

**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY COUNSELING CENTER:
Historical Sketches - 1941 - 1969**

by
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"That upon the recommendation of the President, there be created in the President's Division, the Occupational Opportunities Service, effective July 1, 1941, and that the President be authorized to establish the organization and appoint the necessary personnel." (Trustees Minutes, 26 May 1941.)

Thus began what is today known as the University Counseling Center. The following pages are an attempt to trace the historical perspectives of this service oriented Center.

Dr. Harold Edgerton was the first Director. It was noted in Dr. Edgerton's first Annual Report that the OOS had primarily a vocational-information dissemination mission. A small circulating library of occupational materials was set up. A vocational bibliography was assembled and a unified catalogue of all Ohio State University Library vocational materials was proposed. Bibliographies and check lists of various occupations related to majors were prepared for various Ohio State University departments and for the armed forces.

Defense Information for Counselors, a periodically up-dated desk book was prepared and maintained by OOS. This publication covered various aspects of Selective Service and information relative to "critical" or "shortage" occupations.

Defense Information for Counselors was circulated to Deans, Secretaries, Junior Deans, Deferment Committee Chairmen and other counseling personnel at Ohio State University. Denison University, the University of Illinois, the University of Nebraska, Muskegan and Ohio University also received copies. It was also sent to the American Council on Education. Expansion of the Defense Information publication appeared inevitable.

In cooperation with Dean Esther Gaw, OOS served as a mailing agency for a vocational information conference for women.

An aptitude testing program was established, serving 1,200 students during this first year. Reporting forms and interpretive manuals for counselors were prepared.

OOS staff served as consultants to the University School, Boys' Industrial School, and the Marion County (Ohio) schools in the area of tests.

Other testing activities included administration, scoring and reporting of color-vision screening tests, of psychological tests for potential draftees, of pre-college tests on a "pilot-program" basis. New tests and/or test batteries to meet expressed needs of special campus groups were developed. These included the departments of Nursing and Veterinary Medicine and the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity. Research in development, evaluation and use of test materials was planned.

It was noted that the testing service was a cooperative venture; interest and support were forthcoming from junior deans and counselors around the campus. Assistance was given by OOS to students and other non-professional staff on the campus.

As to the future, the Director stated that more suitable, centrally located quarters were needed for OOS. An expansion of services to include pre-test counseling, especially on the point of the limitations of aptitude tests was envisioned. The question of scoring tests for other schools on a fee basis was raised. The possibility was mentioned of furnishing technical service to departments carrying on studies of their graduate and occupational curricula.

1942 - 1945

The establishment of OOS in 1941 anticipated the out-break of World War II by only about 3 months. Almost from the beginning, the major efforts expended by OOS were related to the military. As the war progressed and the end appeared imminent, the focus of activity turned toward the returning G.I.'s - the "Vets" - especially those who presumably would become students at the Ohio State University.

The aims of OOS crystallized at this time. A new publication, Ohio State & Occupations was begun. Mimeographed, the newsletter served as a vehicle for the dissemination of information on over 99 occupations directly related to Ohio State University degree programs. Ohio State & Occupations was very well received by college and department faculty and administration, counselors, and high-school advisors. Plans were drawn for printing the newsletter in future years and in 1945 the printed version first appeared. Incorporated into the Army vocational information kit, it was also in use by the Office of Technical and Science personnel. In time, the newsletter circulated nationwide.

Vocational counseling of returning servicemen, high school students, and, of course, University students was undertaken. As a supplement to already existing counseling facilities of the University, the aptitude testing program, through a comprehensive variety of scales, provided a considerable amount of information about the characteristics of each student for his own career purposes. In many cases, vocational counseling about choice of field or possible major change was done. The testing and counseling services are available to all students of the University, to high school students contemplating entrance to the University, and returning veterans. In addition to those functions, we have served as a clearing house for special information which might be of assistance to students, faculty, and advisers in regard to Army programs, the Selective Service, training of University students, the war industry, the War Service Occupations for Women, etc.

By late 1944, the OOS had outgrown its quarters in the men's Natatorium and was relocated in the Armory. The more central location on campus accommodated approximately 100 more students per month, many of whom were veterans.

Another periodical publication, OOS Scratchpad was begun. The semi-monthly sheet provided occupational information, notes on counseling techniques, and comments on various vocational monographs.

The new location permitted an expansion of the testing program, which now began to be more "tailored" to individual needs. Each counselor received an average of three hours of counseling, plus testing. Colleges, as well as the State Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Veteran's Administration, and various high school counselors referred counselees to OOS, not only for aptitude testing, but for vocational counseling as well.

Additional special testing programs and scoring services were carried on.

Research in the areas of test validity and development was continuing.

By the close of the 1944-1945 academic year, a contract between the Veteran's Administration and OOS had been agreed upon, and three new staff members were needed.

It had been recognized that OOS was the only professionally established vocational counseling center on the campus. As such, OOS provided discussions of counseling techniques and practical experience for other University counselors.

1945 - 1951

Now began a period of post-war adjustment. The University was inundated with thousands of veterans, each armed with the "G. I. Bill" entitlement to four years of college for each two years of service (four years was maximum). The 1945 OOS Annual Report indicated that the major emphasis continued to be on vocational counseling. Ninety-five percent of the counselees were Ohio State University students, and many of these were veterans. Accommodation was made for alumni, students presently enrolled, or high school seniors contemplating coming to The Ohio State University. Referrals were accepted from the Veterans Administration and The Ohio State Commission for the Blind, as well as from the State Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation. Some few counselees, either self-referred or referred by agencies in the city, came to the center. Test scoring continued for various campus departments and agencies, and some training of new counselor personnel was undertaken. Counselors employed to work with veterans received two to four weeks of training. The other counselors worked with non-military people.

The 1946-1947 Annual Report indicated that among the most important services of the OOS were the rendering of complete vocational counseling to those requesting the service, the providing of complete psychological testing services, the compiling and maintaining of an occupational library, the training of graduate students as vocational counselors, and the promoting of general research in the field of vocational counseling. In the 1946-1947 year, more than 4,000 veterans received some sort of counseling services through the facilities of OOS. In addition, non-veteran students also received counseling during this period. These services not only did not interfere with each other but were carried out under very difficult conditions; the problem of maintaining a large and qualified counseling staff was apparently a difficult one.

The 1947-1948 Annual Report showed that the OOS was continuing along as it had in previous years. 3682 individuals received vocational counseling, of which 2542 were veterans. Extensive use was made of the vocational information library as well as of the testing facilities.

In the summer of 1947, a pre-college counseling program was initiated. Approximately 500 freshmen received counseling before entering the University. This program was to be continued annually.

The test scoring service was established in September of 1947 and a total of more than 90,000 tests was scored, including approximately 50,000 for departments in the University and other agencies of the State of Ohio. Beyond this, research projects were increased during this year.

The veterans counseling accounted for 1,631 of a total of 3,037 clients seen in 1948-1949. The occupational library material file was increased in size, and for the first time "company files" were set up containing material on 250 companies. These were seen to be useful to graduating seniors wanting information on potential employers. Between 1,000 and 1,200 tests were scored each month as a campus-wide service.

A Mathematics Placement Test was developed and its first administration was to incoming freshmen in the Fall Quarter, 1949.

A research director, Dr. Halladay, was appointed. Under his supervision, OSU and Occupations was revised, the pre-college counseling for the summer of 1949 was evaluated and a shorter form of the Kuder Preference Record was developed.

Miscellaneous service projects included a series of ten weekly programs on WOSU concerned with various aspects of vocations and college and non-college educational opportunities for high school seniors and their parents. The OOS Scratchpad continued to be distributed during this year.

In the academic year, 1949-1950, veteran counselees totalled 1065 out of a total of 2580 students seen. This brought the total of veterans counseled since World War II to approximately 11,000. Since the establishment of OOS, approximately 22,000 people had used the service.

Though the veterans' demands for service declined, plans called for continuation of service to the veterans for at least one more year.

The summer pre-college conference reached about 15 percent of the total entering freshmen for the Fall Quarter of 1949.

Additional material was added to the vocational library. The company file now had 800 firms represented. Directories of colleges,

and of professional technical, vocational and trade schools, tips on effective study and campus social life were added.

The testing service was used heavily during this period. Twelve thousand tests were administered for the OOS and other student personnel agencies. Thirty-six thousand tests were scored for thirteen teaching departments. Orientation week each quarter involved scoring an additional 14,000 tests. Item analysis service was provided for the Mathematics Department for purposes of validating their placement test. A quarterly report of test percentiles was initiated, containing scores of those tested during the quarterly orientation week for distribution to college and department officers and counselors.

The Research Division was concerned with the following: (1) completing revisions of OSU and Occupations, (2) revising the English Placement Test, (3) preparing the new Mathematics Placement Test for the Fall Quarter of 1950, (4) studying predictions of success in the Engineering College, (5) extending limited test consulting service to teaching departments, and (6) experimental programs in group occupational orientation, conducted in cooperation with the College of Arts and Sciences and the Department of Psychology.

The OOS Scratchpad was published five times during this year.

Twenty students were in counseling training through the College of Education and the Vocational Guidance Laboratory.

The year 1950-1951 marked the Tenth Anniversary of the OOS. The service was still quartered in the Armory.

Marking the Tenth Anniversary of the establishment of the OOS, the Director noted that veterans counseling had dropped this year to 500, of whom 273 received complete counseling. Since 1945, OOS had counseled 12,000 veterans. The contract with the Veterans Administration terminated June 30, 1951.

The pre-college counseling program was continued with 604 students counseled prior to fall quarter of 1950. The Orientation Program in 1949-1950 had begun to de-emphasize testing and to include other, more social type of events and broader notions of orientation.

The Information Library continued to expand, although space was a major concern. Six booklets, Occupational Tools for College Students, were in preparation for publication in May of 1951. This was to be a functionally related grouping of occupations.

Testing (Psychometric Services) activities were extended to 3,082 individuals, to or for whom over 12,000 tests were administered, scored, profiled, and reported. Twenty-one instructional departments and six off-campus institutions sent an additional 22,000 tests for scoring, and in some cases for item analysis. Distribution of the quarterly report of percentiles on students tested continued. The

School of Architecture requested OOS to assist them in screening applicants. This screening was established, as well as group testing of sophomore Army ROTC students and counseling of potential advanced ROTC students.

In the area of research, a comprehensive follow-up of the 1947 pre-college conference participants was completed. An evaluation of the new Mathematics and English Placement tests was begun. In addition, a validation study of the aptitude tests offered by OOS was undertaken. Consultation with other departments around the campus on tests was offered. There were sixteen students in the education and vocational guidance laboratory course.

For the first time, during the year 1951, the question was raised concerning the confidentiality of the counseling interviews and the sending of reports to deans or other University officers.

1951-1956

During these years, the OOS maintained its posture of being essentially a service agency, eager to provide all possible assistance to help students adjust to college life and plan effectively for their future. Service was offered in a four pronged mode: (1) pre-college counseling program available to all freshmen (2) individual counseling for students (3) occupations library (4) testing services available to many departments as well as to public schools.

Also, gaining prominence at this time was a program devoted to basic and applied research. This program began with, as director, Dr. Pepinski. Two full-time assistants, and one part-time assistant completed this team. By the end of this period the research program was experiencing great activity. Funds were received from various sources to make this effort possible. At one point there were as many as 16 projects being conducted at the same time. Certain non-research projects were in various stages of progress also. The number of counselees ranged from 1633 in 1951-1952 to 3348 at the end of this period of time. The average number of tests administered for this period per year was 10,000. Approximately 90% of those individuals counseled were Ohio State University students.

As far as serving the students was concerned, the "total person" concept prevailed; the individual's values, aspirations, abilities, etc. Students found their way to the OOS by formal and informal referrals as well as by self-referrals. Dismissed students were often required to come for counseling as part of the re-entry process. Fee cases were accepted during these years consisting of high school students, other college students, and adults. There may have been as few as one session or as many as ten or more.

The concept of group counseling first was initiated during the Spring Quarter of 1954. This was encouraging enough to continue and broaden these groups for future years.

It was felt that certain specific needs of students could not be met within the existing structure. Emotional problems were least applicable. Therefore, such outside agencies as the Veterans Administration, Family Services, local psychologists and psychiatrists and others were resorted to.

Until recently a full report on each student seen in the OOS was sent to the counselee's college office. This procedure was stopped primarily due to the concept of confidentiality as well as being simply too much clerical work. However, reports on all female students were sent to the Dean of Women and reports were sent on anyone to anyone when it was thought they had a right to this information.

The students themselves requested personal adjustment literature and this was added to the occupational information during the 1954 period.

Psychology 785 (laboratory and vocational educational counseling) was conducted during various quarters of these years in the OOS. Clients were high school students. At the end of this period, the course number was changed to 828B but the design and purpose remained constant.

The OOS got a new lease on life at the beginning of Winter Quarter, 1956. The operation moved out of the Armory, into its present location (June 1969) in the basement of the Student Services Building. The increase of space provided immediate benefits to the student body in terms of improved services. A year later a name change became effective; from Occupational Opportunities Service to the University Counseling and Testing Center. Essential functions remained the same, however.

Testing was busy toward the end of this period developing, revising, and evaluating forms of the Ohio State University Math Placement Test and English Placement Test.

1956-1959

This three year period was characterized by steady mushrooming growth. In spite of a great service demand increase, staff size remained static. More individuals were seen for more counseling sessions than in years previous. Fee cases increased. These were seriously looked at with the possibility of dropping them. Under these conditions it was felt that extra-University services would have to be drastically reduced.

The Center was responsible to Vice-President Stradley until his death in mid-1957. Dean Guthrie was appointed Executive Dean for Student Relations by President Fawcett. The Center then became responsible to him.

All orientation responsibility was delegated to the Center. The 10th annual pre-College Program was run in August of 1956, but its characteristics had changes by 1959; parental participation, all new students reported in the summer for placement tests and scheduling, several two day sessions, Ohio Union entertainment, X-rays, etc.

The testing phase of the Center was moving very fast also. The single most significant development was revision of the English and Math Placement Tests. All entering students received this testing including the OSPE. The scoring of 16,150 tests for secondary schools and over 4,000 Ohio State University course exams characterized only one of these years.

The 828B course continued to function involving University High School students and other public high school students as clients.

A full report of dismissed students seeking re-entry was submitted to their college officer during these years.

A new feature was an in-training program for full and half-time counselors.

Research was also quite busy these years. Most research fell into two major categories: student productivity and test development. The College of Engineering conducted a major study in conjunction with the Center. The focus of this study was for a better University setting: majorly to determine (a) what kinds of students the Department of Education was trying to foster and (b) the impact of curriculum change upon these students. An assessment of the inter-farm youth exchange program was tackled, and the United States Air Force funded a study for development of methods for defining and assessing productivity of research teams in organizational settings.

1958-1959 was a banner year in another way. Alice E. Nissen, a sympathizer to the cause of vocational planning, passed away and left a bequest totalling \$75,000 to the Counseling Center. It was to be invested and allowed to grow to \$100,000 which was soon accomplished. This Foundation was then to be used for the exclusive benefit of the Center's mission.

The Occupations Library continued to serve students who had questions concerning this area of their life. It was planned to issue a brief pamphlet during the following year for use of faculty to refer students to this particular library. A slightly new light fell on this area of the Center's service. This information served as a focus for the Psychology 689, Occupational Information course.

Graduate practicum students counseled college students for the first time. Also this year (1958-1959) monthly staff meetings were held with Dean Guthrie for the purpose of better acquainting him with the specific concerns of the Center.

The Center had been quietly moving along for close to two decades. Personnel had come and gone. Programs had been established, discontinued, and/or modified. Up until this point very few "squeaks"

had developed. (At least few were recorded.) However, storm clouds were gathering at the end of this period of time. A special report was developed by two members of the counseling team concerning the future direction the Center might take as well as present feelings about the Center by other University offices. The Center's archives contain this particular confidential three page report.

1959-1962

Dr. Frank Fletcher went to India for most of 1959-1960 and Dr. Pepinsky, the Research Director, acted as Counseling Center Director in Dr. Fletcher's absence. The Center's activities continued on the same track these two years. Internal re-organization was ongoing. Since the Center wished to keep abreast of University changes, this cogitation is constant then as now. Dr. Pepinsky drew up the plans, they were approved by Dr. Fletcher and sent on to Dean Guthrie. These plans concerned title changes, flow chart revisions, and moving testing up to the third floor of the Student Services Building.

High school students as clients were dropped from the practicum course. Only University students were eligible for counseling during this block of time. Fee cases were finally dropped. Total counseling sessions reached as high as 4173 during one of the years. Intake interviews were begun at this stage. They were for the purposes of deciding what the student wanted and lasted approximately one-half hour.

A meeting was held in 1959 with Dean Guthrie to discuss the concept of confidentiality. This is the first time this concept was discussed at this level.

The year 1960-1961 marks the second decade of service to the University. In 1961-1962, Dr. Fletcher remarked that in this twenty-first year of service the Center "became of age". One major innovation occurred this year: initiating an educational skills program in cooperation with the Psychology Department and partially funded by them. It was mostly tied in with counseling and provided diagnostic testing and skills practice on an individual basis. It in no way competed with the then Psychology 411 (now known as Psychology 120). Approximately 150 students received this service during the first year.

Individual counseling remained the *raison d'être* and even though there was no great change, it was felt that the entire program had increased in quality and effectiveness in the area of services to the student body.

1962-1968

Many changes and clarifications of roles were engaged in during this block of time. Dr. George F. Wooster, the new Director for the University Counseling Center took over in January of 1963. In 1963-1964, Dr. Wooster met with most of the college deans and various agencies of the University for the purposes of relating the Center's activities to the University as well as to the community at large. Also the counselors had some dialogues with various campus groups explaining the Center's services. The primary aim of the University

Counseling Center, as it is now called, was to be of service to the student body exclusively. All staff were appointed on a regular full time basis to provide the following three pronged service: Psychological Consultation, Career Planning, and Reading and Study Skills. During 1964-1965 the practicum course was deleted from the Center's operation along with the interns. Emphasis upon research diminished, but research relevant to the continuing successful operation of the Center always has a place. Also during this year the concept of an "on-call" hour was established so that virtually any student could see a counselor on an "emergency" basis at any hour (during normal daytime hours).

On 1 July 1963 the Testing Division was officially removed from the Counseling Division and, located on the third floor of the Student Services Building, was known as the Orientation and Testing Center. The Counseling Center became known as the University Counseling Center and continued on its way in the basement.

The study skills improvement groups were formalized and streamlined by Dr. Stanley E. Davis during this time. Many students took advantage of this program in these years. The occupational information was being constantly updated. The U.S. Employment Service made the General Aptitude Test Battery (GATB) available for use in the Center. It is administered very frequently throughout each year.

During this time the Center was involved with the Federal Work-Study Program. In 1965-1966, Mr. Fulgham, area head for Career Planning, coordinated the Federal Careers Exhibition held on campus.

Also during this year general internal remodeling was accomplished and the Center enjoyed these improved conditions.

Acquaintanceship luncheons began this year also. These were informal invitations to various faculty members. They were held once a month primarily for "getting-to-know-you" and not to beat the drum for the Center perse.

During this period, counselee contact averaged well over 2000 per year.

The year 1966-1967 saw the first appointment of a psychiatric social worker to the staff. She was given primary responsibility for marital and pre-marital counseling. This was the first official recognition of the need in this area and interest has steadily increased.

For freshman counselees, the Occupational Interest Survey was initiated this year. Also, an experimental program of having a counselor available in the dormitory environment was set up in Mack Hall. This proved successful enough to expand this type of "satellite" counseling.

During these years the staff showed marked interest in ancillary

activities: attending professional meetings, serving on committees, writing, test construction, etc. Dr. Wooster served as chairman of the Junior Administrative Council.

The first annual invitational conference for counselors in higher education in Ohio was organized for November of 1967.

Group counseling was offered by the Psychology Division. Six groups were organized and met once a week. Similar groups are presently being held.

Career Planning developed a new useful book called College Majors as a Guide to Career Planning. This was in process for some time and became available in the fall of 1968.

It was clarified that the University Counseling Center does not provide psychiatric service. When psychiatric attention is needed the individual is referred either to interim service in the Mental Health Service section in this building, to Upham Hall, or to someone in private practice.

1968-1969

This year, the final year before the Centennial begins, was of interest on several counts. The total number of consultation hours reached over 6000 (the all time high) with 2600 total students seen. The concept of the in-training program returned this year. This began with five unpaid trainees this year and for 1969-1970 five doctoral students in counseling psychology have been engaged with pay to serve as interns. In this and in one or two other ways the Counseling Center has been developing lines of communication with the Psychology Department.

The dormitory contacts have been maintained by certain counselors and in addition, at the request of Taylor and Drackett Towers, a voluntary attendance survey course of study skills was offered. It is feasible that this program may become more wide spread.

Consistent with past desires to operate some sort of "career day" on campus, Mr. Fulghum has done a good deal of spade work in setting up "Prospectus 70". The organizational effort has included from a vice-president to the students themselves. A committee was formed which includes the active participation of five students. This is to be a two day conference in April of 1970. Many business concerns have been contacted and accepted the invitation. Primarily this is to be of an information dissemination mission and not recruitment per se. Plans include participation by the students of Ohio State, Capital University, Otterbein, and other institutions of higher education as well as by high school students.

The Psychology Division under Dr. Mary Alice Price continued to devote most of its time to counseling students individually and in groups. The Reading and Learning Skills Division did the same

and Career Planning continued to work along with students on problems germane to that area.

Various counselors gave talks to very varied audiences throughout the year. One counselor had an article published in a national professional journal, two counselors served on national committees of professional organizations. The Ohio Counselors Conference was held again in the fall and another is being planned for fall, 1969.

Dr. Wooster was invited to serve as a member of the advisory group for the National Association of College University Administrators.

Thus, the activities of the Counseling Center during this final year of the University's First Century are typified by growth, true to many of its past years. The recent projections into the Second Century also show possibilities for the continued growth and refinement of providing expanding service to the student body of The Ohio State University. It should be quite interesting to watch the progress of the University Counseling Center as it emerges from the sunset of the First Century into the dawn of the Second Century!