Dean Johnson Reports To Engineering Alumni

The ideal objective of higher education has always been to search for truth in the broadest sense of the word and to share it freely with colleagues and students, or in a phrase, to add to the state of man’s knowledge. This objective implies complete freedom of thought and expression, freedom from pressures which spring from specific or selfish objectives. It might be re-stated in terms of pure research and teaching, although these have different meanings for different persons, just as the ideal objective has undergone some remarkable translations in modern times.

This is particularly true in the United States, a young nation dedicated simultaneously to the education of the masses and to the education of the individual, a nation with as confused a pattern of educational objectives as may be found anywhere in the world. Specific objectives in many forms have largely submerged the ideal objective which is given vague and inadequate recognition in the minds of many people as art for art’s sake or the liberal arts. The aims of higher education have multiplied and at the same time diverged. Universities not only indulge in research and teaching to add to the state of man’s knowledge, but serve specific purposes for nation, state, community, and the individual.

Perhaps we should say especially the individual. In the eyes of the American public, college has become a remarkable place where in the space of four short years students pass courses, receive diplomas, and thereafter are assured of a comfortable and secure “timetable” existence for the remainder of their lives. College has become a workshop where (Continued on Page 2)

EDWIN VENNARD OF EDISON ELECTRIC TO ADDRESS STE

Edwin Vennard, New York City, managing director of the Edison Electric Institute, will be principal speaker at the annual meeting of the Society of Tulane Engineers at 1956 Homecoming, Saturday, Nov. 10.

Mr. Vennard, a well known speaker in engineering circles, will talk on “The Engineer's Position in the American System.”

A native of New Orleans, he was graduated from Tulane in 1924 with a bachelor’s degree in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering. An outstanding student, he was president of the engineering student body and was active in all class activities.

While at Tulane he was a member of Kappa Alpha social fraternity.

After graduation, Mr. Vennard was employed by General Electric Company in the Testing Department at Schenectady. While there, he completed the GE Advanced Course in Engineering.

In 1926 he became power sales engineer for Gulf States Utilities Company at Lake Charles, La., and later went with Southwestern Gas and Electric Company at Shreveport. He became general commercial manager of that company in 1927.

Mr. Vennard in 1933 accepted the position as head of the Rate Department of Mid-West Utilities Company, the predecessor of Mid-West Service Company, a consulting and advisory organization.

For several years he was vice president of the organization in charge of rates, new business, advertising and public and employee relations and in 1953 he became president.

He assumed his post with Edison (Continued on Page 3)
STE CONTRIBUTES $450 TO ENGINEERING SCHOOL

By Bernard Grehan

The Society of Tulane Engineers has this year attained the largest membership in its history, with 554 dues paying members. This is undoubtedly the most encouraging and outstanding achievement of the year, for it is an indication of the Alumni's growing interest and support of the School of Engineering.

Because of the increased membership, at the last meeting of the Executive Committee, the treasurer reported a very healthy condition of our treasury and he estimated a surplus of $450 would be available over the budgeted expenses of the Society for the year.

The Executive Committee was of the unanimous opinion that it is not the purpose of the Society to accumulate funds beyond those necessary for operating expenses and any surplus should in some way be applied to the primary objective of the organization, namely the welfare and betterment of the School of Engineering at Tulane.

A discussion with Dean Lee Johnson regarding the immediate needs of the School revealed that, because of necessarily very tight budgeting by the University, there is very little allowance in the School's fiscal budget for the contingencies, incidentals, or "extras" that normally arise. Therefore, no matter how necessary or worthwhile many of these items might be, they must be passed over due to lack of funds.

Accordingly, it was suggested and unanimously approved that the $450 estimated surplus in the Society's treasury for this year be given to the School of Engineering, Tulane University as a fund to be used for the assistance and benefit of the Society, its faculty or students. The specific disposition, in accordance with this general purpose, is left to the discretion of the Dean of the School and his faculty advisers as the needs arise.

In this way your Executive Committee felt these funds, which were collected from the membership as dues to the Society and as such given in support of the aims and purposes of the Society, would be best applied toward the furtherance of these aims.

We can all be grateful to our Publication Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary for the careful and efficient jobs they have done, thus helping account for our excellent financial showing in 1955-56. John Martinez particularly should be recognized, for he has managed to give us "The Tulane Engineer," better than ever before, with no increase in cost of publication.

Of course the real credit for this gift to the School belongs to the membership, for it is their interest and assistance, simply by payment of the annual dues, that has made it possible. It is through such support, by an ever increasing membership, our Society will continue to grow as a real influence in the progress of the School of Engineering at Tulane.


easy matter depending as it does upon a multiplicity of factors—the engineering faculty both individually and as a group, the faculty in other divisions of the university, especially in the College of Arts and Sciences, the students themselves, the university-wide atmosphere, the attitude and support of the administration, and financial and physical resources to name a few. Faculty members themselves will not agree completely on objectives and will have specific objectives of their own which may be followed consciously or unconsciously. The question naturally arises, "Where are we now in trying to meet these objectives and what is needed in the future?"

My own opinion is that the School (Continued on Page 4)
Society Salutes Women Engineering Graduates

At its annual meeting this year, the Society honors a small but very select group — the women graduates of Tulane’s Engineering School. Though scores of girls have entered the engineering school, only eight in the school’s history have received degrees. Special invitations have been issued to these alumni members to attend the annual meeting on Homecoming Day and it is hoped they will take an active part in the society.

Several of Tulane’s women engineers have used their technical education in active careers through most of them have become housewives.

Four live in New Orleans—Mrs. George W. Pigan, formerly Dorothy Hebert; Helene Oiga Teberne, Mrs. J. L. Heath Jr., the former Clara Mae Bennett; and Mrs. James W. Barnes, the former Aymier White. The other graduates are Mrs. A. E. Salazar, the former Maria del Carmen de la Vega y Garcia, of San Juan, Puerto Rico; Margaret Mary Schmachtenberger, Basking Ridge, New Jersey; Mrs. Clifton T. Bowes, Jr., the former Sylvia Anais Jaceo, of Miami, Fla.; and Mrs. Harry W. Bourgeois, the former Helen Mae Dowling, of Nashvillle, Tenn.

On hand for the annual meeting will be Tulane’s first woman engineering graduate, Dorothy Hebert, now Mrs. Pigan of 1516 Duffosat St. Mrs. Pigan received her degree in architectural engineering in 1917 and worked for a year with the Army Engineering Ordnance in Washington, D. C.

Members of the engineering school were pretty surprised to find that a girl had entered their previously all-masculine school, recalls Mrs. Pigan, and during her sophomore year she was not allowed in the regular drafting room for her drafting class.

After working for a year in Washington, Mrs. Pigman married and that was the end of her engineering career.

Five years after Mrs. Pigman’s graduation in 1917, the engineering school had another woman graduate, Olga Teberne, the first to get her degree in chemical engineering.

Miss Teberne recalls that she was not at first admitted to the school, being told that girls was not accepted. Later she went back and was allowed to enter, however.

Since her graduation in 1922, Miss Teberne has taught mathematics in the New Orleans Public School System.

Probablely the graduate who has used her education most extensively is Margaret Mary Schmachtenberger, Chemical Engineering, 1939. Miss Schmachtenberger did graduate work at the University of Michigan and has done research work for several concerns. She now resides in Basking Ridge, N. J.

Most recent graduates are Clara Mae Bennett, Health, Chemical Engineering, 1946, and Aymier White Barnes, Chemical Engineering, 1947. Mrs. Heath found her engineering education helpful in several jobs. She worked in process control supervising for Firestone at Port Naches, Tex., did research in organic chemistry for the Department of Agriculture at the Southern Regional Research Laboratory here, and worked...
Dean's Report

(Continued from Page 2)

is making headway in a favorable environment with sympathetic support and encouragement but that much remains to be done. The faculty as a group is a young faculty of which about three out of every four are under forty years of age. It is dedicated to high ideals and aspirations in research and teaching, yet there are many capabilities and potentialities which still await the development which will come with time and additional resources. This faculty is capable of striking deeper into the frontiers of knowledge and of distinguishing itself equally well in teaching. What is most needed to make this possible is adequate financial support for a substantial graduate program and for independent, basic research.

A beginning has been made. In the past four years, graduate fellowships have been set up by A. L. Jung, Sr. and A. L. Jung, Jr., the Ethyl Corporation, the Dow Chemical Company, and the J. Ray McDermott Company. Some faculty members have had opportunity and support to engage primarily in sponsored research. There is great need, however, for a well-organized and strongly supported program in order to realize the full potentiality of the present faculty group. This support is conceived of as additional income for faculty research during summer months, for addition to the graduate faculty of the School, for reducing excessive teaching loads, for additional fellowships, and for providing necessary equipment, supplies, and space.

The faculty has been active in reviewing and reorganizing curricula. The Departments of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering have made critical evaluations of their programs. The studies in both departments are leading to the abandonment of options in the curricula, emphasis on broader and more fundamental courses, and more flexibility in electives.

There still remains work to be done in the area of the humanities and social studies which depends so heavily upon colleagues in Arts and Sciences for its presentation and upon the attitudes of the Engineering faculty and the atmosphere of the University for its absorption. The faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences has been most cooperative when approached, and in many cases has taken the initiative itself, especially in mathematical and scientific courses. The faculty of the School of Engineering has initiated the establishment of joint committees with the faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences in English, economics, mathematics, chemistry, and physics. These committees have been appointed and will begin to function during the 1956-57 session. It is anticipated that discussions and study in these committees will lead to greater understanding between the faculties and to a more effective educational experience for Engineering students.

A bright spot on the horizon of the objectives is the requirement of the College Entrance Examination Board for entering students. This addition to present entrance requirements should have a significant effect upon the overall quality of the student body and upon the rate of attrition. In September 1955, the enrollment of the School was over 530 students. In February 1956, it fell more sharply than usual to about 450 students. Only a small fraction of those who did not re-register in February were denied readmission. Most of this group failed to return of their own volition largely because of lack of aptitude for mathematical and scientific reasoning. It might be stated parenthetically that practically no freshmen are denied readmission in February. A very liberal policy is followed with respect to freshmen and their need for time to adjust to college life. Deviations from this policy occur only in rare cases of significant deficiencies in moral character or in attitudes.

The fall 1956 enrollment of the School is about the same as last year, 518 students. A student body which is generally better qualified and motivated will increase the total enrollment of the School to about 600 students, will reduce mortality, and will be a long step forward toward achieving our objectives.

Women

(Continued from Page 3)

in the geophysical department of Shell Oil Co. for five years. Now Mrs. Heath is devoting all of her time to being a housewife and mother. She resides with her lawyer husband, and their one year old daughter at 212 Berkeley Dr. in Algiers.

Aymier White Barnes has the distinction of being the last woman to graduate from the engineering school. She is the wife of engineer Bill Barnes and says she has had little opportunity to use her engineering education "except for chores around the house when Bill is away." Aymier and Bill have two boys, Frank, 16 months, and Neal, three months, and live at 6938 Colbert St. in Lakeview.

Tulane's women engineers will add a new member to their group next year, Rosemary Decker, now a senior and scheduled to be the first girl to graduate in 10 years. She will receive her degree next June in electrical engineering.

1955-56 Financial Report

October 30, 1955—October 22, 1956
Cash on Hand
Oct. 30, 1955 $ 435.50
Receipts
Project Account 333.56
Dues, 1955-56 1,100.50
Total Receipts 1,434.16
Total Cash on Hand and Receipts 1,869.76
Expenditures
Bank Charges 2.95
Perrilliat Rickey Construction Co. 333.56
Tulane University—Addressing Bulletin 23.20
Printing 246.33
Mailing 135.00
School of Engineering 450.00
Total Expenditures 1,190.24
Cash on Hand
October 22, 1956 679.52
Henry L. Hammett Jr., Treasurer