Art, Music, and Literature Mingle with the Sciences

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Mingle with the Sciences

Nancy Mason describes the array of opportunities available for appeasing artistic desires

A SWIFT survey of cultural activities for the coming year indicates the wide variety of aesthetic opportunities at Iowa State.

The Star Lecture Series brings to the campus noted persons throughout the year. Leland Stowe, famed roving reporter and foreign correspondent for the Chicago Daily News, who gave the inside story of the Nazi Blitzkrieg in Finland and Norway to the world, is one of the lecturers in this year's series.

Other speakers who thus far have been engaged for the 1940-41 series with dates of their appearances are: October 14 to 18—Louis Untermeyer, poet, critic and editor, speaking for the annual Literature and Life Lecture Series; October 23—Raymond Clapper, Washington correspondent for Scripps-Howard newspapers, political commentator, columnist and author of "Racketeering in Washington;" October 31—McClelland Barclay, illustrator, industrial designer, portrait painter and creator of the "Fisher Body Girl;" November 14—Leland Stowe—January 30—Dr. Louis Berg, psychiatrist, physician, teacher and author; February 12—Mlle. Eve Curie, daughter and biographer of Mme. Marie Curie, co-discoverer of radium.

While chatting with Dr. Guy S. Greene, head of the Department of English, one soon learns of the many English elective courses in poetry, fiction, drama, essay and creative writing. Or if you stopped in at the Old Office Building to question Dr. Pearl Hovre, associate professor of English, a lady of quiet dignity and warm, ready sympathy for literary aspirants, you will hear of the Verse Writing Group which meets one evening a week. A group never much larger than 12 students elects its members on the merit of one or several original poems. Dr. Hovre is also editorial advisor for Sketch, the magazine of creative writing, whose authors are Iowa State students.

Musical interests center in the picturesque, red-brick house on the hill overlooking Lake LaVerne. In Music Hall students of violin, piano, voice, members of Iowa State glee clubs, orchestra and band work together. At a desk made from a grand piano, Prof. Tolbert MacRae, head of the Music Department, schedules widely-known musicians for concerts on the Iowa State Music Series.

Another haunt for music lovers is the Carnegie Music Room in Memorial Union, where students may listen to favorite semi-classical or classical compositions. The room is equipped with a record player and amplifier, 1,000 recordings, 100 books on music and a card filing system where selections are listed by composer, instrument and title. The music room is open every day and offers a special symphony hour once a week.

Concerts of organ music and recordings are presented at 12:30 noon, Tuesday through Friday, in Great Hall. Organ music is played by Howard Chase, of the Music Department, and Mrs. David McClure, of the Union staff.

In a recent survey among Iowa listeners, the WOI Music Shop ranked first in preference among all classical music programs on the air.

An even older custom, however, is the Coffee Forum on current affairs which is also held in the same manner once each week. Students and faculty exchange ideas and arguments on many contemporary topics.

Paintings, prize winning photographs or pen drawings are frequently displayed on the walls of Great Hall and plans are underway for an exhibit gallery of portraits in the second floor corridor.

Over 430 paintings hang in residence hall, class rooms, offices and buildings on the campus. From 15 to 16 paintings are added each year, under the direction of a committee of four faculty members.

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graduate work at Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana. Bessie Spratt, who has taught home economics in the high school at DeWitt, Iowa, for the past two years, has gone to the high school in Grand Rapids, Michigan, to teach child development.

Evelyn Anderson, ’30, is now dietitian at Doctor’s Hospital, Inc., Washington, D. C. She returned last November from Australia where she was dietitian for two years in the Newcastle Hospital, Newcastle, New South Wales.

Mrs. Harriet Herrig Bandy, ’32, is employed at Occidental College, Los Angeles.

Marita Monroe, ’24, is director of residence halls recently built on the campus of the University of Missouri, Columbia. Mrs. Frances Pope Philbeck, ’24, has a position in the Nursery Department of the Bowers Kindergarten and Nursery School, Fort Worth, Texas.

Beryle Schiele, ’33, who has been teaching clothing construction at Stephens College, Columbia, Mo., now teaches draping at Garland College, Boston. Miss Schiele spent the summer studying at the Fashion Academy in New York City.

Margaret E. Taylor, ’27, is administrative dietitian at Methodist Hospital, Indianapolis, Ind. Mrs. Ethel Reed Watters, M. S. ’31, is resident teacher in teacher training in home economics at the Eastern Carolina Teachers’ College, Greenville, N. C.

Martha Graves, M. S. ’40, is an instructor in the Corcoran Union High School, Corcoran, Calif. Irene Shaben Hill, ’27, has just returned from a year in Puerto Rico where her husband headed the Agricultural Economics Department on leave of absence from the Michigan State College. Mrs. Hill was an instructor in the Art Department at Michigan State before her marriage.

Cultural Opportunities

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Some paintings are original works of Iowa artists, but the majority are copies of old masterpieces. One of the greatest contributors to the collection has been President Emeritus R. M. Hughes.

Approximately 270,000 selected volumes fill the shelves of the institution’s library, whose walls display Grant Wood murals.

“Setting okay, properties in place, actors ready? All right, Players, let’s go. Lights, curtain, action,” so goes the shop talk familiar to Iowa State Players, the campus dramatic organization. The Theatre Workshop, a round, gray building northeast of the Dairy Industry Building, houses students who follow dramatic interests in stage setting, make-up, costuming, acting and playwriting.

A well-known, three-act play is given as a major production once each quarter as well as several radio and one-act skits. Major productions have a three-night run, beginning on Thursday night.

From the Iowa State Debaters, persons are chosen by try-outs for intercollegiate debates. Although there are several such debates each quarter, three of these are considered major debates of the year. Last year Iowa State teams matched wits with debaters from two Great Britain universities.

In the heart of the campus itself the carillon rings out in a concert played three times daily by Ira Schroeder, of the Music Department. The 36-bell carillon in the campanile is played more hours per year than any other carillon in the world.