Sociology Majors Prepare Themselves to Serve State

This Phase of University Work Aids State While Students Learn

COMPARATIVELY few know that the University aids the state in other than educational ways. However, a look at the work which the graduate school of Sociology is doing will convince even the most skeptical that Carolina is interested in a practical education that will benefit the state at the same time.

The graduate school of Sociology places its students in various counties for field work and at the same time that the students are getting practical experience they are also helping the people of the state. This is accomplished by allowing each student to have two days a week doing field work in the vicinity of Chapel Hill.

Professor George H. Lawrence is general supervisor of the program, and those working under his direction and assisting him are Miss Ruth Dodd, a member of the University Sociology staff, also attached to the Orange County department of Public Welfare, who is full-time supervisor of students; Miss Muriel McLaughlin of Durham county, who also spends full time supervising students (she was formerly a member of the faculty of the Pennsylvania school of Social Work and is paid partly by the University and partly by Durham County); Miss Gladys Shuford of Wake County, until recently a consultant in the child welfare division of the State board of Charities and Welfare, and who is paid jointly by the University and the county, and Miss Clyde Norcom, of Alamance county, which is on an arrangement similar to that of Wake County.

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THE SOCIOLOGY department has arrangements with the Social service of Duke hospital and the Durham and Raleigh Family Service agencies whereby students at the University may do field work and obtain practical experience.

An interesting sidelight is the opportunity which this department offers to Carolina's blind students. There were six totally and five partially blind girls who took this course and they are now working for the State Commission for the Blind.

Even with the handicap of lack of sight, these students did field work, too. With their "seeing-eye" dogs these girls got around as quickly and easily on the campus as those who have full capacity of their eyesight.

The graduate school of Sociology is one of the largest graduate schools in the University. Until 1936 graduate degrees in this department were given through the Sociology department, although a separate school had been established since 1920. Both Master's and Doctor's degrees in social work are offered by this department. . . .

Thus the graduate school of Sociology does its work, helping its students and helping the state.

Four of the six coed graduate students who, despite their handicap of blindness, attended Carolina this year are shown above with their seeing eye dogs. The girls majored in the social sciences so that they can help other blind students "because those who are blind can understand their special problems better."

Students Discuss Marriage

Course Started Here in 1924

THE BLACK CURTAIN of taboo, once a shroud for life's greatest job, was lifted for the first time 18 years ago when the president of the University answered a request of graduating seniors to institute a course to prepare them for marriage.

Today, with nearly a decade and a half of battling academic traditions and resentment behind them, 90 students are enrolled in the marriage course. This is not sex education. Though treated frankly and realistically, sexual adjustment is only a minor part of marital success; and Drs. Ernest R. Groves and Donald S. Klaiss insist that the issues be faced squarely, that there be no evasion of the facts, that the value of the course should be of practical concern to each student.

Dr. Groves, beginning undergraduate instruction at Duke university, opened-up a co-operative program between the Methodist institution and Carolina. Each year, without fail, down through the 18, the department has introduced a new idea, a new plan, a different approach; and now a full three-year graduate program has been developed which may lead to attainment of a Ph.D. degree by one who wants to specialize in the teaching of marriage.

There is no one-point, direct approach to the course. Religious leaders, anthropologists, feminists, radicals, sexologists, family educators and legal theorists all contribute to the study, all are teachers. Other universities, following the leader here in Chapel Hill, are inaugurating similar courses. The fight against intolerance, which had its first battles in this University, is gaining supporters in many other schools; and the conflict is all but won.

Today the colleges and universities, through the marriage courses, are hastening the decrease of divorces by affording the students means for an intelligent outlook on marriage. These courses deal with the various problems most likely to arise in marriage and with a sensible planning of the marriage career.

Twelve seniors asked a favor in 1924. Today the nation is responding.

School of Public Welfare Studies Social Problems

BEGUN IN 1920 in accordance with the University's policy of meeting the varying needs of the state, the graduate school of Public Welfare has grown from a mere handful to a full time schedule this year in an effort to meet the sudden demand placed on this field by the draft rulings.

Realizing that there was not only a need for training such as the School of Public Welfare offered, but an insistent and growing demand for workers in the advanced fields of government and public administration, President Graham urged the establishment of a new school of Public Administration in 1931.

A four-fold program emphasizing instruction in social problems, training for social work and leadership, community service and social research is the foundation of the welfare program.

Today the school covers two floors of the Alumni building and part of the third, staffed by over 30 top-notch instructors and rated as one of the best in the South. Within its chosen field the division has directed attention to an understanding of the problems with which the social worker must deal and a knowledge of the social science upon which the solution of these problems must be based.

Most important phase of the entire welfare set-up is the work done in case and field practice. Realistic experience is necessary to prepare students for effective and constructive case work. For many years, through the cooperation of the county, field work has been available under the expert supervision of members of the teaching staff and county representatives.

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THE MAJORITY of the students spend two days weekly under county supervisors who assign cases for investigation. From then on the junior social worker must collect all information vital to the case, make decisions with or without the help of his superior, write his report and discuss all phases of the case with the supervisor.

Cases most commonly occurring are old age assistance, aid to dependents, social problems, child delinquency and child welfare with all its side tracks. Where negligence is shown on the part of parents in child welfare cases the worker refers the case to county boards which aid the families.

Local counties are the scene of most social work carried on by the school and each county is closely linked to the central office. This field work is equivalent to that of two years of instruction and is vital to the success of the school.

Because of the ever-increasing demand for male workers in this comparatively new field, the school is faced with a serious problem. Only three men are enrolled in the course at present.

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STATE AUTHORITIES are frantically calling for workers to meet this sudden demand caused by the draft and war crises which draw graduate students away before they can finish the two-year course. Dr. Brown and the associate members of the school have finished plans for the first full-time course in the welfare program. School will continue through the summer so that workers may graduate in a war-time program.

Of the 143 students in last year's class, Dr. Brown reports that more than 100 have already been placed in Employment Service, Red Cross, Traveler's Aid, state work and Social Security, both local and state. Administrative positions are wide open for graduates, preferably men, and the want is steadily increasing.

Workers may secure positions in government agencies in the fields of social security and old age work with pay ranging from $1,260 to $3,720 a year.

When all these points are added, no wonder there is a "Men Wanted" sign in front of Dr. Brown's office.