

# LETTER TO GRADUATES

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BLOOMSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

## State Colleges At The Crossroads

*A Message From Dr. Harvey A. Andruss, President, Bloomsburg State College*

Academy, Literary Institute, Literary Institute and State Normal School, State Normal School, State Teachers College, and now State College — such has been the development of Bloomsburg.

The dropping of the word "TEACHERS" from the name of the college, to form its present title "Bloomsburg State College," did not change its purpose of educating teachers for the schools of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Inquiries are received daily regarding graduate courses leading to the Master of Science degree in Education in either the Elementary or Business Fields; these programs will begin in the summer of 1961. However, there are an equal number of people applying for admission who think they can enroll in Liberal Arts or other General college courses.

The function of State Colleges in Pennsylvania will be determined in a large measure by the Reports

of the Governor's Committee on Education; only three of these reports have been released to date. The three deal with high school graduates, teachers, and curriculums. Among those which will follow are two reports which will affect our State Colleges — one on higher education, including all colleges, universities, and institutions requiring high school graduation as one of the qualifications for admission, and the other on Teacher Education, which involves some seventy-six of the eighty-three colleges and universities whose graduates are eligible for certification by the Department of Public Instruction.

Alumni may be assured that the primary function of their Alma Mater will continue to be that of teacher education, even though

other functions of education may be undertaken. More than half the teachers certified each year for Pennsylvania schools have been graduated by our State Colleges.

Newspaper reports, radio and television discussions, and critical evaluations and proposals will be made in the next few months.

As soon as any of the proposals appear likely to be considered or adopted, announcements will be made, either through the President's New Letter to all Alumni or the President's page in the Alumni Quarterly, so that they may keep abreast of the developments contemplated.

If you have any suggestions, comments, or questions to raise about the future of Bloomsburg, they will be welcomed by

President

### CLASS REUNIONS AT THE COLLEGE, SATURDAY MAY 26, 1961

Jane Kenvin Widger, secretary of the Class of 1950, reported recently that more than 80 members of the class expect to attend their class reunion on May 26, 1961. A joint dinner meeting will be held in the College Commons with the

Class of 1951 (tenth reunion), and each class will then meet separately to complete other planned activities.

If you or other members of your class need help to plan a reunion for May 26, write Boyd Bucking-

ham, Director of Public Relations, Box 18, Bloomsburg State College, Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania. We are prepared to help supply information and services which will make your reunion an event to anticipate and to remember.

# Graduate Program To Get Underway During Summer, 1961

## Graduate Council Appointed

The appointment of a Graduate Council, to develop and supervise a Program of Graduate Studies at Bloomsburg State College, was announced in November by President Harvey A. Andruss.

## Six-Member Council Headed By Dr. Martin

Dr. Thomas B. Martin, Director of the Division of Business Education, has been appointed Chairman of the Graduate Council and Director of Graduate Studies. Other members of the Council include: John A. Hoch, Dean of Instruction; Dr. Royce O. Johnson, Director of the Division of Elementary Education; Dr. Cecil C. Seronsy, Chairman, Department of Communications; Dr. Ernest H. Engelhardt, Chairman, Department of Education and Psychology; Dr. John J. Serff, Chairman, Department of Social Studies.

The Graduate Council has the responsibility of establishing regulations governing the program, developing curriculums that will be available, developing and approving new policies and revising existing policies as the program of graduate studies progresses.

## Preliminary Announcement Now Available

One of the first official acts of the Graduate Council was the approval of a preliminary announcement describing the new Program of Graduate Studies. The announcement includes information regarding the scheduling of classes, semester hour load, qualifications for admission, and a schedule of fees.

The State Council of Education of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has authorized Bloomsburg to inaugurate a program of graduate studies in Business Education and in Elementary Education at the beginning of the summer term in June, 1961. Students, completing the requirements established by the Graduate Council, will be awarded the Master of Education degree by the College.

## Purposes and Objectives

The need for professional education for teachers extending beyond the undergraduate level has long been recognized by educa-

tional leaders throughout the United States. In recent years the Pennsylvania State Council of Education has taken positive action to improve instruction in public schools by upgrading certification requirements for teachers. This action indicates a clear recognition by the State Council of the need for training beyond the Bachelor's degree. Mandated salary schedules which provide salary differentials for holders of Master's degrees in the form of higher maximum salaries give additional recognition of the value of graduate study.

The program of graduate studies at Bloomsburg State College will have as its primary purpose the increasing of the competency of elementary school teachers and of teachers of business subjects in Pennsylvania. To achieve this purpose, the following specific objectives, as they relate to the individual student, have been developed:

1. To provide an opportunity for developing a better understanding of the culture of our society — a society in which the teacher is expected to assume an increasingly important role.
2. To encourage independent thought and initiative and develop problem - solving ability.
3. To provide an incentive for continuing professional growth.
4. To develop a basic understanding of research methods and techniques so that reports of research in the field of education may be correctly interpreted and evaluated.
5. To develop a more comprehensive understanding of the teaching and learning processes.
6. To provide opportunity for advanced study in a selected field of specialization.

## Scheduling of Classes

All graduate classes will be scheduled during late afternoons, evenings, and/or Saturdays during the regular academic year. The calendar and daily time schedule for graduate courses offered during the summer term will be similar to the calendar and daily time schedule for undergraduate courses.

Graduate students will be able to pursue a full-time graduate study program during the summer. In-service teachers will be able to complete the requirements for the Master of Education degree without interference with normal professional duties.

## Semester Hour Load

During the regular nine-month academic year, a graduate student who is teaching full time will be permitted to enroll in a maximum of four semester hours of graduate courses each semester. A student may enroll during the summer term in a maximum of ten semester hours of courses restricted to graduate students.

## Planning Program of Study

Each student admitted to candidacy for the Master of Education degree will be assigned to an advisory committee consisting of two members of the graduate faculty and the Director of Graduate Studies. One member will be designated as chairman of the committee.

Application forms for admission to graduate courses are now available. A Graduate Studies Bulletin, containing information concerning curriculums and course offerings, will be available for distribution before the program is inaugurated. Requests for the Preliminary Announcement, for application forms, for the Graduate Studies Bulletin, when it is available, and for additional information concerning the graduate program should be addressed to Dr. Martin at the College.

## NEW DORMITORIES TO BE CONSTRUCTED

Two new dormitories will be constructed on the Bloomsburg Campus in the near future by the General State Authority. When completed, the buildings will provide accommodations for 500 resident women.

The new dormitories are being designed by the architectural firm of Eshbach, Pullinger, Stevens, and Bruder. The cost is estimated at \$1,790,000. Each building will have four floors and a basement. The campus site of the new buildings has not yet been announced.

# Quarter - Term System Considered At Bloomsburg

Pennsylvania's fourteen State Colleges have received permission to operate on a year-round, four-term basis, beginning in 1961. The proposal was approved at the November meeting of the fourteen members of the Board of Presidents.

## Twelve-week Terms

Under the quarterly system, the terms would last about twelve weeks each. With college opening in September, the quarters would end in November, February, May, and August. Short vacations would separate each term. Attendance would not be required during the summer term, but those who en-

roll consecutively for each quarter will be able to complete the standard four-year curriculum in three calendar years.

## Class Periods Lengthened

Instead of enrolling for the usual five courses for each semester, students would enroll for three or four courses. Class periods would be lengthened from an hour to 75 minutes; the number of class meetings per week would remain the same.

Fees would remain approximately the same but would cover only three of the four quarters. The fourth quarter, probably the summer term, would be an additional cost, similar to present arrange-

ments for attending summer school.

Dr. Charles Boehm, Superintendent of Public Instruction, has given his support to this accelerated plan and said that it would make room for more students to attend college during a time when demands for admission are increasing.

The decision to change from the present two-semester arrangement is left to the discretion of each individual school. Administrative officers and faculty at Bloomsburg are currently studying all aspects of the plan, but no action is anticipated until the Legislature grants additional appropriations to implement the new system.

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# Alumni Projects Need Your Support -- Now!

The need for a strong Alumni Association is urgent! Although it is a state-supported institution, Bloomsburg, like every State College, needs a strong Alumni to contribute, not merely money, but also moral and legislative support. The money which you contribute is equally important, for it helps provide some of the all-important extras which transform a group of buildings and a group of people into a Bloomsburg of which all of us can be proud.

Nearly a year ago, your Alumni Board of Directors adopted a Three-Point Program: (1) to increase the membership by securing 1,000 new members; (2) to raise \$3500 for books for the college library; (3) to contribute \$1400 to support the activities of the Council of Alumni Associations of Pennsylvania's fourteen State Colleges. These goals were adopted to help the Association keep pace with the progress and development of your alma mater.

Although we have fallen short of the goal of 1,000 additional members, the records of the Association show a definite increase in the number of three-year, five-year, and life memberships subscribed in 1960. This is encouraging. Your alumni dues are only \$3.00 for one year, \$7.50 for three years, \$10.00 for five years, and \$35.00 for a life membership. Why not become a

member of the association NOW!

On page 4 of this News Letter, your support is solicited in an effort to provide a suitable memorial, honoring Howard Fenstermaker, a graduate of Bloomsburg who will soon complete his thirty-fifth year as a member of the faculty. Your generous contribution, added to money already received, will help the Association reach the \$3500 goal and also pay tribute to one of Bloomsburg's outstanding educators at the same time.

In November, representatives of the fourteen State College Alumni Associations met in Harrisburg to reorganize the Council of General Alumni Associations. This was necessitated by the death of Paul Comly French who had helped organize the Council and had served as its public relations consultant. The representatives of the various alumni associations agreed to shoulder the work and responsibilities of the Council, during the coming year, instead of employing a new public relations consultant to succeed Paul French. The budget was reduced in line with the new arrangement, and each college alumni association was asked to contribute \$300 instead of the \$1400 requested the year before.

On page 1 of this letter, President Andruss has outlined very clearly some of the problems that lie ahead. We are "at the cross-

roads." Another legislative year lies ahead, and we must convince the Legislators and the Governor that additional funds are needed if children from families of limited economic means are to have a higher education. Remember! No amount of scholarship or loan money can offset limited appropriations! Without adequate appropriations for more classrooms, dormitories, and faculty, we cannot accommodate the increasing number of students who are able to finance the cost of their college education.

## MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE

Dr. and Mrs. Harvey A. Andruss embarked from New York at noon on December 19, 1960, for a twenty-four day Mediterranean Cruise. Sailing aboard the S. S. Independence, Dr. and Mrs. Andruss visited Santa Cruz, Algeciras, Naples, Genoa, Rome, Cannes, Barcelona, Palma, Gibraltar, Casablanca, and Madeira. They will return to New York on Thursday, January 12, 1961.

This "Letter to Graduates" is the second in a series to be published in order that (1) all graduates may hear from their alma mater from time to time, (2) the college may report progress and request support, in conjunction with the Alumni Association, for projects which the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will not finance at the time the need must be met.

Wallace Derr, President  
William Barton, Vice-President

John B. Sibley, Secretary  
Clayton H. Hinkel, Treasurer

**COLUMBIA COUNTY BRANCH**  
**Bloomsburg State College Alumni Association**  
**Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania**

December, 1960

Dear Alumnus:

Your response to the request made last year by the Columbia County Branch of the Bloomsburg State College Alumni Association for funds to provide a portrait and living memorial for Dean Emeritus William Boyd Sutliff has encouraged us to undertake a similar project for our esteemed friend and teacher, Mr. Howard F. Fenstemaker, who will complete thirty-five years of service to your Alma Mater this year.

To commemorate this event, members of the faculty of B.S.C. have expressed a willingness to underwrite the cost of an oil portrait and booklet if former students of Mr. Fenstemaker and the general alumni will provide a suitable memorial, preferably in the form of library acquisitions which will perpetuate Mr. Fenstemaker's respect for learning. It is our hope that thousands of future students at this institution will be inspired to follow in his footsteps.

The B.S.C. faculty has already been solicited. The Fenstemaker portrait will be unveiled at the annual dinner meeting of the Columbia County Branch of the Bloomsburg State College Alumni Association, which will be held in the College Commons at 7:00 p. m., Tuesday, February 28, 1961. All members of the Alumni Association are invited. Miss Lucy Valero, Assistant Executive Secretary of the P.S.E.A., will be the speaker.

Mr. Fenstemaker needs no introduction to our group, since his service span at B.S.C. has covered almost two generations. His contributions to his Alma Mater are unique, and his interests have covered the widest possible range of activities including music, community and church organizations, and all areas of academic knowledge.

May we count on your support in establishing a suitable memorial for this great educator. Your contributions to a library fund will provide for the acquisition of research volumes in the Humanities.

Very truly yours,



Wallace E. Derr, President  
Columbia County Branch

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**HOWARD F. FENSTEMAKER LIBRARY FUND**  
**Bloomsburg State College**  
**Bloomsburg, Pa.**

December 15, 1960

Mr. Clayton H. Hinkel, Treasurer Columbia County Branch  
Bloomsburg State College, Bloomsburg, Pa.

I wish to contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the Fenstemaker Memorial Fund. Please include my name in the testimonial booklet.

Year of graduation \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Second date \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_  
(if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

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(Street)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(State)

A copy of the testimonial booklet will be mailed to all contributors.