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HISTORY OF THE INDUSTRIAL ARTS DEPARTMENT
AT WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

The year 1920 marked the beginning of Industrial Arts at Western Kentucky University. It was in September of that year that Mr. L. T. Smith came to Western to set up an Industrial Arts program (called Manual Training) and to direct athletics. Mr. Smith had graduated from Sanborn High School in Sanborn, Iowa, and had received the B. S. degree with a major in Industrial Arts from Bradley Polytechnic Institute, now Bradley University, Peoria, Illinois. Before coming to Western, he taught for a short time at Washington, Iowa and was associated with the Trades and Industry and the Engineering Extension departments at Iowa State College. He received the M. A. degree in Industrial Arts from Peabody College, Nashville, Tennessee, in 1931.

The first home of the Industrial Arts Department (then referred to as the Manual Training program) was an army training barrack. One of two such structures which stood on the present site of the training school. Later the Department was moved to where the present Margie Helm library is located. Initially, the courses offered were Bench Wood, Machine Woodwork, Mechanical Drawing, Architectural Drawing, Concrete Work, and Design. Since 1929, course offerings have expanded and student enrollment has increased steadily.

On January 2, 1928 the temporary Industrial Arts building burned. The present three story stone building was built and ready for occupancy

by the spring semester of 1929. In 1965 approximately 4400 square feet of floor space were acquired in the Margie Helm library to take care of expanding enrollments.

When the new building was first occupied, another teacher was needed. Mr. T. J. Arant, a graduate of Peabody College was employed and taught through the spring and summer terms, after which he left to return to Peabody. In the fall of 1929, Mr. Carl Barnes, a graduate of Western, was employed as an instructor to replace Mr. Arant. Mr. Barnes graduated from Western in 1925 and obtained a M. A. degree from Colorado State Teachers College. Mr. Smith and Mr. Barnes taught all classes in the department until 1933. At this time, Mr. Stansbury was hired as a part-time instructor. He taught Elementary Industrial Arts courses and also coached freshman athletics.

As the department continued to expand another teacher was necessary in 1935. Mr. Walter B. Nalbach, a student at Western, did part-time teaching in the department in 1933 and 1934. He returned to Western as a full time instructor in the fall of 1935 after teaching one year in Louisville schools. Mr. Nalbach received the M. A. from the University of Kentucky in 1937. The number of instructors in the department remained at three until 1948. With the exception of three years during World War II, from August 1941 until October 1945, Mr. Nalbach was temporarily detached from Western and was connected with the U. S. Naval Training Service at Morehead State College and with the Armored Forces School at Fort Knox, Kentucky as an instructor trainer and supervisor of instruction in the Wheel Vehicle Department.

In September, 1948, Mr. H. B. Clark was added to the staff. Mr. Clark taught in the department until the spring of 1962. He left the department to accept a position as the director of buildings and grounds at Western.

After 37 years as a founder, professor, and head of the Industrial Arts department, Mr. L. T. Smith relinquished his position in 1957, at which time he was appointed as the Physical Plant Administrator for the University. Mr. Walter B. Nalbach was selected to replace him as head of the department. The same year Mr. Owen Lawson was employed to complete the staff. After the department expanded and the enrollment increased, Mr. Perry Young and Mr. Hobby Perkins were added to the staff. The present Industrial Arts faculty consists of Mr. Jeff Crisp 1962, Dr. Holland E. Boaz 1962, Dr. Donald D. Wendt 1962, Mr. Frank Pittman 1960, Mr. Wandel Dye 1965, Mr. Howard Lowrey 1966, and Mr. Walter B. Nalbach 1935. In 1967 the staff consisted of nine full time faculty members, two graduate assistants, plus two part-time faculty members.

The Arts and Crafts Club, an organization for Industrial Arts students, was organized in 1925. In January, 1928 a fire destroyed all of its papers including the Constitution and by-laws, and the club did not meet for a year. In December, 1928 it was reorganized under a new Constitution and has functioned regularly since that time. Quoting from the Constitution of the club, the objectives of the organization shall be: "(1) to unite into one organization those persons interested in Industrial Arts and Vocational Education (2) to

develop a spirit of fellowship and group cooperation (3) to develop practical skills in the administration and supervision of social and professional organizations". To this date, the club meets the first Tuesday of each month.

The number of students enrolled in the department has grown from 15 in 1920 to an average of 893 per semester. Although the department was well-organized and experienced steady growth, it was not until 1930 that three students graduated with the Baccalaureate degree with a major in Industrial Arts. The Industrial Arts discipline appeals mostly to boys; however, several girls have taken Industrial Arts subjects. Miss Agnita Ruff, from West Point, Kentucky was the first girl to graduate as an Industrial Arts major in the state of Kentucky. She received her degree in 1965 and is presently teaching Industrial Arts and Art in the Springfield, Kentucky school system.

In 1930, a 24 hour major was available for those students interested in teaching Industrial Arts. In 1936, a 48 hour Area of Concentration in Industrial Arts was developed and in 1964 the 36 hour major with an option of a second major or minor was approved. Since 1930, more than 800 students have graduated as majors or minors in Industrial Arts Education. In addition, a two-year and a four-year Industrial Technology curriculum was developed in 1962. In the summer of 1967, the Board of Regents of Western Kentucky University approved a two-year and a four-year degree program for the preparation of Vocational-Industrial and Technical Teachers. In implementing the various programs, new courses have been developed periodically.

Use of the Slide Rule was taught for the first time in 1962. Technical Drafting I in 1963, Technical Drafting II in 1964, Electricity in 1960, Electronics in 1962, and Surveying in 1962. Evening classes were also taught as part of the Community College in 1962.

Since 1941, it has been possible to obtain the M. A. degree at Western with a minor in Industrial Arts. In 1959 a graduate courses in the Philosophy of Industrial Education and Industrial Education Curriculum were introduced. In the year 1963, a graduate course entitled Industrial Arts for Elementary Teachers was taught for the first time. In 1965 the Applied Problem courses were resolved and included; Advanced Drafting, Industrial Design, Industrial Electricity and Electronics, Woodwork Technology, Graphic Arts, Advanced Machine Shop, Power and Auto Mechanics, Metal Technology, Problems and Crafts, Ceramics and Plastics, and General Shop. In connection with the graduate program, in 1957, Mr. Howard Lowrey and Mr. Holbert Miller were the first graduate assistants used in the Industrial Arts instructional program. Since then about 20 graduate students have served in this capacity.

Western Industrial Arts graduates are found in many occupations. Many of the graduates teach Industrial Arts on Junior and Senior High levels, some are professors in colleges and universities, they serve as engineers, junior engineers, principals, superintendents of schools and in many other areas too numerous to mention here.

This is an abbreviated history of the Industrial Arts Department

at Western. A book could be written about the many interesting activities and the development of the department and its tradition. The Industrial Arts department is deeply indebted to its faculty and students for their dedication, loyalty, and hard work which contributed so much to the development of the department.

- ① Mr J. J. Grant was employed in Jan. 1929 & taught full time until the end of the summer term. To care for the increased I.A. enrollment
- ② The department was officially designated as the Manual Arts Dept. in 1929 and never was referred to as a Manual Training Dept. except by a few uneducated persons. - Woodwork courses were - Carpentry - bench woodwork & machine woodwork - Drawing - Mechanical - Architectural & Design - Sheet metal - Printing - Auto mechanics & Farm shops were added in 1929.
- ③ Never Manual Training
- ④ First Manual Arts year (life certificate) graduates - Percy Wallace - Edwin Gilbert & John A. Lewis. 1923
First degree graduate Carl B. Barnes.

Comments by T. P. Smith

HISTORY OF THE INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The Industrial Education Department has its beginning in 1920. Mr. L. T. Smith was the department's founder and served as professor and head of the department until 1957. Mr. Walter Nalbach assumed departmental leadership in 1957 and has served as professor and department head since that time.

Physical Facilities: The department was first housed in an army training barrack adjacent to the present Cherry Hall classroom building. It was later moved to a temporary structure which was located on the present site of the Margie Helm Library. During the 1928-29 school year the present building was constructed and occupied. In 1965 approximately 4400 square feet of floor space was acquired in the Margie Helm Library to expand facilities. During the 1968-69 school year the department acquired and renovated the old Home Economics Building for additional classroom and laboratory space.

① Faculty: Mr. Smith was the only full-time faculty member in the department until Mr. Carl Barnes was employed in 1929. A third full-time faculty member was employed in the fall of 1935, Mr. Walter Nalbach. These three faculty members served alone until 1948 when Mr. H. B. Clark was added to the staff as a full-time member. The number of faculty members remained at four until 1957. Since 1957 enrollment increases and program changes have made it necessary to increase the staff to its present size, twelve full-time faculty members. Graduate

*Dr. H. B. Clark
1948-49
1949*

assistants were first used in the instructional program in 1960. Since then over twenty-five assistantships have been granted. Three graduate students are serving in this capacity at the present time.

Curriculum: From its beginning as a manual training ⁽¹⁾ program consisting of woodworking, drawing, concrete work, and design, the curriculum has expanded to include the following programs:

Industrial Arts Teacher Education (1925)

Graduate Minor in Industrial Arts (1941)

Industrial Technology (2 year program) (1962)

Industrial Technology (4 year program) (1962)

Vocational-Industrial & Technical Teacher Education
(4 year program) (1967)

Vocational-Industrial & Technical Teacher Education
(2 year program) (1967)

Master of Arts in Industrial Education (1971)

Technical course offerings now include: metals, woods, plastics, drafting, design, power mechanics, electricity-electronics, graphic arts.

Name: At first the department was referred to as the ⁽³⁾ Manual Training Program. In 1922 the name was changed to the Manual Arts Department. The name was changed again to the Industrial Arts Department in 1928. The expansion of programs brought about another change in 1968 to the Industrial Education Department.

Enrollment: The number of students enrolled in the department has grown from 15 in 1920 to a fall semester 1971 enrollment of 966. The first two students graduated from the department with baccalaureate degrees and majors in Industrial Arts in 1925. During the 1969-70 school year the department graduated 75 baccalaureate degrees and 5 masters degrees.

Western's industrial education graduates are found in many occupations. Many of them teach industrial arts on the junior and senior high school level, some are professors in colleges and universities, others serve as engineers, junior engineers, technicians, school principals and superintendents, to mention but a few.

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