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MEET Your Counselors

by Elinor Chase

Sue is puzzled about choosing her major. Sally wants to drop chem. They'll take their problems — just as other freshmen and sophomores do — to one of the eight junior college counselors.

"We like to learn to know each person personally and call her by name as she comes in," said one counselor. "Since each of us has more than 100 counselees, that is a big job. But not too hard, if students come in often enough to get acquainted."

Want to meet the counselors? Then, go to Room 9, Beardshear Hall.

Prof. Irene Buchanan has been a junior college counselor longer than any of the others. She is starting her tenth year. A native of Colfax, she spent most of her early life in Oskaloosa. She went to Northwestern University for a year and then transferred to Iowa State.

Mrs. Buchanan

After her marriage, Mrs. Buchanan taught high school at Oskaloosa. "It was fortunate for both my students and me that I didn't have to teach anything except clothing, because that's the one thing in which I'm interested," she says.

You'd think Mrs. Buchanan would get enough sewing while teaching in the Department of Textiles and Clothing, but she sews at home for a hobby, too. You're likely to see her carrying her knitting with her to work on at odd moments. A widow, she lives with her son John, a chemical engineering senior, and "keeps house after a fashion." She explains, "I'm very fond of homemaking, but I don't like housekeeping."

Applied art is a hobby as well as a job for Mrs. Helen Fidlar, and she doesn't have time for much else. She was born in Ames and graduated from Iowa State, but between her graduation and her return to teach 3 years ago was a long detour in the East. She married an army officer, worked briefly in Washington, and taught art at Ward-Belmont School in Nashville, Tenn.

Now a widow, she is teaching at the school she left 30 years ago. "Everytime I call the roll," she says, "I find one or two girls whose parents were in school when I was. It gives me a tie over the many years that I have been gone."

Another native Iowan who has lived in the East is Prof. Beatrice Donaldson, of the Department of Institution Management, who "came all the way from Boone." A graduate of the University of Nebraska, she took a year's dietetic training in Chicago, worked as a dietitian in University Hospital in Iowa City, then worked 5 years in New York City. While there she earned her master's degree at Columbia University night school.

"Suddenly, I just couldn't wait to get back to Iowa," she says. She considers people here more friendly than in the big cities. She also likes teaching better than hospital work.

At Iowa State, Miss Donaldson divides her time teaching purchasing and organization to prospective dietitians, working on an experiment station research project on school lunches, counseling and taking graduate work toward her doctor's degree.

Miss Donaldson likes to sew, and makes most of her own clothes. "Many times," she admits, "I would rather stay home and just keep house than work."

Miss Thomas

Dark haired Miss Isabelle Thomas was born in Buxton, Iowa. A graduate of Iowa State and the University of Minnesota, Miss Thomas has been in the Department of Foods and Nutrition since 1942, teaching meal planning.

Miss Thomas taught for a year at Oregon State College at Corvallis. One of the high spots of her stay there was the chance to take weekend trips to the coast. She also taught in the New Hampton, Iowa, high school. Other experiences include working for an ice cream company and in a test kitchen in Davenport.

Miss Mary Alice Sheaffer, of the Department of Home Economics Education, turned to college teaching after 10 years of teaching in high schools. The last 3 years she spent at Franklin High in Cedar Rapids. She is another Iowa State graduate, having earned both her BS and MS degrees here.

When she's not working, Miss Sheaffer enjoys travel, crafts and sewing. She especially likes leather work. Knitting fancy mittens is another of her specialties.

Miss Sheaffer

True to her Iowa background, Miss Sheaffer likes to spend her summers on a farm. She was born at Adel, and has lived on both coasts, spending one summer attending Cornell University in New York, and another working in an office in California.

Prof. Anita Kezer, of the Department of Child Development, had her first taste of university life when she was 5 years old. Her father brought his family up from Stillwater, Okla., when he attended the University of Iowa. The fact that her father, her mother, a brother and a sister were all teachers influenced her choice of a career, she feels. Studying at Oklahoma A & M, she started out to be a dietitian, but switched to education after 2 years.
After receiving her master's degree in child development at the University of Nebraska, she came to Iowa State to teach in the Department of Child Development. It was her first teaching job. In addition, she is advisor to the Home Economics Club Council.

As lively as any of her students, Miss Kezer likes to swim, hike, bicycle, go on picnics — anything that takes her out into the country.

What does a traveling salesman's wife do while he's away? If it's Mrs. Josephine Dougherty, she keeps busy teaching household equipment. She enjoys working because it gives her something to do and think about. Six-year-old Stephen is another reason why she doesn't get lonely. She enjoys participating in community affairs such as the Parent-Teachers Association, church groups and the American Legion Auxiliary.

Wants Master's Degree

A native of Ames and a graduate of Iowa State, Mrs. Dougherty worked for a year and a half as home service representative for the Gas Service Company of Kansas City. She is now working toward her master's degree in household equipment. One of her pet ambitions, deferred to "some day," is to take piano lessons.

While these eight counselors spend an average of 7 hours a week in the counseling offices, Prof. Elizabeth Sheerer devotes her full time. Any student can consult her about personal problems in her office in the Home Economics Building.

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The position of full-time personal counselor was created last year and Miss Sheerer was called from the University of Chicago, where she had been working toward her doctor's degree in human development. It was while she was studying at Cornell University that Miss Sheerer first became interested in personal counseling. She took her undergraduate work at Seton Hill College, a girls' school near her home town of Greensburg, Penn. Then she taught home economics in Pittsburgh.

One of her first jobs was as governess to three small children. "It was extremely interesting," she recalls. "I learned more about children in that year than in any of my college courses."

**Teachers Counseling**

At Iowa State, Miss Sheerer teaches a course in personal counseling for advanced students who, in business or teaching, will have to advise others. Freshmen meet her in Home Economics 105, when she discusses personality development. Life isn't all work for Miss Sheerer. She relaxes with music, or by going to the movies or playing bridge. And she likes horseback riding.

Now that you're introduced, the counselors hope that you won't hesitate to come in at any time with a problem or just for a chat.

Within the next decade, the United States may become the greatest raw-silk-producing nation in the world. Women can earn pin money by raising silk-worms at home, selling the cocoons.