ill health, Miss Alice Cornellussen was promoted to head the rural school division of the department. Her former position—as rural school supervisor—was taken over by Miss Martha Kleppe, who received her undergraduate work at M. S. T. C. and the University of Minnesota, and her master's degree from Columbia University. She was formerly in charge of rural teacher education at Alexandria, Minnesota.

In order to provide adequate supervision of our rapidly growing rural department, Mr. Herman Michaels was added to the department to assist Miss Kleppe. Mr. Michaels has his B. E. from M. S. T. C. and has begun graduate work at the George Peabody College for Teachers at Nashville, Tennessee.

Special research by the department involves a study of financial support for teachers colleges under the chairmanship of Dr. A. M. Christensen, head of the department. Dr. Lura is compiling and organizing all cases of school laws that have been tried by the Minnesota Supreme court on any phase of education since the beginning of statehood. Miss Cornellussen is collaborating with Dr. C. P. Archer of the University of Minnesota on a study of curricula and techniques for elementary schools.

Dr. Christensen, Dr. Lura, Dr. Spencer, and Miss Cornellussen took active parts at the MEA convention in St. Paul. Dr. Christensen is serving his second term as secretary-treasurer of the Western Division of the MEA.

English, Speech, Journalism

The English department now offers students the choice of a major in the field, a minor in English, a minor in speech, a minor in journalism or a combined minor in speech and journalism. The speech and journalism minors have been strengthened with a view to preparing graduates who can care for these specialized programs and activities in schools where they will teach.

By putting most of the advanced courses on an alternating schedule to be offered in years designated in the catalog, it has been possible to add courses in modern drama, modern poetry, and modern fiction, which give desired background for recent material included in the newer textbooks.

With the coming of Dr. Allen E. Woodall, who has charge of publications, the minor in journalism has been developed to include reporting and history and principles of journalism, the latter course emphasizing a survey of today's magazines, newspapers and news-magazines so that the graduate may better understand their use and interpretation. Dr. Woodall, whose poetry has been published in various magazines, offers each year a course in creative writing.

Speech work under Professor Herold Lillywhite is reaching a larger proportion of the student body with a progressive schedule of speech correction designed to aid all who need it and to give speech teachers a more rounded training. Forensic work emphasized debate, discussion, extempore speaking and interpretation, while many students are attracted to participate in the year's dramatic program. Professor Lillywhite, who came to the college last winter from the University of Idaho, has worked to add to the equipment needed for a modern speech program and hopes to have speech-recording equipment soon. The work in play production has been made more comprehensive by the course in stagecraft offered at the same time by the art department and in close collaboration.

The constants in English—types of world literature and the three quarters of freshman English—constitute the primary concern of the department. Members of the department are at work with committees of the Minnesota Teachers College English association to study materials and methods to make the inclusive freshman work in written and oral expression more effective. One unit of freshman English comprises the use of the library—a unit in which the library department cooperates. Suggestions from other departments are encouraged to the end that carryover may be effected in the student's college career and in life beyond college.

Miss Ethel Tainter and Miss Mabel Lumley teach the types sections, and Miss Tainter will give modern drama this spring. History of the English language, offering excellent background for the teacher of grammar, was given in the fall term by Miss Delsie Holmquist.

Students majoring in English are encouraged to take the library science

courses qualifying them for certification as teacher-librarians, or to minor in other related fields such as foreign languages, history, political and social science.

Professor Byron D. Murray is 1940-41 chairman of the Minnesota Teachers College English association, which will meet again next fall.

Fine Arts

The Art department is optimistic for the future. Last year Professor Nels Johnson was added to the faculty, the course of study was reorganized to give the students an opportunity to take either a major or minor in the field of art, and the graduates from this department were fortunate in obtaining good positions in their field of work.

Professor Johnson came to the department from the State Teachers College at Aberdeen, S. D. He received his B. A. and M. A. degrees from the University of Iowa and has studied at the National Academy of Art in New York and the University of Chicago. He is not only a fine instructor but also an artist of merit. Last year he held an exhibit of his paintings, sculpture, and wood carvings at the college and also at the Fine Arts club in Fargo. On October 30 this year his portrait of President Weld was unveiled during the chapel period in the auditorium of Weld hall.

Two new courses have been added to the curriculum; the one a course in commercial art, and the other a two-hour course in stagecraft, which is given in connection with play production classes. The course in art history has been changed from a one-term course to two terms and is required only of art majors.

During the past two years the department has sponsored a series of traveling art exhibits, including exhibits in paintings, original etchings, prints and the handicrafts. About once a month the department held open house in order to give every one a special invitation to view these exhibits, and at that time the College Art Club served tea. With the funds derived from these teas the club purchased two large palms for the urns in the second floor hall and also a lovely old Chinese painting, "A Scholar," to be left in the art department.

During the first part of last May the club again sponsored the annual exhibit of students' work from the Industrial and Fine Arts departments. The exhibit was well attended by students, faculty and friends. Of particular interest to all was the puppet show given several times during the exhibit and an interesting display of metalcraft, including jewelry, pewter and copper work from the Industrial Arts department.

Industrial Arts

Last summer the Industrial Arts department installed its most valuable piece of equipment, a reconditioned Miehle Pony printing press. This is the finest press in its class. Through cooperation with the journalism department, a large group of college students receive valuable training in the various phases of newspaper and publication work. The Western MISTIC, the student newspaper is a six column, 22 x 30 inch double sheet, of which about two thousand copies are printed in the college print shop each week by students majoring in the department.

A course in general metal is offered for student majors, and courses in art metal and jewelry work have been offered during the last two summer sessions. The department has two machine lathes and an oxy-acetylene welding unit. Camp craft workers, hobbyists, and art people have shown great interest in work with the finer metals.

Most of the young men who have completed work in the department have been placed in good positions. Each year the demand for Industrial Arts men has been increasing, because of the growing importance of this phase of work.

Mathematics

The preparedness drive in the United States has been reflected in a resurgence of interest in mathematics courses. Many students are now enrolling for subjects that will lead to further advancement, especially in the field of aeronautics, field mechanization, and technical unit work. The Moorhead college courses show increase in popularity.

Modern Languages

Both French and German are now offered in the college. Elementary French, intermediate German, and survey of French literature are offered in 1940-41. Next year there will be elementary German, intermediate French and advanced German reading. This will provide a three years' course in each language.

Music

MSTC students who are now teaching music will be interested in changes which have been made in requirements for the music major and minor.

It has been felt for some time that the course needed strengthening in the field of applied music, and when a recent general revision of college courses took place, the music department staff suggested a new combination of courses designed to give the music majors a much more adequate training in vocal and instrumental music.

The new course is listed in our catalog as music 150—general applied music, and embraces three terms of study in brass, reed, and stringed instruments, voice and piano.

In keeping with the plan for greater intensity in training, we have reduced music elements, once a required course, to the status of pre-requisite for all music majors or minors. It may still be taken for credit but is not counted in the fifty-three quarter hours necessary to complete the music major course.

The music history and music appreciation courses have been combined into one class for music majors, with the additional requirements of three terms of private instruction on a chosen instrument and a two quarter hour course in small ensemble, quartets, trios, etc.

The music groups, band, choir, male chorus, and Euterpe singers show excellent promise this year, perhaps even greater than formerly, due to the many fine musicians coming from several outstanding high schools in our part of the state.

Those who have not seen the band in the new uniforms should be on hand for commencement next spring at which time they will assume a very important role in the schedule of events.

The Library

The rebuilding of the college library and the development of its service have kept pace with the changing curriculum and conformed to the modern conception of the college library as a major instructional facility.

In the ten year period since the fire all losses in basic reference books have been replaced and many additions made to that department. The book collection has been built to a total now of 21,840 volumes, selected with definite reference to the curriculum needs of all departments. One hundred and ninety-three periodicals are received regularly. Some complete sets of bound magazines have been replaced and all sets of the principal periodicals in all departments of study are complete for the ten year period since reorganization began. Pamphlet and bulletin files have been developed in all fields of interest.

Of interest among the special collections in the library is the file of materials relating to the college history. The assembling of this material began as one of the preparations for the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the college. Contributions of letters, articles, photographs and newspapers of the early days were made by former students, faculty and friends of the college. A complete file of college catalogs and bulletins, praeceptors and other publications furnish a continuous history of college progress. This collection continues to grow.

Progress has been made in the teaching function of the library. All freshman students are now given instruction in the use of the library and its facilities. This work constitutes a unit in a freshman English course and instruction is given by members of the library staff.

A further development in the field of library instruction was the teacher-librarian course offered in the summer session, 1940. This course covered the nine quarter hour requirement of the Minnesota State Department of Education for endorsement of teacher-librarians and was introduced to meet a need in the state for more teachers qualified to do library work.

A new member of the library staff, since September 1939, is Miss May Tangen who graduated from M. S. T. C. in 1934, taught in Minnesota schools

and completed the course for librarians in the University of Minnesota in 1939.

Physical Education

Two major objectives have occupied the attention of the Physical Education department in recent years. In line with the state-wide policy of improving the work in health and physical education teaching in the high schools, our major and minor have been markedly strengthened and we are offering the minimum nine quarter hours of specified training required by law for part time teachers in the field. Summer sessions have been especially busy, since not only our own people but graduates of neighboring colleges as well have returned to prepare to meet the new standards. We have been fortunate to have almost hundred percent placement for those so trained.

We feel that the second objective is of equal importance. It is a better preparation for the teacher of the graded and ungraded school who must teach health and physical education in her own room. The credit for this work has been doubled in the past two years and a professionalized course in health, safety and physical education is now required of all two year graduates.

Naturally there has been a great deal of speculation relative to the defense program and its effect on men in attendance at the college. Whatever worry has been connected with it has probably been less for the men themselves than for the general public. At least ninety percent of the major students in the department are members of the National Guard. A majority of the football team will go when the unit is called out. It now appears that Battery F to which these men belong will be called to duty shortly after January 1 and leave Moorhead about January 20. School authorities are cooperating fully with the students and the men are continuing their work as long as possible, fully assured that their best interests will be considered when they must leave.

Coach Alex J. Nemzek is to have a year's leave of absence. The exact disposition of his duties at the college is still to be determined. Coach Ed Hammer will doubtless take over as

athletic coach. The basketball squad is not much hit by the calling of Battery F. What the draft will do remains to be seen.

Donald Gates of our alumni has been promoted to Captain in command of Battery F. Mr. Nemzek's association with the group will be almost as close as in the past since he will be commanding a battalion composed of four batteries, including Battery F.

On October 9 Mr. Nemzek completed examinations for the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. His present plans are to move his family to Riverside, California during the Christmas holidays in order that they may be with him during his year of active service. Our congratulations and best wishes go with the Nemzeks and we hope for their return to the campus in a year.

The women's department installed a chapter of Delta Psi Kappa, national physical education fraternity, in 1938. Dorothy Jones, president of the Moorhead Alpha Beta chapter, represented them at their national convention in Indianapolis in July 1940.

Science

Expansion of personnel and research facilities have permitted the science department to report a really important academic progress. **COURSES**—Outstanding provisions of the recent curriculum revision for science includes:

1. More comprehensive training for teachers. A student majoring in either division (physical or biological) now completes a minor in the other division.

2. Opportunity to specialize in one of several fields. The department now gives two years work in physics, in chemistry, and in botany, and three years work in zoology. The latter compares to a Liberal Arts undergraduate major.

3. Preparatory training for medicine, dentistry, various scientific agencies, and engineering.

4. Cooperation with the Physical Education department in providing laboratory courses in human anatomy and physiology for their majors.

PERSONNEL—The curriculum expansion was possible after Dr. J. J. Westfall came in the fall of 1939. His Ph.D. in botany is from the University of Chicago. He has had several

years experience teaching general science and biology in high schools, college, and at the U. of Chicago. He takes over the general science, part of the general biology, and all botany courses. The value of his work and personality is reflected in his popularity with students and faculty.

Professor Karl Parsons is now free to devote all his time to physics and chemistry. He gives advanced courses in each field in alternate years, in addition to the introductory courses every year.

Dr. G. C. Dildine gives part of the general biology, and the courses in animal science.

CONTRIBUTIONS—We are in process of revising the required course in general biology. Purely structural descriptions are being reduced; activities, interrelations, development and heredity, and names and habits of local plants and animals are being stressed. Dr. Westfall has completely reorganized the general science work for two-year students. Units on chemistry, physics, plants, birds and insects are designed to provide a maximum of practical knowledge for rural teachers of this area. He has worked out a mimeographed summary, replete with illustrations, for each unit.

Dr. Westfall's doctoral thesis has recently been published in the *Botanical Gazette* (1940). He describes unusual behavior of chromosomes of different varieties of tiger lilies when they are mixed in the cells of hybrids.

Professor Parsons cooperated during the past summer with physiologists at the University of Michigan in developing the technique for producing and tracing radio-active CO₂ through the bodies of rats and mice. This should prove a valuable tool for study of the basic process of respiration in living bodies.

EQUIPMENT—With WPA help, two large display and storage cabinets are under construction, one in the chemistry laboratory, the other in physics. They fit into the deep door arches no longer used.

The northwest room in the basement of the west wing of Weld Hall has been converted into a laboratory for advanced zoology. WPA help is providing permanent work desks here. We hope sometime to similarly remodel the general biology laboratory, and to add needed work tables in the chemistry laboratory.

Geography

This spring the geography department offers a new course in conservation of natural resources. Professor J. R. Schwendeman has taken two new 1940 Kodachrome films of New England and Mexico in connection with 1941 summer field trip to Mexico, August 8-30, and plans a research project covering the Water Supply and Geographical Survey of the Red River Valley of the North.

Social Science

When in 1921 by act of the legislature the Minnesota normal schools became teachers colleges the act was more of a prophecy than a statement of fact. At that time we were offering for college credit a total of twenty quarter hours in the combined fields of economic, history, political science, and sociology. In two of those fields the offering on the high school level amounted to seventy-five per cent more than that. Within three years we had dropped all of the work of high school grade and had begun to enlarge the offering on the college level.

Today we offer a major of forty hours in history with a possibility of one who wishes adding twenty hours to that. In political science we have a major of thirty-two hours with an additional four hours of credit available to any one who wishes it. In the fields of economics and sociology we had begun to expand a few years ago but the increase in the number of students on the junior college level, and the consequent necessity of offering more sections of the constants has compelled us to retract somewhat. At present we are able to offer but two courses in each of these fields.

The department is very much in need of an additional instructor. When we secure one we shall be able to increase very much the efficiency of the department. We are not in need of additional courses in either history or political science to any appreciable extent, but we do need to decrease the size of sections for discussion and testing purposes. We also need to offer some of the advanced courses more frequently. In both economics and sociology it is desirable that we offer a strong minor with the possibility that any one who might wish

to do graduate work in either of these fields may take enough additional work to enable him to enter upon graduate work in either of these fields. In the meantime we are making the best of a difficult situation.

During the absence of Dr. Joseph Kise on American Legion work, his place has been taken by Dr. Frank Esterquest of the University of Chicago. Dr. Esterquest has been teaching classes in political science and economics, and will return to Chicago when Dr. Kise returns in the winter quarter.

In his brief stay Dr. Esterquest has endeared himself to faculty and students and has taken an active part in founding the coffee forum, an informal weekly student discussion of current problems, generally sponsored by the social science, speech and journalism departments.

Campus School

In connection with its work of training and placing teachers, the Campus School staff has undertaken continuous critical and constructive studies of the curriculum. For two years the staff experimented with and evaluated a regional social studies curriculum for the elementary grades and the high school under the direction of Dr. A. C. Krey's department at the University of Minnesota and the State Department of Education.

During the past year two extensive curriculum studies have been made by staff committees. A thorough-going study of the teaching of handwriting was made and published for distribution among students in training and alumni by Miss Olga Korsbrek, Miss Clara Undseth, and Miss Blanche Loudon. One phase of the handwriting study was a contrast of the teaching of handwriting in the traditional school and in the modern school. A similar study of the whole field of spelling was made by Miss Agnes Carlson and Miss Mary Williamson.

These monographs may be purchased in mimeographed form for twenty-five cents a copy. The staff anticipates a study in arithmetic and the language arts in 1941.

The beautiful physical facilities of the kindergarten have so greatly popularized this type of pre-school education that two sessions of kinder-

garten are now required to serve the children of the city of Moorhead.

The high school mathematics courses are experimenting with problems growing out of community situations which the pupils meet as members of the home and of the region. Social studies courses are being built around activities and problems which have a counterpart in the life of the community. During 1940-41 the social studies program will be built around the theme **Defense Through Conservation**; this theme is being utilized in all of the departments — English, mathematics, science, and social studies.

Miss Blanche Loudon carried on an intensive study in the techniques of teaching non-reading children for a period of a year and a half. A detailed account of this study is made by Dr. Grace Arthur, Wilder Charities, St. Paul, who collaborated with Miss Loudon in the pursuit of this study, in the **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL JOURNAL**, April 1940, titled **An Application of the Fernald Method to An Extreme Case of Reading Disability**.

Miss Lyl Solem, supervisor of junior high school English, contributed an article to the May issue of **THE ENGLISH JOURNAL**, 1939, entitled **Methods of Sharing Books in the Classroom**. The article is a resume of an address given before the Librarians of the northwest at the University of Minnesota Conference of English Teachers and Librarians. The second article appeared in the **CLEARING HOUSE**, January 1940, entitled **The Tailor Comes To School**.

Miss Ella Hawkinson, principal of the College High School, is completing her doctor's dissertation upon **Difficulties of Social Studies Teachers in High Schools**. The study is based on replies from 38 states and the District of Columbia.

Miss Ragna Holen is on leave completing the work for her Master's degree in Home Economics at the University of Minnesota. Her position is being filled by Mrs. Nels Johnson, a graduate of the University of Iowa.

Mrs. Ann Meyers Urtes, '36, substituted for Miss Olga Korsbrek, who was absent because of illness in the fall term.

Miss Lucia Askegaard, former secretary of the Campus School, completed her Masters degree in Business

Education at Columbia University in the summer of 1940, and is temporarily employed in the history department of Columbia University as secretary to Dr. Carelton Hayes.

Placement

The placement at the State Teachers College for 1939-40 was extraordinarily successful. Of the 133 two-year graduates all secured placement. There is an increasing demand for the Moorhead State Teachers College students in the rural schools of the northwest.

Of the seventeen students who received degrees in elementary education, all were placed; four students only in the secondary group were unplaced.

The President's Office

The management of Moorhead Teachers college is forward-looking. The primary function of the college is to train teachers for the public schools of Minnesota. In the report to the State Interim Committee the records of the college indicate that during the past five years over 94 per cent of the 861 graduates of Teachers college have accepted positions in teaching.

This statement tells only half of the story. During the past ten years the training period of teachers has doubled. The one-year course has been abandoned. Many graduates have taken the four-year degree course with the expectation of teaching not only in high schools but in the rural and elementary fields as well.

During the same ten years the training of the faculty has been strengthened. The faculty members meet the requirement of successful experience as teachers; many have secured the Doctor of Philosophy degree.

The college is maintained to serve the students and alumni. The purpose of the college is met by the public service of graduates. To the loyal group of graduates who are representative of the service of Teachers college greetings are extended.

R. B. MacLean, *President*.