

AN INTERDEPARTMENTAL SEMINAR

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An interdepartmental seminar was organized in October, 1948, at Huron College by the departments of physics, chemistry, biology, psychology, and mathematics. This seminar meets once a week and is open to all interested persons, including persons not connected with the college. The meetings are informal in nature. Light refreshments are served during a thirty minute social period. Following this the group discusses any business, then the paper for that meeting is given.

Primarily, attendance consists of students and faculty members of the previously mentioned departments. Students of these departments may earn one credit by regular attendance and by the preparation and presentation of a paper. Other papers of general interest are given by faculty members and interested persons outside the college.

The seminar was organized to fulfill the following general functions:

1. To provide for the exchange of ideas between faculty members and students of the various departments.
2. To provide incentive for extracurricular study by students.
3. To provide audiences that students may use to develop skill in presentation of ideas.

The seminar was organized on an interdepartmental basis for the following reasons:

1. To provide for the interchange of ideas and problems between the various departments.
2. To supply a body large enough to furnish a continuous and varied program.
3. To provide a body large enough to exercise the skill of the student in the presentation of his paper.

Normally about twenty people attend these meetings. If this body were divided into departments, it can be seen that departmental seminars would fail in providing some of the functions desired. The major function, that of providing for an interchange of ideas between departments, suggests an interdepartmental organization which also solves the problem of sufficient membership.

Papers given to date offer a full picture of the activities undertaken:

1. "Construction of a Reflecting Telescope", Physics Department.
2. "A Few Aspects of Conservation", Biology Department.
3. "Activities of the Veterans Guidance Center", Mr. Nevin Platt, Veterans Administration.
4. "The Rh Factor", Biology Department.
5. "Beyond the Googol", Mathematics Department.
6. "The Heat Pump and Principles of Refrigeration", Chemistry Department.
7. "The Duodecimal System", Mathematics Department.
8. "Forest Conservation", Biology Department.
9. "An Experiment in Microphotography", Biology Department.
10. "Growing Plants Without Soil", Chemistry Department.
11. "The Fallacy of Race", Biology Department.
12. "A Report on the Newspapermen's Atomic Energy Seminar", Bruce Campbell, Huron Daily Plainsman staff writer.
13. "Japanese Woodprints", Biology Department.
14. "The Removal of Rough Fish from Lake Byron", Ross Wiley, state game warden, with movies of the work by Ray Teschner and Chester Austin of Willow Lake, South Dakota.

15. "Ancient New Testament Manuscripts", Religion Department.
16. "Radio Aids to Navigation", Physics Department.
17. "After Dinner Science", Physics and Chemistry Departments.
18. Reports on "The Character and Value of Four Scientific Journals", Biology, Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics Departments.
19. "X-Ray Photographs", Biology Department.
20. "Dyes", Chemistry Department.
21. "Outdoors with Nature", Biology Department.
22. "Early History of Huron College"; English Department.

Summarizing the list, eleven papers have been given by faculty members, eleven by students, and three by speakers not associated with the college.