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# Through 71 Years - A Panorama of Progress

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# Through 71 Years—

## A Panorama Of Progress

backed by the Women's Federated Clubs, soon made apparent the need of teacher training in the home economics field. With these changes the first aim of the college, "to make household labor attractive to girls," was not lost. Rather, to it was added the new

aim the preparation of women for professional service in home economics.

Rooms in North Hall were now in use by the department. Later there was another move to Margaret Hall, where sewing rooms, *(Continued on page 8)*

*A foods and nutrition graduate student working in one of the experimental cookery laboratories is shown testing the tensile strength of an angel food cake which she has prepared using rehydrated egg whites*





*Sloss House, which was the last to complete the list of five home management houses on the campus, was added to the department in 1940. Every home economics senior gains practical home experience by living and working in one of these houses for six weeks*

kitchen laboratory and dining rooms, as well as an instructor's office and bedroom were available.

By 1911 the department had grown to such proportions that it required a building of its own. The new building, which was the west wing of the present Home Economics Building, was a fireproof steel structure finished in red pressed brick. On the first floor were offices, classrooms and clothing laboratories. The second floor was used for foods and art laboratories, two dining rooms and a reception room.

Catherine MacKay became head of the Home Economics Department in 1911. The department became a division in 1913, with Miss MacKay as acting dean. At that time there was an enrollment of 321, and a staff of seven instructors. The following year her official title was changed to dean, which position she held until her death in 1921.

During Dean MacKay's administration the first of the "practice houses," as they were then called, was started. The house was located in downtown Ames. Each student lived there for a nine-day period, doing the shopping and going back and forth to the campus.

The early women on the staff during this period of growth and development had been trained largely in cooking schools, though some had the background of a liberal arts education.

Under Dean MacKay's leadership the enrollment more than doubled, reaching 679 students. The faculty grew to 38 members.

Anna E. Richardson followed Miss MacKay as second Dean of Home Economics. Her administration proved

to be one of growth of the division, not only in enrollment but in building facilities.

Plans were made for the present building which houses the division. It was to be of white stone to fit in with other buildings on the campus. The red bricks which had formed the face of the original building, included in the present plans as the west wing, had to be replaced by a veneer of white granite. Classes were carried on while construction took place.

The second and third home management houses were opened and the first babies brought to them.

The nursery school, begun in 1924, was housed for the first year in a temporary frame building. The second year it was moved into its present building, a remodeled brick barn. Later a frame dwelling was added to provide for the younger group of children.

Genevieve Fisher, who had been a member of the home economics education faculty from 1914 to 1919, was returned to the division as dean, following an interval of a year after Miss Richardson's period of service. Under her administration a steady growth of the division resulted.

By 1930 the work of the division was organized into the present eight technical departments: Applied Art, Child Development, Foods and Nutrition, Institution Management, Textiles and Clothing, Home Management, Home Economics Education and Household Equipment.

From the turn of the century to World War I, all graduates of the Home Economics Division had prepared for teaching and had used the Ames Public

Schools for their "practice teaching." In 1919 the first rural training center was started. The number of these centers has grown until at the present time there are in addition to the Ames Public Schools, student teaching centers in four other Iowa towns.

Four home management houses were the property of the division by 1930.

The Physical Education Department for Women was transferred from the Division of Science to that of Home Economics in 1913. It was a never-to-be-forgotten week when, at the opening of the winter quarter, 1941, it moved into its beautiful, modern-equipped building. This department not only serves all young women of the college through its scheduled classes but directs a most successful intramural program of sports. It also offers a minor for those who wish to qualify for the teaching of physical education along with a major in home economics or science.

By 1930 the total enrollment of graduates and undergraduates had reached 1,325 students. Following this peak the enrollment dropped for a few years during the depression but again reached a second peak in 1941, when 1,879 were enrolled for the academic year. A total of 5,007 baccalaureate degrees have been awarded in Home Economics.

Teaching and research done in the division have resulted in recipe files, manuals, textbooks, miscellaneous books and approximately 250 papers reporting researches completed. The textbooks are used not only at Iowa State, but also throughout the nation and in Canada. Faculty members have held important of-

fices in home economics professional organizations and have served on many state and national committees. A number are actively engaged in work necessitated by the present war situation.

Eighty-one staff members are engaged in teaching and research. Twenty-two graduate assistants and fellows are working on research problems for advanced degrees. Eighteen of the faculty hold full professorships. Fourteen hold doctor's degrees.

All departments of the division now offer work toward the master of science degree. One, Foods and Nutrition, carries students to the doctor's level.

Development of strong coordination between resident teaching, research and extension work has been another phase of Dean Fisher's administration. Each year she directs the planning of the home economics portion of the Farm and Home Week program, bringing to the campus lay and professional leaders in the state and distinguished men and women from all over the country. The 1943 program was given entirely over the radio as a result of wartime restrictions on travel.

The Homemakers' Half-Hour was sponsored by the division with a two-day-a-week program in 1925. This, within a few years, grew to the present five-day-a-week schedule.

The division has chapters of two national home economics honor societies, Omicron Nu, established in 1913, and Phi Upsilon Omicron, in 1926. A chapter of Delta Phi Delta, a national professional society in the field of applied art was installed on the campus of Iowa State in 1928.

*The Physical Education Department for Women is housed in the beautiful, modern-equipped gymnasium which is a recent addition to the buildings of the Home Economics Division. Besides regular classes and intramurals, the department offers a minor in this field*

