

From:
Michigan State University Oakland

A SPECIAL ISSUE of the MSUO

NEWSLETTER

For New Freshmen

HERE'S A SPECIAL ISSUE OF THE

MSUO NEWSLETTER

Of Tips and Facts for New Freshmen

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY OAKLAND

NEWSLETTER

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ROCHESTER, MICHIGAN

JUNE 1960

This issue of the newsletter is written especially for you who are coming to Michigan State University Oakland. If its items hint a mounting excitement here, it's because that is just what college life in the second year of America's newest, most promising (and we think, best) university is likely to offer. To make your campus activities richer and more pleasant, and, to make your academic life even better and more stimulating, all kinds of changes and growths are blossoming on this fast-spreading corner of 1600 of the loveliest acres in America.

SUMMER SOCIAL NOTES

Know Thyself: To get acquainted with the college, some of your college classmates, and yourself, you are invited to attend any one of a half-dozen, two-day visits which we call the Freshman Orientation Program. The first day you will hear a welcoming talk by Chancellor D. B. Varner (who is one of the best speakers in the land). You can get special aptitude testing, given by Dr. Robert F. Hopkins, Director of Counseling and Testing, to help you plan your college work intelligently, and to help Dr. Hopkins (who is a good guy) give you sensible suggestions when you seek his counsel. You will also have informal group meetings with members of our cream-of-the-crop faculty and administrative staff. There will be a tour of the campus, individual interviews with professional counselors, and advance information about registration for classes. You will also have a chance in discussion groups to give the third degree to MSUO's sophomores, your predecessors who have been through the toughest part of the college mill -- the freshman year. There will also be luncheons and refreshment hours, and for all this there is a \$5.00 fee. If any of you have not received invitation blanks, write to Dr. Hopkins, right away.

Big Sister Picnic: A Big Sister Picnic is being planned for the sophomore girls July 10. If you haven't already heard from Dr. Mary Ann Cusack, Assistant Dean of Students, the object of this affair will be to plan a Big Sister program for the incoming feminine freshmen and to plan a chapter here of the nationwide association known as the Association of Women Students.

Come one, Come all: A September picnic is being planned for some balmy afternoon and evening soon after school opens. This will be an all-university affair for both old and new students to which the faculty and the administrative staff are also permitted to come, principally because it gives you a chance to drub the faculty humiliatingly in softball, volleyball, and probably touch football. The last such picnic we had, early in June, was a real wing-ding. The only trouble was that with Chancellor Varner's dipsy doodle pitching, the students hit home runs while we hit into double plays. The score is classified information.

MY, HOW YOU'VE CHANGED!

New Playing Fields: When you arrive in September, among the many new things that will have been added will be ten acres of green and grassy new playing fields. There will be two touch football and softball fields, and a basketball court. Physical Education Director Hollie Lepley is also laying out his own ingeniously homemade golf course.

Athletic Building: We hope that authority can be obtained from the Legislature and the Board of Trustees to use a \$24 increase in student fees to finance an acutely needed gymnasium and center for intramural sports. Plans for this building are already well along; and work could start soon after the necessary permission is obtained. The building would include not only a large gymnasium but probably an Olympic-size swimming pool. Playing fields accompanying it would include tennis courts, soccer, football, baseball fields, and a track.

Dormitories: Architect's plans for dormitories are completed; and it is hoped that construction can be started this summer. These attractive two-story houses will provide the fun and the positive advantages of small-group living without the disadvantages of fraternities and sororities. There will be 48 students to each L-shaped house with a resident adviser's apartment in the corner. Location of the dorms will be just north and east of the Student Center in a rolling area just south of Walton Blvd.

Library: Working drawings are just about complete for the million-and-a-half dollar library which the Kresge Foundation is giving to MSUO. Construction is to start in September and the building is to be ready for use when school opens next year. As we said in the last newsletter, we plan to make this library something new and different and more useful to you in ways that may surprise you.

Science Engineering Building: Work on this two-million-dollar structure will also start in September, and it will be ready for use in the fall of '61.

FEES, FINANCES, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Fee Increase: As you may have read in the newspapers, the Board of Trustees voted to increase tuition fees by \$24 to a total of \$279 a year. The reason for mentioning this painful fact is to point out that it's not entirely an ill wind because it does blow some good. As already noted, we hope to use this money to finance an athletic center. It will also give us more income with which to hire additional faculty members and thus, we hope, make it possible for some of your friends to attend MSUO this fall for whom there might not otherwise have been room.

Don't Worry: The fee increase will not hurt anyone who has been awarded a scholarship. These awards will be increased to cover the added \$24. The \$40,500 goal of the Scholarship Committee has been increased by \$2,400 to cover the difference. This committee, composed of 30 hard-working ladies, has already obtained more than \$36,000. The gifts range from \$5 to over \$2,000, and come from many of the most famous persons in the Detroit area (or in the nation, for that matter). For example, Mrs. William T. Gossett, wife of the Ford Motor Company vice-president, has established the first of four scholarships at MSUO in honor of her late father, the Chief Justice of the United States. Winners of these awards will be known as Charles Evans Hughes Scholars.

At least 130 MSUO students will have scholarships next year. A somewhat similar number probably will get loans under the National Defense Education Act, and a large proportion of the students will obtain part-time jobs through the office of the Dean of Students, both off and on campus.

CAMPUS LIFE

Student Government Voted: Just before the final exams in June, MSUO's charter class voted to adopt a constitution for student government. An elected group of 25 worked most of the year to develop a plan well suited to this university, visiting nearly a dozen midwestern campuses in the process.

The plan consists of a student body president, and a Senate of 20 members elected at large. There is also a Judiciary named by a Senate Executive Committee, which will decide disputes involving student groups and violations of Senate legislation referred to it.

First Yearbook: It would be hard to prove, but the chances are that MSUO is the first university to publish a yearbook in its maiden year. The title is The MSUO Story, and by virtue of its attractiveness and quality, it is a best seller. Thanks to the energy and ability of a petite blond (Editor Shelagh O'Rourke), an all-freshman staff did itself proud, even though the project wasn't begun until the second term.

Student Newspaper: If you are interested in any phase of newspaper work, whether on the editorial or the business side, you will have a chance to take part in this activity. We plan to have a newspaperman from one of the metropolitan dailies in the job of helping with student publications. Much of his efforts will be devoted to helping you and the sophomores do a good professional job with The Oakland Observer which was started this year. Also available to help will be the former Education Editor of the New York Times.

Other Publications: If some of you really want to embark on other publishing ventures such as a literary magazine, we of course will be glad to lend a hand.

Octaves and Grease Paint: Music and dramatics will begin upstaging other activities, and one another, starting in September. In both fields, MSUO has added leaders of outstanding talents and considerable renown to the faculty, and they will begin developing full dramatic and musical programs. (A choral group has already been developed). Indeed, it is worth noting that MSUO has decided to add Fine Arts to its liberal arts program. This will mean you will have the opportunity to major in music, drama, or art (painting or sculpture).

Politics: Since this fall will be election season, the Young Republican and Young Democratic Clubs will probably be more active than usual -- to put it mildly. We hope, however, to prevent this from developing into an intramural bare-knuckle boxing program.

Dances: The last Thursday night of the school year, the Student Center was gliding -- and jumping -- with couples attending the last of a long series of dances. Joe Gagnier's Orchestra played for the semi-formal affair. -- A Midsummer Night's Dream was the theme. The imaginative decorations included a live fountain in the middle of the dance floor.

Extra Extracurricular Items: Dr. Hopkins, who drives one of those bug-like Isettas, started home one day last week to find the thing sitting in the lobby just outside his office door. It seems eight of the fellows lifted it the four feet onto the loading dock in the rear of the administration building and pushed it down the corridors to Dr. Hopkins' office. Nobody knows who did it, of course; but rumor has it that it only took five small freshman girls to lift it back down, with Hopkins inside.

NEW FACULTY - NEW COURSES

Faculty: Among the 18 new faculty members for next year are Dr. John C. Galloway, Professor of Art at Southern Illinois University, and a well-known artist in his own right. Another is Dr. Walter S. Collins, Assistant Professor of Music and Director of the University Chorus at the University of Minnesota, and the man recommended by musicologists from East to West as THE man MSUO should get to develop a music program of the highest quality.

Also coming with us is Dr. Robert J. Wisner, a wizard mathematician who has been teaching at Haverford College and who is now at the world-famed Princeton Institute for Advanced Studies. This is the place where Albert Einstein worked, and where men like Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer do the thinking that opens doors to discoveries in physics and other fields. Dr. Wisner will be directing from MSUO one of the nation's most important educational projects -- a nationwide study of the teaching of mathematics; how it is being done and its inadequacies in elementary and secondary schools, and in colleges. It is being financed by the Federal Government and by foundation funds.

Two of the nation's best young psychologists, Drs. David Beardslee and Donald O'Dowd, who are coming to MSUO from Wesleyan University in Connecticut, will be directing an equally important study for the U.S. Office of Education. Its purpose is to discover what are the images of various professions that youths have that attract or repel them. Also coming onto the faculty will be an expert on Chinese studies, a leader for our Teacher Education program and professors of Latin, Greek, Spanish and German. This year only Russian and French were offered.

A new help that will be welcomed by many will be a series of lessons offered by Dr. Hopkins on how to read with greater speed and comprehension, how to read different kinds of materials, and what to look for in them; in short, how to study. Since a college education is more and more a "do it yourself" operation, this is a course that every student, from the brightest to the dullest, will be glad he took.

BE PREPARED

Summer Reading Suggestions: Because several of you have asked one or another of us what you could be reading this summer to help prepare you for college, we've asked members of the English and Western Civilization faculties for suggestions. Here are some of their recommendations:

In English, you will learn that writing and expressing yourself is a matter of architecture, not interior decoration. Hence the reading suggestions are to help impress you with the fact that good, clear expressive writing is a matter of hard, reasoned thinking, not flowery talking. The items suggested will help here.

For English:

1. Elements of Style - Strunk & White, a 95¢ paperback, a little book you will have to read anyway, and you'll probably enjoy it.
2. Fiction and biographies, -- good ones -- because these forms will give style and organization.
3. Twentieth-Century American writers: Hemingway, Virginia Wolfe, Joyce Cary.
4. Paperback anthologies, such as Oscar Williams' - Modern Verse. James Conrad's three best stories are in paperbacks. There are also some good paperback anthologies of short stories.

5. Good magazines on contemporary events, such as Harper's, Atlantic, Time, and Newsweek.

All of these but the magazines can be obtained in the University Bookstore, which is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For Western Civilization: While this course is different from almost any other college course, the reading of a good college textbook will be beneficial.

R. R. Palmer: A History of the Modern World

J. Burckhardt: The Civilization of the Renaissance in Italy

R. Bainton: The Sixteenth Century

" " The Reformation of the Sixteenth Century

A. C. Crombie: Medieval and Early Modern Science (2 vols.)

C. R. Lewis: The Splendid Century

These can be bought at Doubleday's in Birmingham and at J.L. Hudson's.

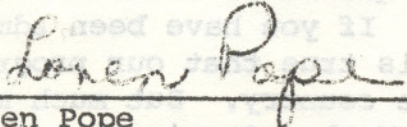
HOW TOUGH IS MSUO?

This is one of the most-asked of all questions about MSUO. The answer to the question is this: If you have been admitted, it is not too tough for you. It is true that our program is probably as rigorous as any in the country. But much more important are two other facts. Fact Number One is that our students are not an intellectual elite -- they are the backbone of America, a typical cross section of college-going, red-blooded youngsters with spunk and desire. Fact Number Two is that these students have taken this program and have survived. Indeed, most of them have prospered. True, they have worked harder than the students at most any other college in America, (and so will you, we hope). But, and here is the payoff: If college isn't tough, you are being cheated. No real accomplishment, whether it's an intellectual one or a physical one like making the football team, comes easily or without sweat, strain and pain. MSUO is a community of learning whose purpose is to produce men and women of principle and of critical judgment. This is not achieved by easy coddling. Furthermore, our students like it this way. They're proud of it. Ask some of them. It might be added that the percentage of A's and B's has been on the rise each quarter. And nearly a third of all of the grades given in the spring quarter were A's and B's, as compared with a little over a quarter in the fall term.

Anything They Can Do, You Can Do Better: Remember, the 1959 freshmen aren't a bit smarter than you are -- probably not as smart. Over two-thirds of you come from the top quarter of your high school classes. You all presumably have the desire to work for a first-class college education, or you would not have applied to MSUO, for the word is certainly abroad in the land that this is not a place for playboys, but for those who want to accomplish something worthwhile. We believe that each of you is capable of doing the work or we would not have admitted you. Further, this year's freshmen have broken open the trail for you. We are all working for the same goal, and are on the same team. We'll give you all the help we can, and you in turn will have the satisfaction of having accomplished something that in the future is going to carry a great deal of prestige; namely, a degree from MSUO.

From Near and Far: So far, in response to many requests from distant places, we have admitted students from 14 states and three foreign countries -- Brazil, Turkey and Vietnam. We also have students from Alaska, and, the 50th State (Hawaii) is anxious to send us some. Texas, naturally, is in on the act, too. Most of you, however, come from Oakland and Macomb Counties.

Oops, Sorry! If we've missed something that you're interested in, or if you'd like more information on anything we have covered, don't hesitate to write or telephone us and we will be happy to give you the answer if we know it or can find it out.


Loren Pope
Assistant to the Chancellor

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