

1927

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### Recommended Citation

Nisewanger, Melba (1927) "Home Economics Research at Iowa State," *The Iowa Homemaker*: Vol. 7 : No. 5 , Article 6.  
Available at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol7/iss5/6>

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# Home Economics Research at Iowa State

By MELBA NISEWANGER

## Vocational Education Graduate Work

Enrollment in graduate work in the Home Economics Vocational Education Department has shown a decided increase during the recent summer sessions over that of any previous summers. During the first session 41 students were enrolled, while in 1926 the enrollment for that session was 25. The second session this year totalled an enrollment of 21, and in 1926 there were only 8 students during the second session.

A large number of states were represented in the graduate enrollment of this department, among them Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky and Indiana. The majority of the students will continue their teaching this year and return for work on their Master's degree next summer.

Six of the students will carry on their work *in absentia* during this year, in an experimental way, in the schools where they are teaching. Miss Ronella Spickard is now state supervisor of Home Making Education in Kentucky; Miss Lola Bell is assistant supervisor in Alabama, and Mrs. Grace Hudson is Dean of Home Economics at Union University in Tennessee. Miss Mildred Johnson is in the public schools of Muncie, Ind., and has charge of the training of some of the student teachers for the State Normal School. Miss Zula Threlkeld and Mrs. Perry Tillmon are in public school work. These students have chosen problems which can be applied to the type of work they are doing.

Although the students have not decided upon the titles of their theses, they do have definite ideas and plans for intensive and progressive experimental work. One student will make a survey of the home economics activities of junior high schools, outside of the classrooms, with the idea of using the information in revising and correcting the work given in the classes.

Another is planning to work out a related science course, on a problem basis, to supplement the home economics work for the ninth grade class in a rural high school.

Determining the factors that influence high school girls to take or not to take, home economics courses, is the basis for the thesis of one of the graduate students. By doing the work for the thesis during this year, these students will be able to complete the work for their Master's degrees in the summer of 1928.

The graduate students who are doing work in the Vocational Education Department this fall are: Faye Brady, Pauline Gordon, Lucille Mac Gruder, Ruth Markey, Minnie Menke, Hazel McKibben, Susan Moser, Zoe O'Leary, Mrs. Marie Ringle and Elsie Wilson.

Mrs. Ringle, Miss McKibben, Miss O'Leary and Miss Wilson are supervising student teaching in addition to their studies.

## Foods and Nutrition

Of the sixteen graduate students in the Foods and Nutrition Department, it is interesting and unusual that three are working toward a Doctor's degree. Gertrude Sunderlin of Ames will come up for preliminary examination for the Doctor's degree in December. Margaret House, who is the Purnell research assistant in the department, and Mrs. Louise Jennings Peet, with degrees from Boston University and from the University of New Hampshire, have begun work toward the degree.

Miriam Lowenberg is serving this fall as teaching fellow in the department, in addition to her graduate study, and Florence Wilcox and Wilhelmina Otto are both working *in absentia*. Berneice Nell, who received her Master's degree at the end of the first summer session, is continuing work in the department until January, when she will leave for New York City to accept an appointment for student dietitian training at the Presbyterian Hospital.

Among the enrollment of 16, eight students are Iowans, two are from Colorado, one each from Kansas, Wisconsin, Nebraska and Massachusetts, and one from Pretoria, South Africa.

The girls who are beginning work for the Master's degree are at present taking a course in research methods and technique. This work includes a thorough acquaintance with literature in the library and will furnish background for the choice of a problem and for the research work later in the year.

## Household Equipment

Among the graduate students in the Household Equipment Department this fall is Charlotte Matchoss of Charlottenburg, Germany. Miss Matchoss has attended the Agriculture and Technology College of Munich, and received her B. S. degree from the University of Berlin. She now holds a fellowship in Household Equipment.

Mrs. Vivian Brashear, who has been working on a research problem in the Household Equipment Department during the past year, is teaching half time and continuing her studies. Grace Pennock of New Hampshire, a teaching-fellow, is working on a refrigeration problem. Lucille Harris, an Iowa State College graduate in the June, 1927, class, also holds a fellowship in the Household Equipment Department. Ollie E. Shattuck, a graduate student from Gugmon, Oklahoma, is working on a stove problem.

## Applied Art

Seven students are doing graduate work in applied art this fall, and six of the group are majoring in art. One of the students, Margaret Furry of Ames, is working for a Ph. D. degree with textile chemistry as her major, and is taking her minor in art. Miss Furry graduated from Iowa State College in '21, and received her Master's degree here in '27.

Three of these students—Irma Garner, Charlotte Larson and Mary Hazel Stewart—are taking their minor in textiles and clothing; the former two are doing advanced interior house design. Miss Garner is also doing work in advanced costume design. Dorothy Thompson, who is taking her minor in vocational education, and also Elizabeth Hawley and Helen Hartsook are carrying supporting subjects this quarter.

Although all the students are Iowa girls, three of them have Bachelor's degrees from colleges or universities in other states. Miss Hawley received her A. B. degree from Oberlin College; Miss Hartsook received hers from Northwestern University, and Mary Hazel Stewart from the California School of Arts and Crafts. Miss Garner is an Iowa State College graduate, Miss Larson received the degree of B. S. at Simpson College, and Dorothy Thompson received an A. B. degree from Grinnell College.

## Institutional Administration

Three students from Nebraska, one from North Dakota and one from Iowa are taking graduate work in the Department of Institutional Administration.

Members of the group hold Bachelor's degrees from Penn College, Minnesota University, University of Nebraska, Kansas Agricultural College, and Morningside College, and have been teaching home economics since their graduation.

These students have chosen for their thesis problems, work in large quantity cookery, institutional equipment and the teaching of courses in institutional economics.

## Textiles

There are six graduate students this quarter in the Department of Textiles and Clothing. Alice Rosenberger of Iowa City, who is completing the work on her thesis, "College Clothing Work on a Problem Basis," will receive her Master's degree at the close of the fall quarter.

It is interesting to note that we are getting students from a number of states. West Virginia, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Nebraska and Iowa are represented in this department.