

College of Liberal Arts Has Formed Nucleus of UO Educational Program

The nucleus of the University of Oregon's educational program since the founding of the institution has been the College of Liberal Arts.

Early University catalog terminology listed the liberal arts courses under the general heading "Collegiate Department." This was distinguished first only from the "English preparatory department" but later also from the professional schools.

In 1899 the College of Literature, Science and the Arts was established as a part of the new organizational set-up under President Strong. This program continued until the Oregon State System of Higher Education was changed in 1932.

It was only in the fall of 1942 that major work in science was re-established after the reorganization of 1932 and the separate liberal arts divisions were merged into the College of Liberal Arts. James H. Gilbert was named first

Janet Smith Made Women's Coop Plan A Reality at Oregon

The establishment of the system of women's cooperative houses in the University was the memorable contribution of Janet Smith, employment secretary for many years.

Miss Smith had watched many women fight a constant and sometimes losing struggle to keep themselves in school. In her position she was able to devote herself wholeheartedly to the welfare of the women, getting summer employment for them, getting needed odd jobs during the school year for them, as well as advising and mothering them.

She saw that getting the women jobs was only part of the solution to the problem; reducing the living cost was the other. She had seen the same situation solved on other campuses by the establishment of cooperative houses, in which the young women held expenses to a minimum by doing all their own work and eliminating all unnecessary frills.

A group of women who would fit into such a system were gathered together and Miss Smith started the first of four women's cooperatives now on campus in 1936. Campbell club for the men had already been in operation. Rent for the first house was \$90 a month and it cost 40 women \$2.25 each.

Miss Smith saw her plan help many women go through the University who otherwise probably would have had to drop out or who might not have been able to enter, before her death in March 1945.

The motto guiding the women who went through four years of college made possible by Miss Smith's first venture to solve the problem was "Lower house bills,

Oregon Hall First Education Building

Oregon hall was the University's first school of education. It began operations in the fall of 1916 as a junior high school and a few years later developed into a six-year high school.

The law school was at one time located there, but in 1922 it was moved to Fenton hall to make way for departments of language and social studies. By this time the new education building was completed and prep students moved into the new University high school.

Oregon hall, now the center of the liberal arts college, is a three-story brick building at 13th Ave. and Kincaid St.

dean of the new college.

Upper-Division Schools

One of the most significant recent developments in the College has been the reorganization of all the professional schools except one (physical education) on an upper-division basis. This explains the 28% increase in enrollment in the college during the year 1950-51 over the preceding year, because students formerly registered in the lower division of the professional schools were now in the College of Liberal Arts.

As a result of this new set-up two factors were involved: (1) the specialized or professional courses in the student's first two years were reduced and (2) there was a doubling of the general education or "group requirement" courses from two-year-sequences to four.

This change was designed to improve the quality and range of the preprofessional-student's general education and also to provide a more defensible program for those students who find that they are lacking either the ability or interest to continue in a field in which they were initially interested.

Changes Proposed

With the aim still to further increase the student's general education and to provide a better balance between specialization and a liberal education, the college is now proposing a number of curricular changes. The foremost of these proposed changes is to increase the group requirement courses from four to six. Several upper division courses and a limited number of new inter-departmental courses will be recognized as meeting the group requirements.

A second proposed change is to provide a sophomore honors program whereby students with unusual ability may meet their requirements by examination without class attendance. On the other hand, the college is designing another curriculum on the elementary level for students who are deficient in their preparation.

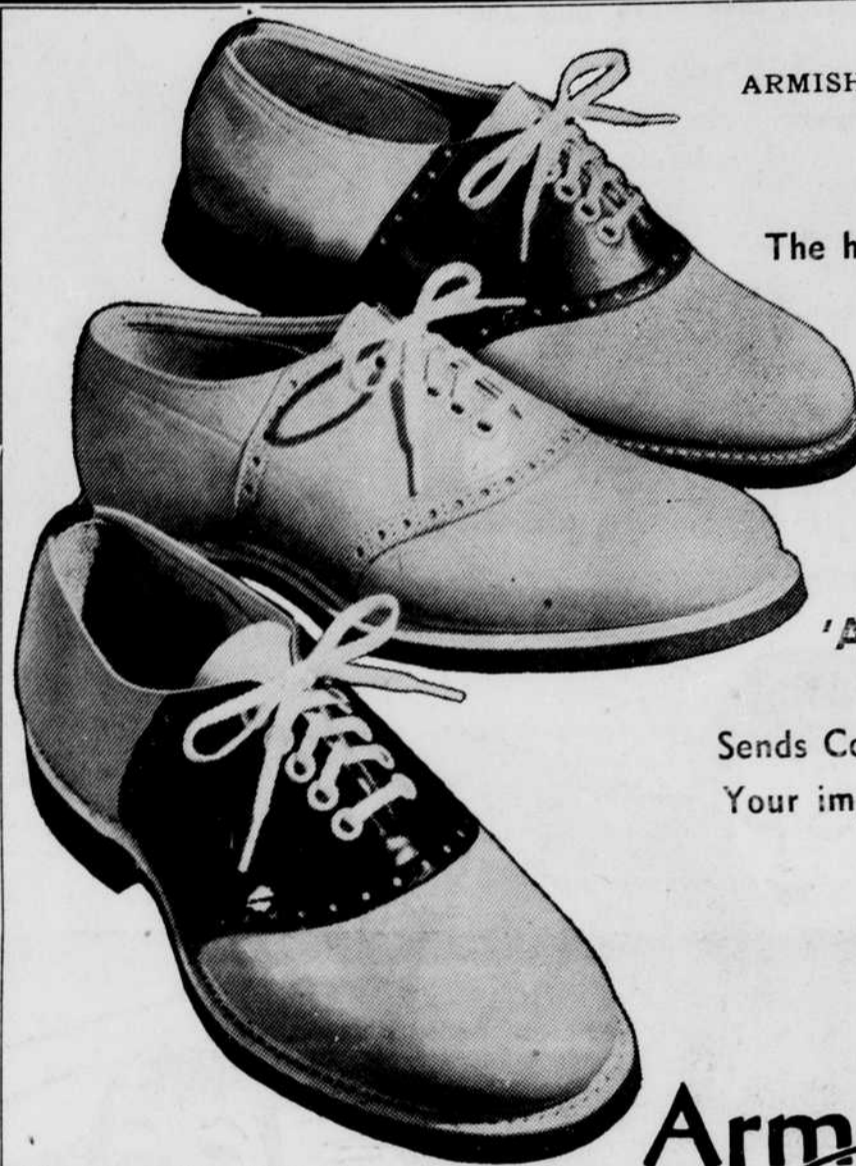
During the year 1950-1951, the college had a student enrollment of 3,853 of which 62 per cent were men and 38 per cent women. The faculty, numbering 159, were distributed about equally in ranks from instructor to full professor.

Since 1942 the college has included the three main divisions—science, social science and languages and literature—within its scope. There are 17 instructional departments within these three

main branches which include anthropology, biology, chemistry, economics, English, foreign languages, geography and geology, history, home economics, mathematics, philosophy, physics, political science, psychology, religion, sociology and speech.

With the retirement of Dr. James H. Gilbert as dean in 1947, the college was placed under the direction of Dr. Eldon Johnson, then head of the department of political science.

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