

M S U—O

— A Report of Progress

First structural evidences of a proud new university loom large on the southeastern Michigan horizon, as the steel-and-concrete framework of Michigan State University—Oakland continues to rise.

This atomic-age institution, sister school to Michigan State University but virtually autonomous with its own administration and faculty, will open its doors to the first freshman class in the fall of 1959.

The site is the beautiful 1,400-acre Meadowbrook Farms estate, located between Rochester and Pontiac in eastern Oakland County. This lush, rolling tract of land was given to M.S.U. in January, 1957, by Mr. and Mrs. Alfred G. Wilson for the purpose of establishing a branch university. Another \$2 million was provided for construction of the first academic building for the new institution.

Additional Acreage Donated

Previous to the gift of the Meadowbrook estate, Dr. Sarah Van Hoosen Jones, long-time friend of the University, gave M.S.U. 350 acres of land in Oakland County, about five miles northeast of Meadowbrook. Following the Wilson gift, the University acquired an additional 200 acres immediately adjacent to the Wilson property.

In total, then, M.S.U. now owns almost 2,000 acres of land in Oakland County, plus several buildings, and now has under construction the first academic building for M.S.U.—O. A half-million dollar student center for food service and social activities is being planned and will likely be completed by September, 1959.

The educational potential of M.S.U.—O. is tremendous. The combined population of Oakland and Macomb counties is currently in excess of one million, with a rather conservatively predicted population of two million by 1980. Within a radius of 15 miles of the Meadowbrook estate, almost 50,000 young men and women between the ages of 18 and 24 now reside. Demographers estimate that this figure will exceed 100,000 by 1970.

The potential of this area is further underscored by the fact that there is not now a single post-high school publicly supported, four-year educational institution in either county. Adding to this potential in another dimension is the highly advantageous location of the top research headquarters of the automobile industry. The General Motors Technical Center is but 12 miles away; less than 3 miles from the campus is the new site for Chrysler's proposed center for research, and Ford's new proving grounds and testing center is only 12 miles distant.

Cooperating in developing M.S.U.—O. along the most productive lines is a committee of 40 community leaders from the two counties appointed by President Hannah.

"The committee, now known as the M.S.U.—O. Foundation, will serve in a permanent advisory and supporting role to the official governing board of M.S.U. and M.S.U.—O.," Dr. Hannah announces.

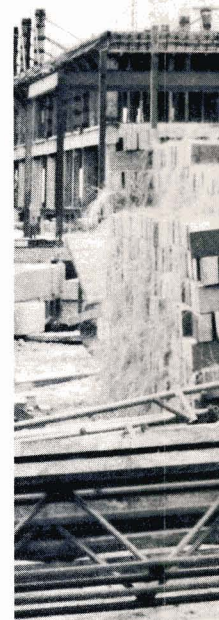
Heading this group is Harold A. Fitzgerald, publisher of the Pontiac Press. Assisting him are Don E. Ahrens, retired general manager of Cadillac; James C. Zeder, vice-president of Chrysler; Mrs. William T. Gossett, wife of the vice-president of Ford, and Dr. Paul Cousino, superintendent of Warren Consolidated Schools.

Degree Programs Listed

Freshmen enrolling at M.S.U.—O. next fall may pursue degree programs in business administration, engineering, liberal arts and teacher education. These course areas were selected by residents of Oakland and Macomb counties in a special survey on the needs for post-high school education in the two-county area conducted by the M.S.U. College of Education. High school students and parents of high school students indicated their interests for undergraduate course areas and programs for adult study beyond high school.

To determine the best possible curriculum organization and presentation at this new university, M.S.U.—O. officials are exploring in considerable

Building operations, both academic and structural, are proceeding at a fast clip on the campus of M.S.U.—O. Here workmen erect walls of one of the main buildings. Students will begin enrolling in one year, with the charter class numbering about 500.

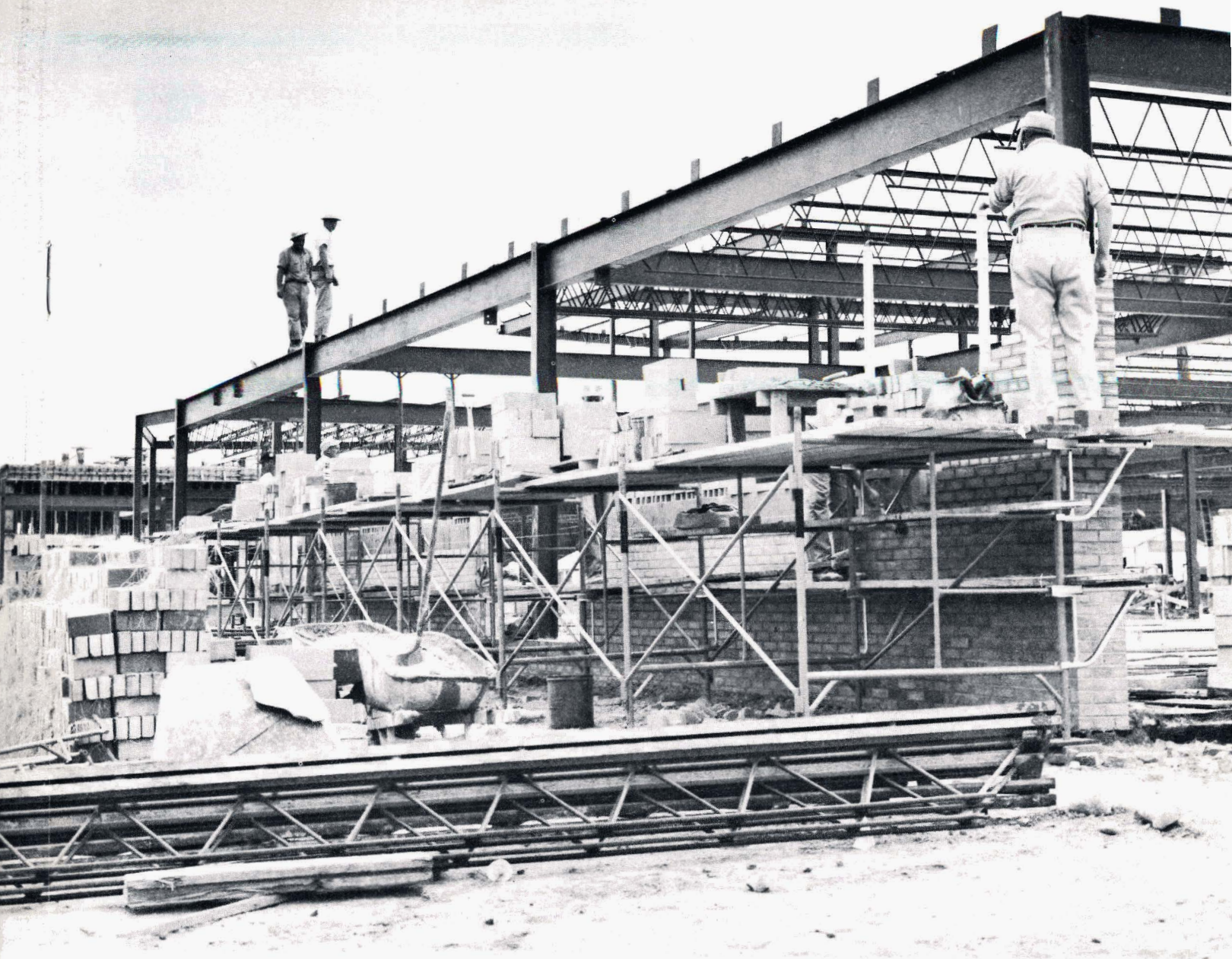


detail the four subject-matter areas. One-day seminars are scheduled in each of the four fields of study, at which the nation's top authorities in each field meet with M.S.U. and M.S.U.—O. officials and reflect their ideas in the light of their experience and judgment.

From the recommendations of these outstanding men will come the foundations for the four curriculum areas.

"We are meeting with these men in closed sessions so we can get their real ideas on how they think the four study areas should be organized," Dr. Hannah states.

"We won't ask them how they operate their schools because we know that," he adds. "We want to know how they would do it if they could start from scratch without any traditions or taboos."



According to the Oakland-Macomb studies, the 1959 freshman class size should be at least 500. M.S.U. officials point out that this is conservative and that the charter enrollees could number more than 1,000. Officials further add that M.S.U.-O. will be a "commuter college" at the beginning, since there are no living quarters for students. The M.S.U.-O. Foundation, however, is currently arranging for student housing in private homes in Pontiac and Rochester.

Waiting for the freshmen will be a modern new academic building which is now under construction on the northeast part of the estate. This building will contain 39 classrooms, 2 elementary physics and chemistry laboratories, 2 large lecture rooms, library, and faculty offices.

Ready to welcome the pioneer students will be Roy Alexander, M.S.U.-O. director of student services. A native of Owosso and formerly a member of the M.S.U. Continuing Education Service, Mr. Alexander recently returned from Okinawa where he headed the M.S.U. mission to the University of the Ryukyus.

Also appointed to the M.S.U.-O. faculty is Dr. Lowell R. Eklund, head of the Continuing Education program at the new institution. Dr. Eklund will be responsible for developing an integrated program of continuing education for Oakland and Macomb counties. Six M.S.U.-O. extension courses will be offered this fall for adults of that area in a converted building on the southwest part of the Meadowbrook estate.

"M.S.U.-O. will be an entirely separate school—not a duplicate of M.S.U. at East Lansing," Dr. Hannah emphasizes. "There will be no connection except at the top level of administration."

What will it cost a prospective student to enroll at M.S.U.-O.? D. B. Varner, M.S.U. vice-president for off-campus education, reminds that costs for the average student at either M.S.U. or the University of Michigan are approximately \$1,500 per year.

"Basing costs of comparable educations at M.S.U.-O., which eliminates inflated living costs, dormitory expenses and other similar items, the total cost to the student will probably not exceed \$500 per year," he points out. "Of course, such students commuting to and from classes will have normal food and other expenses."