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University of North Dakota Alumni Association

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The University of North Dakota

Alumni Review

VOLUME XXIII



GRAND FORKS, N. D., OCTOBER 15, 1947

NUMBER THREE

THE UNIVERSITY of NORTH DAKOTA

1947 Homecoming Festivities

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23

9:30 - 10:30 a. m.: Pep rally convocation. Speakers: Harold Pollman, student; Dr. Ralph E. Leigh, president, U.N.D. Alumni Association. Introduction of football team by Coach Glenn Jarrett.

8:00 - 11:30 p. m. "Kick-off" Dance in armory.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24

12:00 p. m.: Legislators' Luncheon. Ryan Hotel.

1:30 - 3:30 p. m.: Open House at the University.

3:30 - 4:30 p. m.: Women's field hockey game. Freshmen vs. Sophomores in the field next to the stadium. This is an old Homecoming tradition being revived this year.

4:45 - 5:15 p. m.: U.N.D. band under the direction of John E. Howard will march downtown.

6:15 - 7:30 p. m.: Banquet for alumni, faculty and Honored Guests.

6:30 - 7:30 p. m.: Bonfire and Indian display for students, alumni and friends of the University. Prizes will be awarded best Indian costumes.

7:30 p. m.: All campus house decorations will be lighted.

8:30 - 9:30 p. m.: U.N.D. Lettermens' meeting.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

10:30 - 11:30 a. m.: Homecoming parade.

12:00 - 1:30 p. m.: Alumni Luncheon. Dacotah Hotel.

12:00 - 1:30 p. m.: Legislators' Luncheon. Ryan Hotel.

2:00 - 4:00 p. m.: Homecoming Football Game. U.N.D. vs. Bradley University.

4:00 - 4:15 p. m.: Alumni gathering at the Memorial Student Union Site. East of Law Building.

4:15 - 8:00 p. m.: Fraternity, Sorority and Hall open houses.

8:00 - 12:00 p. m.: Homecoming Balls in the Grand Forks city auditorium and the University armory.

Officials Map University Building Plans



Alvin E. Austin, left, head of the University journalism department and president of the Student Union Corp., and Dean William G. Bek of the College of Science, Literature and Arts who is also an official of the corporation, confer on plans for the new edifice.

Vital Need of Union Stressed

I am a member of an Association of Deans of Liberal Arts Colleges of the Midwest. Our annual conferences are always held at one or the other of the member schools. At all of them, even the smaller schools, such as the University of Wyoming and the University of South Dakota, I have seen beautiful and well appointed student unions.

With regret, I note that the University of North Dakota is uniquely alone in not providing such essential accommodations.

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PRES. JOHN C. WEST

Students Work for Memorial Union

Dear Alumni:

A magnificent "UND of Tomorrow" is getting past the blueprint stage. New buildings are going to dot the campus scene, as early as next fall! Everyone agrees that the University will be a pretty dull place if the Memorial Student Union isn't one of those buildings.

The Union CAN be built—and WILL—if every graduate joins the present student body in giving

(Continued on page 3)

New Era Nears in Development Program

The University is about to enter into a new era in its development, President John C. West declares, with plans nearing completion to launch a \$1,850,000 permanent building program in the spring.

"Not since impressive Merri-Hall opened its doors for the

(Continued on page 4)

ALUMNI HEAD WELCOMES GRADS



DR. R. E. LEIGH

Our theme this year is: 'It's a Good Day' and I know you are going to find we have picked a winner, except that it will be THREE good days.

Reunions, luncheons, dinners, the mammoth parade and climactic football game will keep you busy and happy for a great week-end.

It's a great pleasure to me just to sit down for once and write a note to alumni without pleading a cause. I don't consider this invitation an appeal. I am sure that if it's possible you'll be here and I hope I can welcome each of you personally.

Cordially,

DR. R. E. LEIGH,

President, U. N. D. Alumni Association.

Lt. Col. Ronald N. Davies, 1927, has been named executive officer of the 577th Reserve Composite Group which has jurisdiction over fourteen northeastern counties of North Dakota. He is currently an executive director of the North Dakota bar association and is continuing his law practice in Grand Forks.

ALUMNI FRIENDS:

It is a great pleasure for me—to invite you back for your alma mater's three-day Homecoming celebration, October 23-24-25.

I do not think you need any special urging to revisit the scenes of your younger years, to meet again your old classmates and faculty friends. From past experience you well know the fun and festivity in store for you.

News Briefs of University Alumni

Major George F. Vaughan, 1940, is stationed at NATB, Pensacola, Florida, going through flight training.

Charlotte Graichen, 1932, is director of women's physical education at Valley City State Teachers College. She received her Master's degree from the University of Iowa in 1938.

Dorothy J. Davis, 1944, St. Thomas, and Lyle J. Corbit, Crystal, were married September 18

Enrollment at University Nears 3,000

University enrollment has hit a new record high with 2,870 students enrolled.

Breakdown of enrollment by classes lagged behind the registration figure. The latest report showed 730 freshmen, 957 sophomores, 499 juniors, 521 seniors, 110 graduates and 110 special students registered.

Present enrollment is 197 more than the previous record, set during the first semester last year.

At Wesley college senior conservatory, 186 students were registered in the departments of religion, speech and music.

With its record enrollment crowding classroom and laboratory facilities to the limit, first regular night classes in the history of the institution now are being conducted.

The night classes involve four laboratory sections in biology meeting for two-hour periods from 7:30 to 9:30 p. m. four nights a week.

Prof. G. C. Wheeler, head of the biology department, is in charge of the lab classes, which have a total enrollment of 80 students.

University Graduate With Standard Oil

Robert S. Smith, (B.A. and B.S. in chemical engineering, 1943), received his masters' degree in chemical engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston, Sept. 22. He has accepted a position with Standard Oil Co., Bayway, N. J. A navy submarine service veteran, Smith is a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Phi Eta Sigma, Blue Key, Sigma Xi, Sigma Tau, Phi Beta Kappa. He was a Grey Gown marshal, business manager of the North Dakota Engineer and Carney choregus two years.

and will make their home in Grand Forks.

George B. Talbert, 1941, Wau-paca, Wis., and Mary R. Rogers, Melfa, Va., were married September 20. They will make their home in Madison, Wis., where both will continue graduate study in zoology at the University of Wisconsin.

Dr. and Mrs. David Gregory and their son are making their home in St. Paul where Dr. Gregory will do graduate study in medicine. Mrs. Gregory is the former Patricia Tisdale, 1941.

Maurice Olson, 1947, Mar-mar, N. D., and Elva Wockovich, Grand Forks, were married September 14. They will make their home in Grand Forks while Mr. Olson teaches at the University.

Ina Mae Rowley, 1946, Grand Forks, and George Schleden were married September 21 in Fargo, N. D. They will make their home in Chicago.

Gerald Sveen, 1947, Bottineau, and Don Olson, 1947, Grand Forks, have enrolled at Temple University in Philadelphia.

Mark E. McFall, 1937, Bismarck, and June Hetland, Bismarck, were married recently. They will make their home in Bismarck where Mr. McFall is associated with the McFall Chiropractic Clinic.

Al Hackenberg, Frank Hackenberg, and James Johnson, 1947, are connected with the Crookston, Minnesota, transportation company, a newly formed company.

Irene Holkesvig, 1947, has begun her internship as a medical technician at the Minneapolis General Hospital.

Lt. and Mrs. Paul Nordquist (Virginia Smith), graduates with the classes of 1944 and 1945, have arrived in Honolulu to make their home for two years.

Kenneth I. Dale, M. A. 1936, is teaching commerce at Arizona State College, Flagstaff, Arizona. The Dale family recently moved from Grand Forks to Flagstaff.

William J. DuVall, 1947, has taken a position as supervisor of employee safety and training with the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. at Bismarck. Since 1931 DuVall has been at the Wahpeton State Science School.

Beverly Wick, 1945, Grand Forks, was recently capped at exercises at Swedish Hospital School of Nursing, Minneapolis, Minn.

Betty Jean Jackson, 1947, has enrolled for a year's training and graduate study in hospital and institutional management in the Indiana training school for dietitians at the medical center in Indianapolis.

Capt. Willis G. Pagel, 1942, ac-

counting instructor at the University, was appointed adjutant of the 577th Organized Reserve Composite group in North Dakota. Pagel was awarded the bronze star for services rendered in the ETO and was discharged in September 1945.

Douglas B. Heen, 1947, has opened a law office in Devils Lake, N. D. Heen is a veteran of three and one-half years service in the field artillery. Before returning to the University for his final year, he attended Cambridge University in England.

Doris M. Goodman, 1943, Grand Forks, and Wallace Person, Oakland, Calif., were married in Oakland, September 6. They will make their home in Oakland where Mr. Wallace is connected with Western Electric Co. Mrs. Person completed her work as a dietitian at Alameda County hospital.

Milton Reiersen, who attended the University of North Dakota in 1947, and Eileen Froseth, Thief River Falls, Minn., were married recently. They will make their home in Thief River Falls.

Margaret Benson, 1946, Grand Forks, and Bernard McDermott, Grand Forks, were married September 27 and will make their home here.

Dr. Lorin E. Davidson, 1926, is with the Dental Corps of the Veterans Administration in Los Angeles. He was discharged from the Army with the rank of Captain after four years of service.

Russ Asleson, 1940, who is with the MINNEAPOLIS TRIBUNE, was featured in a full page advertisement in a September issue of TIME magazine.

Frances Weisbecker, B.A. 1931, M.A. 1933, and Harriet Sweetland, 1933, are both teaching at Milwaukee-Downer College, Milwaukee, Wis.

Leon Becker, 1939, Des Lacs, N. D., and Carol Hulstad, Williston, were married recently. They will live in Des Lacs where Mr. Becker is associated with the Becker Grain Co.

Elaine G. Jacobsen, 1942, Crosby, N. D., and Sterlyn B. Steele, of Long Beach, Calif., were married September 6. Both are serving as instructors at the University of the City of Los Angeles while doing graduate study in the field of English literature.

Irene M. Eastman, B.A. 1918, has been named associate professor of chemistry and mathematics at Jamestown College. She obtained her masters' degree at the University of Chicago and a Ph.D. from Columbia University. During the war she was an instructor at NLAC and at the University of Southern California.

Dr. Axel Oftedal, 1911, died October 1 at his home in Glendale, Calif., after an extended illness which caused his retirement. Dr. Oftedal had practiced in Thief River Falls and Hendrum, Minn., and then in Fargo, N. D. In World War I he served as a lieutenant in the army medical corps. He was a member of Alpha Tau Omega at the University. Survivors include Mrs. Oftedal, three sisters and three brothers.

Jean M. Mero, 1942, Grand Forks, and Robert Lang, Grand Forks, were married September 6 in Seattle, where they will make their home.

Margaret Warke, 1946, Minot, and Cyril C. Moore, Wahpeton, were married September 21. Both are doing postgraduate work at the University of Chicago.

Robert Lyngholm, 1946, Grand Forks, and Fern Nelson, Riverside, Calif., were married October 5. They will make their home in Riverside while attending school.

Judge F. A. Leonard, 1908, has resigned because of his health after nearly 20 years of service as police magistrate at Fargo, N. D. After his admission to the bar in 1908, he practiced at Crosby, N. D., served in the state legislature in 1915, attended an officers training camp during World War I, and opened his Fargo law office in 1920.

University of North Dakota ALUMNI REVIEW

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Officers of Alumni Association

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Vice-Pres.----- Robert Vaaler
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To 1948—John A. Page, Kenneth Dale, Dr. L. J. Alger, Dr. R. E. Leigh and Ernest Hilborn.

To 1949—John M. Hancock, O. B. Burtness, Theodore B. Wells, Gene Revelle, and Robert Vaaler.

To 1950—Roy Holand, Elder Lium, Wallace S. Butler, Thomas D. Campbell, and J. B. Bridston.

R. B. Witmer Dean of U Junior Division

R. B. Witmer, dean of the junior division at the University of North Dakota, is starting his second quarter-century as a faculty member, shouldering a major task for which his long contact with the undergraduate body makes him well-fitted.

Dean Witmer is a native North Dakotan, and, for the University, a "homegrown" and home developed executive. To his office flock the hundreds of students puzzled over their status—sophomore, upperclassman, or what am I? Schedule snarls are untangled over his desk; counsel and advice are given; the uncertain are steered into the proper channel. His is a trying position but it's one he enjoys.

MANY VOTE THANKS

"Oh, of course," he tells you, "I hear an occasional mutter about 'that guy who tried to map my course!'" On the other hand he hears more often of and from those who appreciate his efforts and who owe him a vote of thanks for untangling a snarl or two.

Dean Witmer was born at Bathgate, N. D., the son of Samuel T. and Charlotte F. Witmer. His father was a druggist but much of his early life was spent on his father's farms. Thus he is qualified in background to discuss with authority and with a sympathetic attitude the problems a man in his position will run into in a state predominately agricultural.

STARTED AS ASSISTANT

Graduating from Bathgate high school in 1918, Witmer served in World War I before entering the University that fall. He received his B.S. degree in electrical engineering in 1922 and that same year began his long faculty term. From 1922 to 1924 he was graduate assistant in physics at the University and from 1924 to 1927 was an instructor in physics. He received his master of science degree in electrical engineering from U.N.D. in 1926 and the following year was advanced to an assistant professorship.

Came then a brief sojourn away from North Dakota for advanced work at the University of Washington and University of Michigan, where in 1934 he received his Ph.D. in physics.

RETURNED IN 1934

He returned to the campus in 1934 as associate professor of physics and two years later was appointed freshman scholarship advisor. In 1938 Witmer became a full professor in the physics department and was named dean of freshmen in 1939. During the summer of 1941 he served on the faculty of Penn State college.

He entered navy service in May, 1942, and was stationed at Chicago and later at Iowa City,



DEAN R. B. WITMER

Ia., where he was instructor and head of the department of mathematics and physics at the U. S. navy pre-flight school. Following his discharge he returned to U. N.D. in 1943 to take charge of the A.S.T.P. physics program. He was made dean of the junior division in 1946, giving him supervision of more than one-half of the University's student body.

Training and background for his present position were received in post-doctoral work at Teachers College, Columbia university, in the field of student personnel and administration.

Witmer has done research and writing in the field of X-rays and X-ray measurement and during World War II took part in writing texts in mathematics and physics used by navy training schools. He is a member of Sigma Xi (scientific honorary), Sigma Tau (engineering honorary), Phi Delta Kappa (educational honorary) and is also a member of several professional and educational societies.

He is listed in American Men of Science and has been notified of listing in 1948 in "Who's Who in Education."

Committee assignments include: Is at present serving on the administrative committee, committee on student affairs, convocation committee, committee on student guidance, curriculum committee, eligibility committee and, prior to the war, the athletic board of control.

Dean Witmer is a member of Sigma Nu social fraternity and has been interested and active in working with groups on the campus in promoting scholarship and cooperation with the University. He is a firm believer that one in academic administration

PROF. AUSTIN—

(Continued from page 1)

ing the project the one last push that will get it out of the "planning" stage into the era of actual construction.

Students have done all they can, and more. They're the people here on the scene; they know that Grand Forks hasn't any more recreational facilities to take care of the present-day student body of 2,900 than it did to take care of the much smaller enrollments of 10 and 20 years ago.

But there's no need to talk about the NEED for the building. In fact, there's no need for TALK. There already has been too much of that.

What's needed now is ACTION. The chips are down, and the responsibility is squarely with YOU. If you back this last Student Drive, promptly and generously, the Union will get under way in the spring. If you don't—well, you'll have 2,900 disillusioned and disappointed Sioux undergraduates to try to explain to.

Let's keep 'em happy—by giving them their new building, ready for use next fall.—Al Austin, president, Stu. Union Board.

should do a reasonable amount of teaching in order to maintain the student and faculty points of view and while much of his time is devoted to administration, he is very interested in teaching and derives a great deal of satisfaction therefrom.

Dean Witmer was married in 1927 to Lillian I. Leith of the class of 1923. They have a 16-year-old daughter, Jean Leith Witmer.

Will Shows Legacy Left University

In the will filed in county court of Grand Forks county in the estate of the late Judge Harrison A. Bronson, B.A., 1894, M.A. 1895, the will provided for a legacy to be left to the University of North Dakota subject to a life estate in Mrs. H. A. Bronson, the widow, according to Carleton G. Nelson, LL. B. 1939. Nelson is now a Grand Forks attorney.

Judge Bronson, who was at one time a University law school instructor and later chief justice of the supreme court of the state of North Dakota, always maintained an active interest in alumni affairs of the University and this legacy demonstrates the Judge's interest.

The section of land left to the University is located just west of Grand Forks and it is conceivable that as the University expands this land will be used for experimental purposes and ultimately used as part of the campus itself.

DEAN BEK—

(Continued from page 1)

The present student body, vibrant with enthusiasm, is keenly aware of this lack. It is doing its part to improve the situation. Voluntarily each registrant pays five dollars each semester into a fund that will help to make a student center a reality.

Most of these contributors will never directly benefit from such a center, but, proud of their alma mater, they are glad to build for those who will come after them.

If every one who had profited from the teaching of the UND should pay even the small sum of five dollars for each semester he or she attended what an edifice of beauty of utility would soon grace our campus.

None of us is ever able to repay in full the debt we owe the institution which made it possible for us to obtain an education. But all of us can at least make a token payment on the interest of the debt we owe.

In addition to having a warm feeling of satisfaction for having done something worthwhile Uncle Sam allows us to make certain deductions from an obligation that must be accounted for on or before the fifteenth of March.

Dean Wm. Bek

Richards Family Earliest Association with U. N. D.

Several families have been associated with the University of North Dakota since its early days up to the present but the Richards family got there first and waited for the school to start.

In February, 1883, the year before ground was broken for Old Main, Harry Richards and Corilla Williams drove through the snow from the Chamberland farm across the present campus to Grand Forks for their wedding ceremony.

Mr. Richards was intensely interested in the progress of the college all his life. He wound up his farm work early on autumn evenings and came over to witness football practice. He often accompanied the team to out-of-town games as far as Minneapolis. Mr. and Mrs. Harry Richards retired to Demarest, N. J.,

Women's Dorm Will Help Ease Co-ed Crowding

With its current record enrollment running heavily to men, University officials are taking steps to give young women of the state a better educational break.

Many girl graduates of North Dakota high schools find their plans to attend UND blocked by limited housing for women on the campus and in Grand Forks. Waiting lists for Davis hall, only dormitory for women, and Larimore hall, women's dorm operated by affiliated Wesley college, always are long.

As a result, women stay away and the ratio of men to women on the campus hovers between three and four males to every one female.

To alleviate the situation, UND is going forward with plans to build a dormitory next spring and summer that will house 150 women.

Floor plans for the structure, which would have a basement and three upper stories, now are being completed with a view to floating a \$350,000 bond issue to finance the structure. This bond issue, authorized by the last legislature, would be tax free and would be paid out of revenue from the building.

Seventy-five rooms are planned for the dormitory, most of which would house two girls. Between 16 and 20 of the rooms, however, would be outfitted as one-room apartments to insure complete utilization of the building at all times.

in 1922. Mr. Richards died in 1939.

As the four Richards children grew up they became a part of University life. Daughter Emmeline married Alan Bruyere, who graduated as a mining engineer in 1912. He became geologist for the Texas company and the family live in Houston, Texas. Mrs. Harry Richards makes her home with them.

Raymond Richards graduated in 1906 from the college of mining engineering. He went with the U. S. geodetic survey to Montana and Alaska and later became a tax expert in oil lands. He is now a tax expert for the Tidewater Oil company in Tulsa, Okla. He has made several trips to Grand Forks to visit the late Professor Chandler and the Richards farm, which adjoins the University property on the northwest.

Alta Richards assisted for some years in the University business office and attended Wesley college. She married Stephen Smith of Grand Forks and the three Smith children all attended UND. Jean Smith received a BA degree in June 1943 and is now with Butternick patterns in New York City. Robert Smith obtained his BA degree in September 1943 and went into military service. He received an MA degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1947 and is now with the Process Department of Standard Oil at Bayway, N. J. His MIT thesis was written under the supervision of Professor Gilliland and Smith and is entitled "Radial Heat Transfer in Granular Beds."

Tom Smith and his wife are both students at the University at the present time.

Bob and Jean Smith are frequent visitors at the home of uncle Mansell Richards at 414 Orchard street, Cranford, N. J. Mansell received his BS degree in chemistry in 1920 and his MS in 1921 at UND. He attended MIT for a year and is now coordinator at Tidewater oil refinery at Bayonne, N. J. He married Dorothy Blanding (UND, 1922) and they have two daughters, Dorothy, a sophomore at Skidmore college, and Marjorie, who attends junior high school in Cranford.

While at UND, Mansell used his manual skill to good advantage building equipment for the physics laboratory in the school shop. In addition to building many useful gadgets for his wife and daughters, he has for 10 or more years aided in the construction of stage scenery for the Cranford Dramatic club and has served as the club president.



MRS. J. DUANE SQUIRES, above, who graduated from the University in 1923 with a B. A. degree, was co-winner of the \$1,000 prize offered by the Atlantic magazine and the General Federation of Women's clubs for the best article on the American public school system. After hundreds of manuscripts from the 48 states had been judged, Mrs. Squires and Miss Grace Williamson of Alabama were declared co-winners and the prize was divided between them. Mrs. Squires now resides in New London, N. H., where she is chairman of the school board.

Madeline Cooley, who attended U. N. D. in 1944, Minot, and William Sutherland, jr., Wilmington, N. D., were married September 12. They will live at Chapel Hill, N. C. where Mr. Sutherland is a graduate instructor at the University of North Carolina. Mrs. Sutherland was graduated from the University of North Carolina in June.

Jean Cronquist, 1947, Gilby, N. D., and John Guinness, Grand Forks, were married September 16. They will make their home in Grand Forks while Mr. Guinness completes his studies at U. N. D.

Mr. and Mrs. Webster E. Pullen and their three children visited the campus during September. He is of the class of 1929 and is manager in charge of the Puerto Rican branches, the National City Bank of New York, living in San Juan, P. R. Mrs. Pullen was formerly Doris Ray, class of 1928.

Merle Bickford, who attended U. N. D. from 1894-96, visited the campus during September. He now lives in Los Angeles, Calif.

BUILDING—

(Continued from page 1)

1929-30 school year has a new, permanent structure been built on the campus," President West says. "Now, we are about to change all that—and the University is grateful to state legislatures and alumni who have contributed to make the dream of a new and greater UND campus a reality."

Four new buildings will be under construction by next spring. They are:

A Medical Science building, for which \$400,000 was appropriated by the state legislature.

A Field House and Men's Gymnasium, for which the legislatures provided \$600,000.

A Student Union to cost \$500,000 being financed by student and alumni contributions plus a \$350,000 bond issue.

A Women's dormitory, for which a Bond issue of \$350,000 is expected to be floated.

A committee of the Board of Higher Education is working with the President on plans and specifications for the four buildings and contracts should be let by early spring, he said.

The "new and greater University of North Dakota campus" will look like this, President West says:

The Student Union will take its place east of the Law building, facing on University avenue.

The Field House is to be located on Second avenue North, between the Chemistry building and the Stadium.

The Medical Science structure, for which evacuation work already has been carried out, is to be built on Second avenue North, just north of the Chemistry building.

The Women's dormitory will face on University avenue, on a site west of the President's home.

"The University hopes to make this program just the beginning of its efforts to bring its permanent plant into line with the great increase of its student body," President West said.

"Further plans call for the addition of such permanent structures as an Administration building to replace antiquated Old Main, and Engineering structure, a Men's Dormitory, a Chemistry building addition, a hospital as part of a State Medical Center, and other long-needed edifices," the President said.