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Sayeeda Meets ISC

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Sayeeda Raza wasn't one to satisfy the city slicker's hint that she was either a stranger in "them thar parts" or a country cousin who came to town to see the sights. Sayeeda, Iowa State College graduate student from Pakistan, was prepared for the sights of New York. "I had heard so much of New York. I knew what it would be like—all the skyscrapers and other large buildings," she said.

She really came to the United States to study foods and nutrition. "When my brother read about the Ford Foundation scholarships, he wrote to them on my behalf," said Sayeeda, who is grateful to her brother for this opportunity.

Her deep brown eyes shone as she told about her life back in Pakistan. And you couldn't help but notice the rest of her features. Her high cheek bones give a classic grace to the delicate, oval face. She wears no lipstick, but this is an asset. A high forehead gives way to the deepest of ebony hair. Her hair has a center part and is combed sleekly away from her face.

Ford Leads the Way

She told that the Ford Foundation is sponsoring a new college in Pakistan and needs lecturers for the college. They offered scholarships to students who were interested. Sayeeda sent in her application with 799 others and was delighted to find that she was one of eight chosen to study in the United States for 1 year.

Sayeeda was teaching inorganic chemistry and dietetics in a vocational college when she was notified she had been chosen. She taught these courses for 2 years, and previous to that, she had taught dietetics and mother craft for one year in a vocational school in Pakistan.

"Mother craft," explained Sayeeda, "is similar to Iowa State's child development." Sayeeda, who was graduated from Queen Mary's College in southern India in 1950, pointed out that home economics, in India, is called home science.

"Are you willing to leave your position here in Pakistan?" was the first problem facing Sayeeda when she applied for the scholarship. It was a big decision for her to make. She had never been separated from her parents before. But her uncertainty soon gave way to the anticipation of wonderful experiences awaiting her, and she arrived in New York on September 6, 1953. Sayeeda readily admits that she is homesick occasionally, but she smiles when she tells of the letters she receives from home twice a week. She writes home that often, too.

The brother who helped to make Sayeeda's scholarship possible is the manager of a firm in Pakistan where he sells amplifiers, loud-speakers and radios. She also has two other brothers in India, one in college and one in high school.

When asked what impressed her most about Iowa State, Sayeeda vigorously answered, "It's so big." There were only 8 students enrolled in home science when she went to college in India.

In addition to English, Sayeeda speaks Urdu, which is the state language of Pakistan at the present time. "Urdu," explained Sayeeda, "is a combination of the Arabic, Persian and Hindi languages."

One of the adjustments that Sayeeda has made at Iowa State is the method of conducting courses. In India, students must have an 80 per cent attendance record for their classes, or they are not allowed to take their final examination. "In our colleges, we have no quizzes," she added, "and we have only essay questions in our examinations." Sayeeda said that she finds two great difficulties in the examinations she takes here—lack of time to write her answers and selection of the correct word in objective portions of the tests.

Sayeeda's "home for a year" is with Dr. Margaret Liston, Head of the Department of Home Management. She explained that her day begins with breakfast at Dr. Liston's. Then she arrives on campus at 8 a.m. and doesn't leave again until 7 p.m. Lunch and dinner are eaten in the Commons, Memorial Union.

Leisure time, to Sayeeda, is a luxury. She is taking 12 credit hours and three additional chemistry courses for which she receives no credit.

After she related this, she hesitated, smiled uncertainly and finally admitted that she does some needlework. She brought out a gold velveteen purse on

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Homemaker Today

The staff found office conditions definitely uninspiring. They were using a dissecting table from the zoology department which was placed in a corner of the Agriculturist office in Agricultural Annex. In 1940, when the ISC Press Building was completed, the Homemaker was given an office of its own.

The purpose of the young Homemaker was given by the editors in the first issue. To the home economics women of the college, they pledged “the very best the college has to offer from the home economics departments. We want you to feel that every department is at your service. We shall try to anticipate your needs and plan to fill the columns with just the news about the home you are looking for.”

Pakistan Grad

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which she had embroidered a most delicate beaded design. Then she showed a blouse of the same velveteen material that she is sewing for herself.

Besides sewing, she likes music. “The music in Pakistan is similar to what you have in the United States,” says Sayeeda, “but I hear more classical music here than I did in Pakistan.”

“Our sports are much like yours,” she added. “We don’t have football, but we do have badminton, volleyball, basketball, tennis and ring tennis.”

“And we even set aside a day like your homecoming, but in India it is called ‘college day.” ’ She broke into a sparkling smile as she added, “We don’t have a football game to highlight the day though. Instead, we have first a convocation, then a tea and a dinner to entertain our alumnae.”

Sayeeda confesses that her home seems far away at the present, but she is eagerly looking forward to the position of lecturer awaiting her at the new college in Pakistan. In the meantime, you will see her busily working in the food laboratories in Home Economics Hall.

Styles in Homemaker covers have changed quite a bit since 1921 when the first issue came out.

Thirty-three years older, the magazine now has a more encompassing policy. Information on professional home economics, research and Iowa State alums has been added to the purpose of preparing students for homemaking. The magazine is now edited so that professional home economists as well as students can benefit by reading the articles.

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