

NEWSLETTER

BENNINGTON COLLEGE
BENNINGTON, VERMONT

November 1961

Here is Bennington again with its first Newsletter of 1961-62. We're still on schedule and we're still long-winded, in spite of our efforts to cut. With that slight nod to good intentions we invite you to plunge in.

New Models

There are a good many new courses being offered this year and we thought you would be interested to hear about some of them. (When we say "new," we don't include courses given two years ago or ever, nor do we mean courses whose title and content may have been changed but whose basic idea remains the same.)

Symbols in Culture - Nancy D. Munn

A consideration of the use and function of visual symbolic objects in non-western societies such as those of the indigenous peoples of Oceania, Africa, and America. The course examines such problems as symbols as mechanisms for synthesizing and reinforcing cultural knowledge and values; and the technological uses of symbols in magic. The student acquires a general understanding of the role of such symbols in human culture.

Roads to War and Peace - Thomas P. Brockway

Topics include modern imperialism, World War I, the League of Nations, origins and history of World War II, the United Nations, the world economy in the 20th century, the bipolar world and regionalism, and arms control.

Comparative Social Problems - Morton Klass

A group tutorial in which specific problems of current concern in our society are investigated cross-culturally in an effort to acquire a broader understanding of the factors underlying such phenomena and the implications of their presence in our society. Fall Term: discrimination and persecution; minority groups and race relations. Spring Term: age groups and social systems; the conflict of adolescence, maturity, and old age.

The Political Order - Henry S. Kariel

The major purpose of this tutorial is to involve a group of advanced students in the preparation of a 1962-63 course. The premise is that it is rewarding to discover the problems involved in asking questions, determining relevancies, and selecting study material. More specifically, the group will study selected contemporary political writings and seek to determine what properly constitutes political theory.

Elizabethan and Jacobean Drama - Claude Fredericks

The principal plays of Shakespeare's contemporaries are read. Particular attention is given to Marlowe, Webster, and Jonson. The relationship between drama and poetry is examined.

Epic, Romance, Fairy Tale: Three XX Century Examples - Howard Nemerov

Interpretation of three texts based on "an art of serious parody": Thomas Mann, Joseph and His Brothers; T.H. White, The Once and Future King; E.R.R. Tolkien, The Lord of the Rings. Comparison with sources, antecedents, analogues.

Three Poems - Howard Nemerov

The poems are Milton's Paradise Lost, Pope's Dunciad and Blake's Milton. The object is, first, acquaintance with the three poems; then, a study of their relations in a tradition of epic.

Modern Allegory and Fantasy - Thomas Wilcox

A study of some recent attempts to comprehend modern experience by the traditional literary means of allegory and fantasy. The Faerie Queene and The Pilgrim's Progress are allegories; Gulliver's Travels and Erewhom are fantasies. Representative selections from those works are read, and then the course proceeds directly to such modern works as Kafka's "In a Penal Colony," Huxley's Brave New World, Orwell's 1984, Golding's Lord of the Flies and selected science fiction.

Introduction to Theatre - Drama Faculty

Includes a central course and three supplementary studios each term. Studio work will be based upon or related to the central course.

Theory and Analysis - Gene Baro

Acting Studio - Manuel Duque

Stage Craft Studio - William Sherman

Playwriting Studio - Gene Baro

Scene Design Studio - William Sherman

Directing Studio - Gene Baro

The Greek Theatre - Gene Baro

The origins, development, and conventions of the Greek Theatre. Greek dramatic theory and practice and their significance for contemporary theatre. The plays and dramatic themes of classical Greek theatre in modern times. Reading in Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, Aristophanes, Menander, and a number of modern playwrights. Students develop production plans for classical plays or write upon some aspect of Greek theatre.

Visual Arts I - Paul Feeley, George Holt, Lyman E. Kipp, Vincent Longo, Stanley Rosen, Lawrence Alloway

In this introductory course each student works with six instructors during the year. Stress is laid on two basic studies, drawing and art history. Drawing is selected as the major studio concern for its directness and because it is essential to all forms of visual art. The approach to drawing will be made from two directions: the visual (two-dimensional problems) and the tactile (three-dimensional problems). Although art history is formally the subject of only one-sixth of the course, it is an important part of all the studio components as well.

Art History: Art and Communication - Lawrence Alloway

A chronological survey of art, from the medieval period to the present, dealing with the ways in which artists communicate, with each other, with contemporary society, and with posterity. Historical changes, as well as the inherent capacity of the visual arts for communication, will be considered.

Sustained and Independent

In our June Newsletter we talked briefly about graduation and the festivities associated with it. We didn't comment on the four academic years preceding that day and what they had involved for each of the 64 celebrants, and we can do no more than touch on that here. For each graduate those years had meant change and growth. For each it meant a level of excellence and maturity both personal and academic which permitted the completion of "a sustained and independent" piece of work -- the senior thesis or project.

The performances and concerts of the performing arts majors (music 3, drama 2, dance 4) cannot be described, nor can the senior art show (12 majors). It would have been necessary to have seen (or heard) those projects to know of their excellence and skill. But Science, Literature and Social Science majors (40) wrote theses and we print a few of the titles here to give you an idea of what is being done these days - at least in those fields.

The Problems of Translating Horace and Catullus
 Investigations of Dihydroxyacetone and its Reaction With Glycine
 The Albigensian Crusade: A study of the inter-relationship of
 spiritual and temporal authority during the pontificate of
 Pope Innocent III
 Tribal Elements in the Political Structure of Modern Ghana
 The Satyr Eyes Us: A critical analysis of the short stories of
 D. H. Lawrence
 Three Approaches to the Pattern of Initiation as a Structuring Force
 in Literature: as seen in Culhwch and Olwen, Cymbeline, Les
 Chevaliers de la Table Ronde
 Comparative Perceptions of Conventionality and Unconventionality of
 Bennington Students
 Etude des Thèmes dans Les Romans de Malraux: Leur valeur et leur
 évolution
 Suffering and Identity: Four American Jewish writers
 The Protocol of Peace: A discussion of union-management co-operation
 in the coat, suit and skirt industry of N.Y.C.
 In Defense of Cresseyde - A study of Chaucer's Troilus and Cresseyde
 Influence on the Internal Development of the Heart of the Chick
 Embryo by Altering the Flow of the Blood Through the Right
 Omphalomesenteric Vein

The Possibility of Inter-Hemispheric Cerebral Transfer

We could go on. But this partial list serves to record the variety. And it may also, for the alumnae, bring back memories of their own theses, all of which are on file in the Crossett Library.

New Faces in Old Places

There are new faculty appointments, and changes of appointment, in the faculty and staff rosters this term. We start with the new faculty:

Mr. Irving Adler of North Bennington teaches two mathematics courses this term, replacing Mr. Reinhold van der Linde who is on sabbatical leave. Mr. Adler graduated from City College in New York and Columbia University. He taught in the New York City high schools and was chairman of the Mathematics Department of Charles Evans Hughes High School before teaching at Columbia. He has written many books on mathematical and scientific subjects including "The New Mathematics," "Electronics," "Thinking Machines" and "Numbers New and Old." Mr. Adler held a National Science Foundation Summer Fellowship for Research in 1959.

Mrs. Irving Adler is a graduate of Barnard College and has an M.A. degree from Hunter. She has taught in secondary schools in New York City and Rockville Centre, N.Y., and was a National Science Foundation Fellow in the summer of 1959. This term she is teaching "Fundamentals of Mathematics."

Mr. Lawrence Alloway, the British art critic, has joined the Art Division this year. Mr. Alloway is the contributing editor for England to "Art International" and is the author of "Nine Abstract Artists, their Work and Theory." He also contributes to "Art News," "Quadrum," "Design," "Werk," and "Graphis." He was at the Institute of Contemporary Arts in London for five years. At present Mr. Alloway is working on a history of the Betty Parsons Gallery and on a book about contemporary painting (his major field) in America. Mr. Alloway is teaching art history and art criticism.

Mr. Ralph Humphrey is also a new member of the Art Division. He began exhibiting at an early age in professional shows in Akron, Youngstown, Columbus and other Ohio cities. At 16 he was awarded a scholarship to the Butler Art Institute in Youngstown. Following his Army service he re-entered Youngstown University and taught painting and lectured as an assistant to the instructor. Mr. Humphrey has taught painting as assistant to Theodoros Stamos at the Art Students League, at Hartley House and privately. His work has been shown in New York at the Stable Gallery, The Workshop Gallery, and in 1959 and 1960 he had one-man shows at the Tibor De Nagy Gallery and at the Mayer Gallery.

Miss Teresa Lluch is teaching Spanish and Intermediate French. She is a native of Spain who received much of her schooling in France and in French schools in Prague, Vienna, and Rastatt, Germany. She attended the Lycée Emile Jacqmain in Brussels and later was graduated from the University of Valencia, Faculty of Philosophy and Letters. She has taught French in Berlitz Schools in Valencia and in Manchester, England, as well as at the University of Denver, where she did graduate study last year on a Fulbright Fellowship.

Mr. Bernard Malamud came to Bennington from Oregon State College where he was associate professor of English. He was a Ford Fellow in the humanities and arts program from 1959 to 1961. Mr. Malamud is the author of "The Natural," "The Assistant," "The Magic Barrel" and the recently published "A New Life." He was chosen the Partisan Review Fellow in Fiction for 1956-57, received the Rosenthal Award from the National Institute of Arts and Letters, the Daroff Memorial Award in 1958, and the National Book Award for fiction in 1959. Mr. Malamud is a graduate of City College and Columbia University. At Bennington he is teaching Prose Fiction and a section of Language and Literature.

Mr. Jack D. Moore, Dance, replaces Ruth Currier. Mr. Moore graduated from the University of Iowa in 1949. He studied dance with Hanya Holm, Martha Graham and Doris Humphrey, and at the School of American Ballet. He has been a member of the Martha Graham, José Limón, Nina Fonaroff and Anna Sokolow companies and has appeared in New York City, Jacob's Pillow and the American Dance Festival.

He has taught at the Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theatre, the Juilliard School and Silverman Guild of Arts.

Miss Nancy D. Munn, teaches anthropology. She received her B.A. from Oklahoma University in 1951, her M.A. from Indiana University in 1955 and her Ph.D. in 1961 from Australian National University. She was on a Fulbright Fellowship in Australia between 1955 and 1958. Most recently she was on a Research Training Fellowship with the Social Science Research Council.

Mrs. Ellen K. Viereck joined the faculty of the Nursery School. Mrs. Viereck graduated from Vassar in 1949 and received her M.Ed., Plymouth, N.H., Teacher's College in 1952. She has taught under the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Alaska Native Service. In 1960-61 she taught in the Bennington elementary school system.

Administratively, this is what has happened:

Mr. Harry Pearson, who has taught Economics at Bennington since 1957, is now Dean of the College. He is in charge of most matters relating to students and faculty which have been handled heretofore by the Offices of the President, Dean, and Director of Student Personnel.

Miss Edith Stewart, as Assistant to the President and to the Dean for Academic Affairs, is working principally with Mr. Pearson and has relinquished other non-academic responsibilities.

Mrs. Marion Downes is serving as Acting Director of the Student Personnel Office under Mr. Pearson. She is responsible for student non-academic affairs, (community government, housing, etc.) and coordination with the Health Service, including the Psychiatric Counselor, Mrs. Catherine Symmes, who has replaced Mrs. Mary Delia Flory while she is on leave. Mrs. Downes continues to teach "Child Development," but Mrs. Ellen Viereck serves as Acting Director of the Nursery School.

Mrs. Lisa Tate is Administrative Assistant to the President, assuming non-academic duties.

Elizabeth Osgood Haskell

Elizabeth Osgood Haskell, Director of the Student Personnel Office at the College for seven years, died on June 25th, 1961.

Mrs. Haskell was educated in the Newton, Massachusetts, public schools and at Mount Holyoke College, class of 1922. She was married to the late William E. Haskell, assistant to the President of the New York Herald Tribune. She was an editor with D. Appleton-Century for twenty-five years in New York. After her husband's death in 1954, she came to Bennington as Director of the Student Personnel Office.

We print here the special Memorial Minute recorded at the October meeting of the Board of Trustees.

"Through seven years of dedicated service, Mrs. Haskell offered herself and her many talents to the Bennington College Community. As Director of the Student Personnel Office she was sought for help and advice by the students, often by their parents, and frequently by their instructors. She was sought because there was usually, for the seeker, not only some manner of distress, but also the conviction that help would be forthcoming from a trusted source. Because Mrs. Haskell had full measure of compassion, because she was staunch, because she was imaginative, of great and kind wit, she could relieve the distress, right the matter, educate the student. She took great joy in another's success, shared other's grief generously. Her values were clear, her influence was strong and

her effect positive. She was greatly loved on this campus. Her loss to the College is heavy.

"RESOLVED: that the Trustees of Bennington College record their deep feeling of sorrow on the death of Elizabeth Osgood Haskell on June 25, 1961; and

"FURTHER RESOLVED: that a copy of this memorial minute be sent to the family of Mrs. Haskell and that the minute be made a part of the permanent record of this Board of Trustees."

Silhouette

The Freshman Profile for the entering class, 1961, has been mailed to schools across the country, and college counselors should, with only a little study, know who should apply to Bennington and what her chances for admission would be. If used, it will help the counselors in their tough job of guidance and anything which helps the counselors, helps the applicant. The alumnae will get the Profile too. For many of our friends a silhouette will suffice. Here it is: 645 girls applied to the College. 207 were accepted. 126 entered, the number, to a woman, we wanted. The mean scores of the College Entrance Examination Board SAT were Verbal, 633, Mathematical, 550. (The scale, 200-800). Financial aid was offered to 22.8%, the average grant being \$1,073. 19.4% were offered loans, and they averaged \$203 each.

But numbers aren't everything, in spite of the hard, cold facts printed in the Profile. President Fels once said, for instance, "The SAT Scores should not be used the way the drunk uses the lamp post; they should be used for illumination, not support." And the Bennington Admissions Committee operates in an enlightened way. The exceptions don't show up very clearly in the Profile. We make them when we have good reason for doing so, and our batting average is high.

New Trustees

There are two new members of the Board of Trustees, both of whom have alumnae daughters, and both of whom are already fully and helpfully involved in the College's affairs. Mr. Jerome A. Newman (Patricia, g-44) and Mr. William B. Franke (Anne, g-43), attended their first meetings as Trustees in October.

Jerome A. Newman, business executive, received his LL.B. from Columbia University in 1919. He is President and director of the Graham-Newman Corporation, Chairman of the Board and director of Government Employees Insurance Company, director and member of the executive committees of Pepsi Cola United Bottlers and Government Employees Corporation. In addition, Mr. Newman is a director of Loew's, Inc., and the Government Employees Life Insurance Company.

William B. Franke is the former Secretary of the Navy, a post he held under the Eisenhower administration from June 1959 to January 1961. He lives now in Rutland, Vermont. He is a graduate of Pace Institute of Accountancy in New York City and holds honorary degrees from the University of Louisville and Pace College.

In 1928 Mr. Franke established his own accounting firm of Franke, Hannon and Withey of New York. He was the advisor to the National Committee on Standard Reports for Institutions of Higher Education. Organized in 1930 this Committee grew out of the need felt in colleges and universities for recognized standards of financial reporting and accounting.

In 1951 Mr. Franke was given the Patriotic Civilian Commendation by the U.S. Army and in 1952 the Distinguished Service Award by the Department of Defense. In January, 1961, he received the Medal of Freedom.

Hardly A Siesta

This "private mountain" rang with student voices last summer but not necessarily young female ones. As usual, the College facilities were in full use. At one point in August, every student house was occupied.

On July first, 103 John Hay Fellows, wives and children arrived for their Summer Institute in the Humanities. They stayed four weeks. From July 5 until August 13 the Irwin Freundlich piano group took up residence, in Swan House by night and Jennings by day. During the second week of August, and for two weeks, the 16th Chamber Music Center and Composers' Conference got under way and its participants included doctors, lawyers, teachers and businessmen -- professionals and amateurs and all of high level music competence. At that same time Mr. George Holt's third Art Workshop opened and approximately twenty art teachers and art students attended that session.

For a month, starting August 6, the International Summer School, numbering 50, under the direction of Bradford Smith, held its 10th session at Bennington. This program was started in 1952 and is sponsored by the International Institute of Education and the United States Department of State. The students, mostly graduate students and professionals, come from the world over for study in American colleges and universities under government sponsorship. They arrive at Bennington first for the summer program, which is designed to give them some knowledge of American history, society and culture and needed language assistance.

And last came the Standing Committee on Public Secondary Schools of the New England Association, to conduct its second workshop on evaluation. They numbered sixty.

For the kitchen, housekeeping and grounds staffs it was a long run, but although we're always glad to have our own back, we welcome these summer visitors. They bring other dimensions to this lively Bennington atmosphere.

The Changing Scene

A year ago a committee to watch over and advise about the campus trees and other landscaping problems was established by the Trustees. It has been at work this fall and the first formal report, including several recommendations, was given to the Board last month. Invaluable to the Landscaping Committee is the knowledge and skill of Mr. Adolph Balmer. He came to the College in 1932 and planted, as treelets, our now big elms and maples (among others). When a tree is headed for trouble Mr. Balmer can give you its story, including its medical history. He knows why, how and what happened when it was planted, when it was struck by lightning, when it was pruned, when it was fed, whether it's an early or late bloomer.

Adolph Balmer has more than earned his retirement, which he is inclined to take with 1962. If he does we are much the poorer here. His valuable service to the College has been inestimable.

The Dance, A Dam, and Down the Drain

The College garage, which houses the trucks, fire truck, College car and assorted equipment, is literally having its face lifted. A second story is in the making and when completed will result in a 39 x 41 x 12 dance studio. Next term will find dancers therein and no other group vying for the space.

Between Jennings and the Commons there is a low piece of land - spring-fed land - which was, in days long since gone, prone to flood itself, with some help from a jerry-built dam. The result was occasional fairly good winter skating and shallow but blue summer water. Mr. Larson (Director of Physical Plant), knowing a natural resource when he sees one, has had it scraped and contained and a dam built. With the freeze we hope for good black ice. Eventually, the area could be deepened, and with springs which gush at the rate these do, we might have ourselves a good swimming hole.

In case you wonder where the money goes, you might (and you might not) be fascinated to know that a new and necessary disposal in our kitchen cost \$796.00! (This statement might seem to contain a nonchalant tone, and especially so perhaps because it is the only mention of money in the Newsletter. We're not nonchalant and our next message to you will give evidence of our energy in this regard.)