

Goal: To Make Large Universities Seem Smaller

By Phyllis Fleming
Assistant State Editor

IOWA CITY — At the University of Iowa it's called living-learning.

At the University of Kansas it's called living-learning. At Kansas State the program doesn't have a name, but it is aimed at keeping potential drop-outs in.

All have the same goal in mind — making a large school seem smaller for the individuals involved. All are attempted answers to complaints voiced by some students in large universities that no one knows or cares about them. And dormitories — the focus of many student

complaints — play a part in each program.

Iowa's living-learning program is nearing the end of the first year and officials are looking toward a second year on much the same basis.

120 Freshmen

The program has involved some 120 freshman men majoring in engineering, pre-engineering, pre-pharmacy, pre-medicine and pre-dentistry, picked because they would be taking many of the same courses.

They've all lived in South Quadrangle. Courses in rhetoric, mathematics and American government have

been taught in the dormitory. Other discussions and seminars are also held in the dormitory. Several graduate students have lived in the dormitory with the students; others have maintained conference offices there.

Men participated in the program by choice. Speaking at the program got underway last fall, Director Robert Boynton said, "It was entirely a voluntary thing for the students. They had to select themselves for the program, organize and maintain their own little community, and use it to accomplish their intellectual, cultural, social and recreational pursuits."

Boynton, an associate professor in political science, last week was asked to assess the program as it nears the end of the experimental year.

"A number of aspects of the program have gone exceptionally well," he said, "most particularly the academic part that was uniquely a part of the living-learning experience; by this I mean when the course was taught up there by an instructor who had the circumstances of living-learning specifically in mind, it went very well."

But he acknowledged this wasn't necessarily the case

when a course that was being taught on main campus was shifted to South Quad and the "instructor went rather reluctantly."

Boynton said that how well the course went depended on the "attitude and imagination" of the instructor. Boynton said the program hasn't really been academically evaluated and probably won't be until this summer and fall when all grades have been collected.

Social Success

He considers the "social part of the community" highly successful in the sense that a "great many of the

friendships that have been made there are precisely the kind that will last all through college and longer."

He also says the cultural aspects of the program went well. One of the special projects found a group of students under Jim Rockey, rhetoric instructor, participating in a production of "King Lear."

Boynton said, "The drawbacks of the program have in large measure been associated with physical conditions." He noted that South Quad is the oldest dormitory on campus and was originally constructed as navy pre-flight facilities. "It leaves a lot to be desired," he said.

Four boys have been housed in each room. The rooms are large but that many boys in a room "creates social problems," he said.

If the living-learning program is a long term program, Boynton foresees several things — a move into better facilities, a co-educational program and a move into the general liberal arts program.

Before any large changes are made in the program, Boynton said, administrators want to acquire some experience with it and want to be able to determine the long range advantages, student acceptance and impact on academic life.

Plans for next year call for operating in South Quad with a nucleus of boys from this year's program who will be returning as sophomores. The rest will be selected at random from freshman men in liberal arts.

Asked to describe how the students had accepted it, he said they could be divided into two groups:

A large group which was enthusiastic about it and a smaller group that was "terribly disappointed" in the program largely because "they shouldn't have been in it in the first place." Many of these students didn't like all the programming that was done and they didn't favor living of this type.

Comments from some student enthusiasts included: Scott J. Andrea, Marion, mechanical engineering major, said, "I especially liked the living-learning community for all its independence."

Richard Kenneavy, Marion, undecided about major, said, "I feel that a living-learning community like South Quad should exist in all universities. The atmosphere created by a small group of sincere students is helpful for studies and recreation."

Gregory Witt, Cedar Rapids, pre-dentistry, said, "A student's freshman year is one of great expectations and many doubts. Through the living-learning program... I personally have received much needed advice, guidance and cooperation from other students like myself and from the advisers."

Boynton will continue as adviser next year but a new director will be named.

Kansas U.

The colleges within a college program at the University of Kansas at Lawrence has been

in existence longer and involves many more students.

Started in the fall of 1966 for some 450 freshmen the program now involves more than 2,500 freshmen and some 450 sophomores in the college of liberal arts and sciences. All these students are organized into one of five colleges based on their living group, whether dormitory, fraternity or sorority.

A college spokesman said, "The general aim of the colleges within the college program is to obtain for freshmen and sophomores in a large public university the advantages of the small academic community and at the same time to preserve for the student, access to the extraordinary richness or resources of the multiversity."

Offices of the five colleges are maintained in housing units and seminars are held there. Regular classes are held in main campus buildings.

Dean Jerry Lewis said, "We want them to carry the classroom back to their living unit." He added, "What we're trying to do for every student is what we do for the honors program."

He said that students normally do not relate to one another in the classroom but under this program the students they see in their undergraduate classes are the same ones they see in their living units.

The office of each college is designed to serve as a place where students in that college can get answers to academic, social and personal questions. Representatives of the college of liberal arts, and the offices of the dean of men, dean of women and registrar form the administration of each college.

Lewis thinks the program is working well. He said a professor seldom gets away on time at the end of a 50-minute informal seminar. Lewis told of seeing students follow a professor out to his car still asking questions.

Kansas State

At Kansas State at Manhattan an experimental living unit for 24 students is being operated in a 600-person dormitory. The students in the unit — both men and women — are students with social and personal problems, potential dropouts. Men live on one wing; women on another, with

a common lounge for the two wings.

Students in the unit, now in its second year, get help from "normal" students living in the unit, from the Kansas State counseling center and the mental health section of the student health center.

Dr. Robert Sinnott, a native of Muscatine and a graduate of the University of Iowa, is director of the program.

Both students who need help and those who want to help volunteer to participate in the program. Dr. Chester Peters, vice-president for student affairs, said, "They have to want to go in; we don't force them in."

He sees the program as one of putting students in a setting so they can re-establish their stability.

There are no planned activities. The program is one of having someone to talk to who is a sympathetic listener. Dr. Sinnott said.

The program is supported by a Vocational Rehabilitation administration grant.

ISU Scholarships In Architecture

AMES — Scholarships and awards were given to seven Iowa State architecture students in ceremonies on the campus this week as the spring quarter draws to a close.

Scott Olson, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Donald Olson, 2728 Franklin avenue NE, Cedar Rapids, a senior, was awarded the Durrant, Deisinger, Dommer, Kramer and Gordon Award of \$200.

This is given to the fourth year student who has demonstrated consistent excellence in design and who is in the upper one-third of his class. He is a member of Tau Beta Pi, Tau Sigma Delta and Knights of St. Patrick engineering honoraries and has been on the dean's list for high academic standing. He is a member of the student branch of the American Institute of Architects and was a member of the Foreign Study Program in Europe last winter.

Mardith Ann Baenziger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Norman C. Baenziger, 725 West Benton, Iowa City, senior student, was awarded the Charles Frederick Bowers Award of \$50. This is given each year to the architecture student who makes the best record in professional courses during the senior year.

Aim at More Flexibility In U. of I. Dorm System

By Staff Writer

IOWA CITY — The dormitory system at any college comes in for a lot of student criticism and the system at the University of Iowa is no exception.

The complaints usually center around the size of the buildings and rules and regulations involved in their operation.

In answer to the complaints, the U. of I. has attempted to build more flexibility into the system.

Starting next fall dormitory residents will have two options for the number of meals they wish to eat in the dormitory. Students who live off-campus will also be able to eat in the dormitory on a regular basis if they wish.

Students who want to eat regularly in another dorm will be able to do so. For instance a student who lives in Hillcrest on the west side of the river but has late morning

and early afternoon classes on the east side of the river could eat at Burge women's dormitory if he made the necessary arrangements at the beginning of the year.

Decorations

Students will be allowed to decorate their own rooms providing they pay for necessary repairs. However, it is pointed out that this does not include painting the walls or furniture without permission from the dormitory director.

A plan is being developed by the office of student affairs to establish an experimental grouping of students with similar interests in a dormitory. Currently rooms are allotted on a seniority basis to returning students and first come, first serve to new students.

University employes will be allowed to enter dormitory rooms only for cleaning, maintenance, fire and health inspection, etc., not "at any time" as stated in the previous policy.

Other Requests

Some students think that drinking and unlimited visits by students of the opposite sex should be allowed in the dorms. So far the university officials have taken no action on these requests and it seems unlikely that they will.

Dormitory open houses are held from time to time, but students are not agreed on them. Some students say they don't like the idea of getting dressed up if they want to walk down the hall while an open house is going on.

The university has rejected student requests for more flexible leases than the annual lease currently used.

President Howard Bowen said firm annual leases are desirable for two reasons:

1. They have the effect of encouraging students to remain in the halls over full years and thus of forming stable social groups.

2. They help to reduce dormitory rentals to students by helping them to insure that the dormitories will be reasonably occupied throughout each academic year and by reducing administrative costs of operating the dormitories.

He noted, "Indeed, there is nothing unusual in our society about leases that run one year or longer."

A university proposal that the traditional arrangement of housing, men's dorms on the west side of the river and women's dorms on the east side, be changed was rejected by students during this school year. The administration had proposed to put men in one of the women's dorms and women in one of the men's dorms. But not enough students indicated an interest in such a switch and so the traditional pattern will continue.

The university houses some 5,000 students in four women's dormitories and four men's dormitories. A new men's dormitory for some 500 students will be added to the system in the fall.



THREE CEDAR RAPIDS-Marion freshmen at the University of Iowa have been among the participants in the experimental living-learning program. Shown around a piano at South Quadrangle are from left, Richard Kenneavy, Marion; Gregory Witt, Cedar Rapids; Scot Andrea, Marion, and a counselor for the program, Kurt Piernot of Sauk City, Wis. Piernot, a graduate student in guidance and counseling will begin work as a counselor in the College Community district in the fall.

Short Course In Journalism Slated at ISU

AMES—High school graduates unable for one reason or another to attend college this fall can learn the basic skills required in a newspaper career by enrolling in the seventh annual short course in community journalism July 15-Aug. 22 at Iowa State.

"On-the-spot news gathering, photography and advertising are areas in which young men and women will find satisfaction and financial reward," Karl Friederich, assistant professor in the department of technical journalism and coordinator of the short course program, said.

"The number of jobs available for young people trained in basic journalistic skills is tremendous," he continued. "Our program is aimed directly at the young man or woman who doesn't foresee college in the near future but who would like to learn basic skills a professional newspaper man needs to know."

The six-week short course is designed to teach fundamentals of news writing, editing, advertising and photography. Classroom instruction is combined with practical experience on the student newspaper during the summer.

Cost for the six-week program is \$275 which covers room, board and tuition. Students live in a university dormitory and have access to all university facilities and activities including recreational programs. For commuters the cost is \$150.

Since enrollment for this year's short course is limited to 20 students, interested persons are urged to apply early. Application blanks or further information may be obtained by writing Friederich at the department of technical journalism, Iowa State, Ames, Iowa 50010.

W. Central Schools Will Open Monday

MAYNARD — Classes in West Central school centers will begin at the regular time Monday morning. However, junior and senior high school students are asked to bring work clothes. They will be dismissed early and students will be directed to downtown Maynard to help clear debris caused by the tornado that struck Maynard Wednesday.

No school has been held since the tornado struck. Three classrooms are without a roof. The district also lost six school buses, the bus garage and reported other minor damage.

500 Upper Iowa Students Aided Tornado Areas

FAYETTE — Classes and activities at Upper Iowa college were dismissed Thursday to allow students and faculty members to assist in relief work in the nearby tornado-stricken communities of Oelwein and Maynard.

More than 500 students answered the call for workers and spent the day helping officials clear debris, cut trees, and perform other tasks in the two disaster areas. Many students responded to the plea for help shortly after the tornadoes struck Wednesday afternoon, and worked through the night.

Faculty members, too, donned overalls and work clothes and assisted in the clean-up process. Two spring activities scheduled for Thursday were postponed: The annual President's Ju-co-te (juice-coffee-tea) will be held on Tuesday while the scheduled sidewalk art show and sale will be held "on the first sunny day," according to Phil Manning, head of the art department.

The faculty picnic, scheduled for Friday at Klock's Island park, has been postponed until next Friday. The Professional Food Service Management Co., which operates the cafeteria at Upper Iowa, prepared sack lunches for students working in the clean up, and also furnished food for the Red Cross centers.

Cornell Oratorio Concert Tuesday

MT. VERNON — The spring concert of the Cornell college Oratorio society has been set for 8 p.m., Tuesday in King chapel. Under the direction of Roger Scanlan, instructor in music, the group is composed of singers from the college campus and the Mt. Vernon community. Admission to the spring concert is free.

Annual Girls State June 3-9 at UNI

CEDAR FALLS — The 23rd annual Iowa American Legion auxiliary Girls State will be held June 3-9 on the University of Northern Iowa campus, Cedar Falls.

Over 300 teen-age Iowa girls will have the opportunity to study first hand their city, county and state governments through participation in the mythical political system, the "State of Hawkeye."

The auxiliary units throughout the state finance this program and select a high school junior girl from their home community to attend.

Manchester Airport Breakfast Is Today

MANCHESTER — A fly-in breakfast for private pilots of this area will be staged by members of two local flying clubs and their wives today at the municipal airstrip 2 miles west of Manchester.

Pilots from Monticello, Oelwein, and Independence have been invited, and breakfast will be served to an estimated 150 persons at the local airport hangar for visiting pilots and their passengers at 8 a.m.

—Luther—

(Continued from Page 1B.)

Charlotte Kummer, Leonard Bruce.

Maynard — Mary Hamilton; Oelwein — Mark Wardell; Postville — Robert Gigstead, Barbara Tinker, Joan Gunderson, Donald Genjergades.

Ridgeway — Harlan Sanderson; Strawberry Point — Patricia Evans; Waterville — U. of I. students and members Dale Gabrielson; Waukon — Bernard Hermanson, David Klock; West Union — Gerald Bade.

Insurance Paid To Survivors of 198 Servicemen

Deaths of 198 members of the nation's military forces from Iowa were reported under the Servicemen's Group Life Insurance program during 1967, according to the Institute of Life Insurance.

Nationwide figures from the defense department indicate that about 60 percent of all servicemen's deaths last year resulted from enemy action in Vietnam.

SGLI protection is provided servicemen by private life insurance companies under a group policy with the Veterans Administration. The policy automatically provides \$10,000 of life insurance, at a cost of \$2 a month, for each member of the uniformed forces on active duty — unless he voluntarily declines it or takes only \$5,000 coverage.

A total of \$1,970,000 in death payments on Iowa members of the military forces was reported during 1967.

Among all members of the nation's military forces, 15,557 deaths were reported under SGLI during 1967 (compared with 10,595 in 1966), and the 1967 death payments totaled \$154,545,000 (compared with \$105,700,000 in 1966).

New Music

IOWA CITY — Original compositions by University of Iowa music students and a member of the U. of I. Center for New Music will be performed at a composers' symposium today at 8 p.m. in North Music Hall. The new works will be performed by Patricia Evans; Waterville — U. of I. students and members Dale Gabrielson; Waukon — Bernard Hermanson, David Klock; West Union — Gerald Bade.

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