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## University College, 1955-1983, Summer Sessions, 1979-1983

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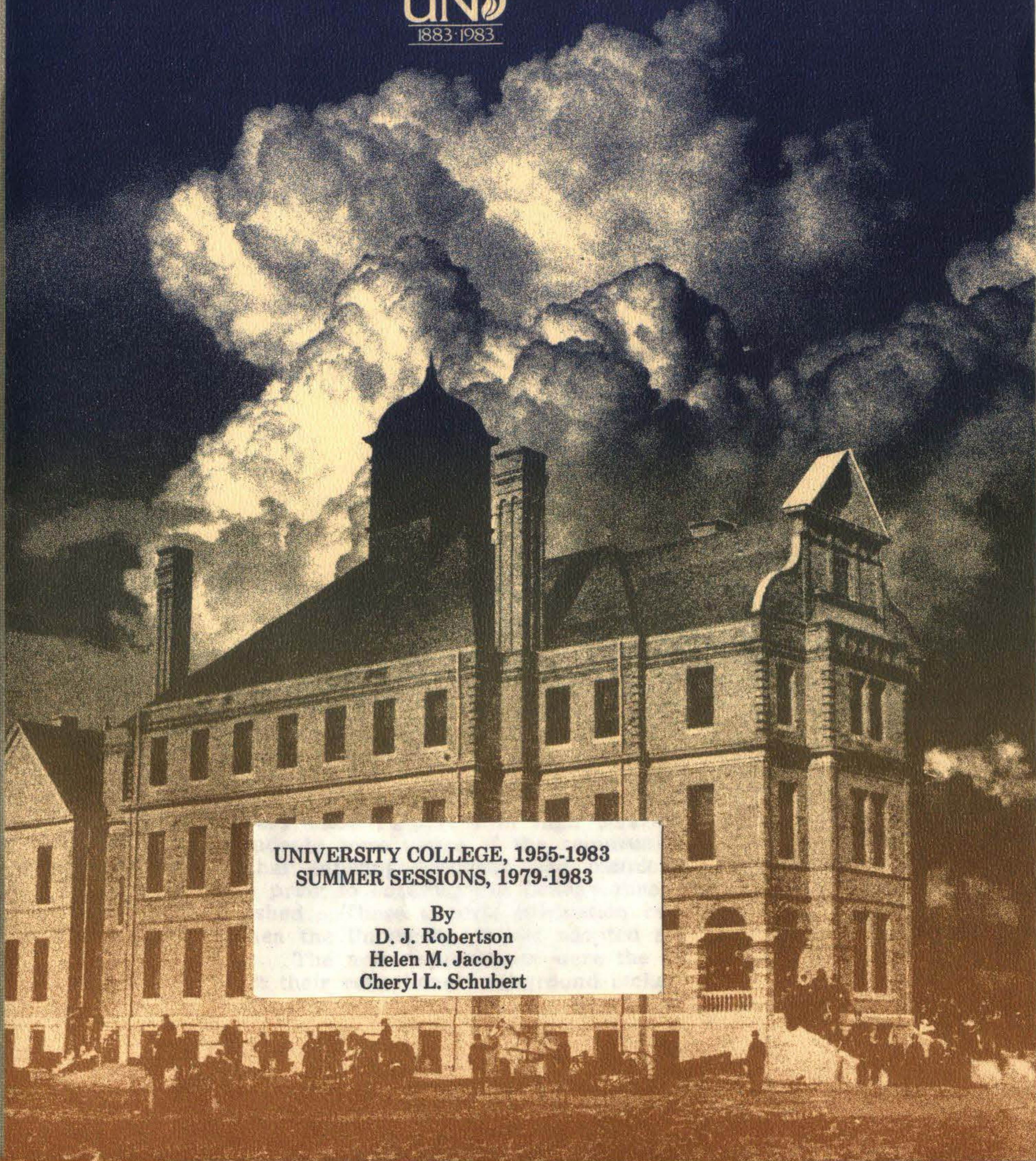
# DEPARTMENTAL HISTORIES

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UND  
1883-1983

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, 1955-1983  
SUMMER SESSIONS, 1979-1983

By  
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University College, 1955-1983  
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Early History  
of  
University College  
1955-1978

On April 21, 1955, the University College was established by action of the University Council. On April 25 of the same year approval by the Board of Higher Education was granted. Beginning with the first semester of the 1955-56 academic year, all freshman students registering at the University were enrolled in the University College. D. J. Robertson, who was then Dean of Students, was appointed as the first Dean of the University College.

The concept of the University College was brought to North Dakota by newly-appointed President George W. Starcher who had come from Ohio University where, earlier in his career, he had been dean of a similar division. Dr. Starcher's proposal was for a freshman division to serve as a foundation for the later work in the four undergraduate degree colleges. With the approval of the University Senate and Board of Higher Education, the University College became the coordinating administrative agency responsible for the academic program, counseling, and freshman orientation.

While the proposal did not require prescribed courses of study for all freshmen, the University College would provide a program designed to insure a minimum of studies generally recognized as essential to educated persons. The program took into account each student's vocational objectives. Every freshman who expected to pursue a degree was required to complete courses in humanities, mathematics, natural sciences, social sciences, English composition, and physical education. Under special circumstances, certain requirements could be altered or waived.

These were the first general graduation requirements which the University had had for many years. They made sense because they took into account the fact that freshmen entering the University came from many different types of high schools and the students had varied preparations. Because the University College established a very close rapport with high schools in the state, and because high school students were aware of the requirements, it soon became apparent to advisors that entering freshmen had completed more courses in mathematics and science prior to entering the College than before the requirements had been established. These general graduation requirements remained in effect until 1972, when the University Senate adopted a new set of general graduation requirements. The new requirements were the same for all entering students, no matter what their educational background included.



At approximately the same time the new requirements were established, the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) was adopted at the University. Both the 1972 general graduation requirements and the scores accepted for CLEP examination have been modified several times.

When President Starcher announced his plan for the University College he also announced that it would provide personal counseling for freshmen. In so doing, more than one hundred University faculty members were appointed advisors to freshmen in the University College. For the most part, this system worked very well. The freshmen visited with their advisors as a group when they first arrived on the campus. After that, individual interviews with each freshman and their advisor were scheduled. The only real difficulty encountered was with those entering students who indicated that they had not yet decided on a course of study. Most of these students were assigned to faculty members in the English Department, who were considered to be good academic advisors. Some of these advisors were indifferent to the situation and some of the freshmen who had not decided on a major were also dissatisfied with their advisors. Therefore, a program was gradually worked out in which all of the undecided freshmen were advised in the office of the University College. Workshops were held with faculty advisors in the office of the University College. Workshop sessions were held with faculty advisors in the fall, following the general faculty meeting, and the directions were given to advisors for the advisement of their counselees, including a list of the counselees and a schedule of their visits.

In 1958, the University College received permission to grant the Associate Arts Degree. This degree (first called a diploma) was awarded to students who had successfully completed certain course requirements in a two-year program. These degrees were offered in a number of areas, the most popular of which was the Secretarial Program.

The Student Financial Aid Office at the University was not established until 1965. Prior to that time, much of the financial aid program was administered by the University College. The Dean of the University College was a member of the Student Loan Committee, which was chaired by Edward Olson, Business Manager of the University. The other member was Dean R. B. Witmer of the College of Arts and Sciences. Dean Robertson was also Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, and was a member of the National Direct Student Loan Committee which was established in 1959.

Freshmen orientation programs, originally established by Dean Robertson when he was Dean of Students, were also carried on by the University College. These programs, usually about a week in length, included such things as speech and hearing tests, aptitude tests such as the Ohio Psychological Examination, and various programs to introduce the new students to the campus and to their living quarters. Time was allowed for fraternity and sorority rushing, as well as various kinds of programs such as study skills and note taking. There had been no formal orientation program at the University until Dean Robertson took over. It has since been transferred to the office of the Dean of Students.

In the late 60's, it was decided that there would be several advantages to the beginning students to have them come onto the campus during the summer to register for their fall classes. The University College began this summer



registration program on a very small scale, using nearby committee rooms in Twamley Hall. The summer registration program grew very rapidly. It was held on the fourth floor of Twamley Hall, where the University Senate met, until that area was remodeled to be used for other purposes; the program then moved to Gamble Hall, where the program has been in effect for several years. As the program developed, faculty members were employed to aid as in the advisement of the students who came to the summer registration program. The faculty members included professors Lloyd Jarmin, Rodney Medalen, Robert Snortland, and Mabel Curry. It was found that the summer registration program was very successful and it has been growing in number of students since its origin.

The University College was involved with Girl's State. Dean Robertson first met with the officers of the American Legion Auxiliary and made arrangements for Girl's State to meet on the University campus in 1949. He served as liaison officer between the University and Girl's State for more than twenty-five years.

Beginning in 1962, the University College conducted a special summer program for gifted high school juniors. They were to take regular University courses during the summer and return to their high schools for their senior year. A few, with special permission, stayed at the University, without attending their senior year of high school, as regular students in the fall following the summer program. Most of the students did very well and the program was considered successful. It was discontinued when the CLEP was adopted by the University in 1972.

In addition to its other activities, the University College staff carried on a very active program in high school visitations. While he was still Assistant to the President, Dean Robertson instituted a plan for high school visitations. He continued the visitations while he was Dean of the University College, and later increased the number of high school visits by increasing the University College staff. Staff members included Luther Bjerke, Bill McLean, and Dan Allen. Only two of these people were employed at any one time. Originally, appointments were established to visit individual schools to talk to the senior students. Later, most of the schools adopted a system of Career Days, often jointly with other schools in their area, and staff members were kept busy visiting schools throughout the state of North Dakota and in many areas of Minnesota.

For a number of years, the University College also conducted conferences for high school principals, guidance counselors, and in smaller schools for the superintendents. These one-day conferences were held at the University, sometimes in the spring and sometimes in the fall. They usually began with a general session at which the high school administrators would be brought up to date on University requirements. Following that, they were scheduled to meet with students from their high schools who were freshmen at the University. The purpose of these conferences was to find out if the beginning students were meeting any special problems and how well they felt their high schools had prepared them for the University. The school administrators were always very enthusiastic about these conferences. The original reason for discontinuing the program was the difficulty of scheduling after the University went on an academic calendar which was different from the public school calendars.

Experience has shown that there is a definite need for an autonomous freshman unit at the University. Emphasis on general education during the freshman year widens the students' scope of intellectual activities before they select their



major areas. The overview enables students to focus upon goals with greater clarity. Then, even though the picture they have as they enter their majors may be the same as the one they had as they entered college, they will advance with greater confidence. If the picture is different from the one they had upon entering, they will avoid the hassle that often accompanies changes in laterally positioned administrative units common in American colleges. Thus the University College, in a very real sense, allows the student an additional year after high school in which to reach a career decision, a decision which then becomes much more valid.



University College 1978-83  
Summer Sessions 1979-83

On July 1, 1978, George W. Schubert became Dean of University College upon the retirement of D. J. Robertson. Schubert held a Ph.D. in speech pathology from the University of Washington and came to UND in the Fall of 1965. Before assuming the deanship, he had held the position of Professor and Chairman of the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology (now Communication Disorders).

When Schubert became Dean, the staff of the University College office consisted of Tom Seaworth and Dan Allen, University College Counselors, Peggy Pazderic, secretary, and Patti Adringa, secretary. Seaworth and Allen shared a number of varied responsibilities including high school and junior college recruitment, advising all freshmen who had not yet chosen a major, directing the work of the faculty counselors who advised all other freshmen, and organizing the summer freshman registration program.

During Schubert's first year as Dean, the activities of the University College changed very little from what they had been during Robertson's tenure. The office remained responsible for assisting students from the time they first considered attending UND, throughout their first year of college until they decided on a major field of study and entered one of the four year degree-granting colleges.

Two staff changes besides the appointment of Schubert took place during the 1978-79 academic year. In August 1978, Kathy Martin replaced Dan Allen as University College Counselor when Allen left to work for Xerox; and in January 1979, Mickey Kemper became the new secretary and administrative assistant when Peggy Pazderic moved to the financial aid office.

The two most major organizational changes in the twenty-seven year history of the University College took place on July 1, 1979, one year after Schubert's appointment. First, high school recruitment activities were transferred from University College to the newly created office of Enrollment Services, which also was responsible for student financial aid. This division of responsibility meant that Enrollment Services would assist high school students until the time they became members of the freshman class. Then the University College would assume the responsibility of advising and assisting students regarding their academic schedules, and helping students adjust to the University.

The removal of high school recruitment work from the University College meant changes for Tom Seaworth and Kathy Martin, the two staff members who had been responsible for both recruitment and for advising freshmen who had not yet chosen a major, as well as coordinating the advisement of all other freshmen. Seaworth and Martin were each given the choice of remaining in the University College as academic advisors or transferring to Enrollment Services in order to continue their recruitment responsibilities. Both decided to stay with University College and become full-time academic advisors.

The second major organizational change which took place that summer was the addition of Summer Session responsibility to the office of University College. John Penn, the Dean of Summer Sessions, retired on July 1, 1979, and Schubert was appointed his successor; his new title became Dean of University



College and Summer Sessions. Both responsibilities were administered from the same office with no increase in staff size. One change in staff membership did take place at this time however; in July 1979, Jolin Oberg replaced Patti Adringa as one of the office's two secretaries when Adringa left to work for an investment firm in Minneapolis. Oberg remained until November of 1980, when she moved to the Dean of Students Office and was replaced by Rynnene Pfeifer. Pfeifer resigned her position in August 1983 and accepted a nine month position as a secretary in the UND Law School. Debbie Rud replaced Pfeifer on September 5, 1983.

#### University College Activities since 1979

Five different people have been full-time academic advisors in the University College since these positions were created. Tom Seaworth resigned in August of 1979 in order to attend medical school; he was replaced by Marci Haga, who has remained a University College advisor. Kathy Martin, who held the other advising position, left to attend graduate school at the University of Colorado in August of 1980, and was replaced by Gene Veeder. In October 1981 Veeder was replaced by Bobbi Mohr, one of the current advisors.

The removal of high school recruitment activities from the responsibilities of the University College advisors has allowed the academic advisors to spend much more time with their advisees. Freshmen who have not decided on a major have been assigned an academic advisor in University College for a number of years, but before the summer of 1979, when the two advising positions became full-time, it was often very difficult for students to contact their University College advisors because of the advisor's frequent recruiting trips to high schools and junior colleges all over North Dakota and Minnesota. This was especially true during the spring semester. Now, however, after the change, the advisors can devote most of their time to the approximately 500 advisees, assigned to each of the two advisors in University College.

The advisors in University College are, and have been, widely involved in the profession of academic advising. Currently Haga and Mohr are members of both the National Association for Academic Advising (NACADA), and the National Association for College Admissions Counselors (NACAC), as well as serving on the UND Academic Advising Committee. They have attended regional and national conferences on academic advising and have held workshops and given speeches for various student groups. In addition, both Haga and Dean Schubert are currently members of the NACADA editorial board, and Schubert has published two articles in the NACADA Journal as well as serving on their National Site Selection Committee.

On November 1, 1982, Marci Haga's title was changed from academic advisor to Coordinator of Academic Advisement for University College. For a number of years, the advisor with the most seniority had been responsible for the coordination and organization of all freshman advising activities. The change in Haga's title constituted formal acknowledgement of the additional responsibilities that she and other advisors before her had undertaken for some time.

Along with the increased availability of the University College advisors to their advisees in recent years, a university policy, begun in the spring of 1982, now



requires all students to meet with their advisors before each semester to have their course registrations signed. This means that the University College advisors now see each of their assigned students at least twice a year.

For a number of years the University College has employed faculty members to aid in advising students during summer freshman registration. In 1978, Schubert's first year as Dean, the faculty advisors were Professors Rod Medalen, Bob Snortland, and Mabel Curry. Medalen and Snortland continue to serve as advisors during the summer registration program, but Curry was replaced in the summer of 1983 by Carol Hill, an associate professor of Nursing. These faculty advisors, along with the two University College advisors and part-time assistance from the recruiters in Enrollment Services, help the future freshmen plan their course schedules for the coming year.

The University College is also responsible for employing a faculty member to administer the summer transfer student registration. Initially this position was held by Norton Kinghorn; he was replaced in the summer of 1980 by Vern Keel. In 1983, for the first time, a faculty member, Sandra Donaldson, was hired to advise freshman transfer students during summer registration (all other transfer students are advised in their respective colleges and departments).

A major change which took place in the summer freshman registration program during the early years of Schubert's deanship was the development of a program for parents who accompany their son or daughter to registration. These sessions began as informal discussions about the university and the freshman year with parents who happened to be present. Gradually, the discussions developed into a well-organized program of talks and activities which parents were urged and invited to attend. Currently, the Parent Program agenda includes a slide presentation, meetings with Dean Schubert, a representative from Student Affairs, and the Director of Housing, lunch in Wilkerson Hall, and a tour of the UND campus. While the program for parents is taking place, the prospective students are attending meetings, taking placement tests, and consulting with advisors about the student's fall class schedule. Currently, about one-half of all freshmen registering over the summer are accompanied by their parents. University College has received very favorable feedback from parents who attended this program. They appreciate being informed about such things as academic requirements, the definition and explanation of University College, fraternities and sororities, parking regulations, and public transportation. Parents are pleased to discover that the university is concerned about their well-being and respects their opinions.

Other activities of the University College since Schubert's appointment as Dean include a review and revision of the Associate of Arts Degree curricula. Some of the degree programs offered had continually suffered from very small enrollments and/or were not considered to be adequately preparing students for a career in the chosen field; these programs were formally eliminated. Areas in which Associate degrees were once offered by UND, but in which they have since been discontinued, include Business Administration, Fashion and Fabrics, Food Service Association, Engineering Aid, Geographic Studies, Industrial Technology, Journalism, Library Science, Recreation Leadership, and Visual Arts. Currently, four Associate degrees are offered by two departments: Flight Attendant, Professional Flight, and Air Traffic Control, offered by the department of Aviation; and Executive Secretary, offered by the department of



Business and Vocational Education. In 1982, students receiving the Associate of Arts degree were allowed to participate in commencement ceremonies for the first time. Nine students presented themselves for the formal activities.

Although there have been a number of alterations in the activities and organization of University College since its founding in 1955, the overall goals of the College have not changed. The University College was created to help entering freshmen adjust to UND and widen their academic experiences before they were required to choose a specific field of study and enter one of the four-year degree-granting colleges. Academic advisement has developed from a system of simply matching freshmen with faculty, to a system where two full-time advisors are employed whose sole responsibility is to counsel freshmen. The summer freshman registration program, instituted by University College in the 1960s, has become an extremely successful venture, because it helps orient students and their parents to UND, and because it avoids all the problems inherent in trying to register the entire freshman class in the few days before the beginning of the fall semester.

#### Summer Sessions since 1979

The Summer Sessions responsibilities of the office of University College and Summer Sessions include administering the four-week Pre-Summer Session held from approximately the middle of May to the middle of June as well as the regular eight-week Summer Session which immediately follows the Pre-Summer Session. The first Pre-Summer Session (which was originally known as Mini Semester) was held in 1973; one class, Psychology 101, Introduction to Psychology, was offered, with an enrollment of twenty-six students. The venture was a success, and both the number of classes offered and the number of students enrolled increased during the following years. During the 1979 Pre-Summer Session, the program was serving 240 students in ten courses. This enrollment figure nearly doubled during the next two years, to 429 students in 1981. Since then, the number of students taking Pre-Summer Session courses has not changed significantly; enrollment was 432 in 1982 and 423 in 1983.

The number of different courses in which these students have enrolled, however, has continued to increase every year. In 1983 twenty-three courses were held in subjects as varied as speech, tennis, marketing, English Literature, and economics. Some of the more popular courses offered for the first time in 1983 include Computer Science 101 (Introduction to Computers), Computer Science 160 (Computer Programming I), and Philosophy 210 (Introduction to Ethics).

The regular eight-week Summer Session has not seen as many changes during Schubert's deanship as has the Pre-Summer Session. Total student enrollment reached a high of 2936 in 1979, mostly due to the large number (1183) of graduate students attending. In the following years the number of graduate students decreased, but the number of undergraduates increased, leading to the most recent enrollment figures of 2773 in 1982 and 2717 in 1983.

In recent years the Summer Sessions office has been working to increase the flexibility of scheduling of summer session courses. The traditional course has always met for the entire eight weeks of the Summer Session, with a few



courses meeting for only the first four or the last four weeks. The eight-week course is still the most common offering, but more classes which meet for various shorter periods of time are now being offered. Some examples of courses which utilized nonstandard scheduling during the 1983 Summer Session include a six-week Center for Teaching and Learning special education practicum offered for two to four credits; two three-week, one-credit history courses; two two-week, three-credit industrial technology courses; and a number of one-week, one-credit courses offered in various departments such as political science, elementary education, and business and vocational education. This increased flexibility has proven to be of great help to both faculty and students who are not able to remain in Grand Forks for the entire eight-week session.

This emphasis on flexibility of summer course schedules has also resulted in the offering of a twelve credit course, Social Work 487, for the twelve weeks of the Pre-Summer Session and Summer Session combined. This was first done in 1982, and then again in 1983. Students taking this course enroll in both the Pre-Summer Session and the Summer Session, and pay full-time tuition in both, but they receive one grade for the entire twelve credits of work at the end of the eight-week Summer Session.

Salaries for the more than 150 faculty members offering instructions each summer received two important salary increases in 1981 and 1982. In 1981, due to a combination of normal cost-of-living increases and a special catch-up raise voted by the State Legislature for all faculty in 1981, Summer Session salaries rose by about 23 percent over the previous Summer Session. The following year, the Summer faculty received an 8 percent salary increase. This last increase was especially important because it helped to decrease the historical disparity between salaries paid during the academic year (which were only increased 4 percent in 1982) and those paid during the Summer Session.



## Athletics

In addition to his University College and Summer Sessions responsibilities, Dean Schubert has been very involved in the athletic program at UND for a number of years. In the summer of 1973, President Clifford appointed Schubert faculty athletic representative, (now called institutional representative for athletics), a position he has held since. As institutional representative for athletics, Schubert's main responsibilities are advising and updating the President on athletic matters, attending meetings of the various athletic associations, conferences and leagues to which UND belongs, such as the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association), the WCHA (Western Collegiate Hockey Association), and the NCIAC (North Central Inter-Collegiate Athletic Conference). The institutional representative is responsible for communicating and voting the institution's official position regarding athletics.

Schubert has twice held the post of president of the NCIAC, and he is currently serving his second term as president of the WCHA. Initially, Schubert was the institutional representative for men's athletics only, but since the 1982-83 academic year, when the NCAA became an organization for both men's and women's sports, he has served as institutional representative for both men's and women's athletics. Schubert has served on numerous NCAA, NCIAC and WCHA committees and has published articles relating to athletic matters.



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