

# Engineering Organizations

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WHEN dawn breaks on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, engineers from twenty-five of our nation's largest universities will begin celebrations of a day which to them has become a national holiday. At our own University this day will mark the twenty-first consecutive observance of the occasion, and in addition will represent the culmination of the engineering college's greatest and most successful year.

During these twenty-one years and more, in fact, since the establishment of the School in 1909, Dean J. H. Felgar has had the interest of the school at heart, and is constantly endeavoring to help each student build the structure of a worthwhile life. Through all these years the students have come to look upon the Dean as a friendly counselor—as one who can give them that advice which is so necessary in making life's trip an easier and more profitable one.

It has been this, should we say, "backing" which each individual engineer feels that gives him that encouragement, and spirit, and outlook which all blend into the making of real engineers and men. And while he has been building men he has at the same time, with the help of the faculty, been building an institution—one which has risen from a college of one small building to one of the finest schools of engineering in the West.

Coöperating with and endeavoring to enter into the true engineering spirit with the Dean and faculty, the various honorary and professional organizations have shown unusual increase in activity during the past year.

In discussing the professional organizations it is well first to state their purposes. Nearly all schools have a student branch representing their particular society, the object of which is to give the student some acquaintance with the practical side of the field of his particular phase of engineering; to develop the students' initiative and ability to speak in public, and to familiarize them with the parliamentary procedure and organization of learned societies; to enable the students to establish fraternal contact with fellow students in engineering, and to meet older men actively engaged in their particular field; and to keep them in touch with engineering progress.

The American Society of Civil Engineers, representing the civil engineering school, under the guidance of Professor John F. Brookes, has had a number of very interesting programs featuring talks and demonstrations by professional civil engineers who have had experience in the practical field. The students of this school have recently returned from a nine-day tour of the middle west, on which they visited various manufacturing concerns in and about Chicago where they learned about modern methods of manufacture, construction, and organization.

The organizations representing the electrical engineering school are the American Institute of Electrical Engineering Schools and the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. Under the guidance of Professor Carl T. Almquist an unusual interest in the district meeting of the parent Society of Electrical Engineers has been taken. At their local meetings they have featured several outside speakers as well as a number of educational and interesting talking pictures presented in the Engineering auditorium.

The American Petroleum Institute, which is the organization representing the student body of the petroleum engineering school, as well as the natural gas engineering school, has stepped into activity only within the last year under the guiding influence of Professor William H. Carson. However, it has made up for lost time by holding regular monthly meetings at which unusual interest has been shown. These meetings have featured the regular outside speakers and educational films common to the other organizations, and in addition have had as their own personal feature technical talks given by student engineers.

The mechanical engineering school, as well as the aeronautical engineering school, is represented in the school's activities by the student branch of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. This organization is guided also by Professor Carson, while Professor H. V. Beck is honorary chairman and acts as advisor to the student officers and members. The programs of this organization have featured demonstrations by large commercial firms such as the Air Reduction Sales company, the Oklahoma Gas and Electric company, and the Boeing

School of Aeronautics. In order that the students shall have some diversion from purely technical meetings entertainment and refreshments have been offered from time to time as a part of the regular programs. These meetings have been deemed more successful than the regular A.S.M.E. meetings of the past and this has been due largely to the coöperating spirit taken by the members in arranging and attending the meetings. It is well to add also that the student branch of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers has done more coöperative research work with the parent Society than any other student branch of the A.S.M.E. in other universities.

All of these organizations have their own student officers and arrange and govern their meetings as they see fit, falling back upon their individual advisors when they run into unforeseen difficulties and situations which require more experience than they possess in their handling.

The honor engineering societies have been established with the purpose of stimulating interest in the college of engineering, encouragement of fellowship among students training for the engineering profession, and recognition of personal attainments on the part of engineering students.

Those qualities which best give promise of successful career—scholarship, practicalness and social ability—are the basis for determining eligibility to any of these societies.

The oldest honorary engineering fraternity on the campus is Sigma Gamma Epsilon. This organization was established in 1915 for students in geology and allied subjects with the purpose of promoting the study of geology. Members of the petroleum engineering school have taken special interest in the fraternity because of the close relationship existing between the geology and oil industries. Membership indicates that the student has distinguished himself by being in the upper fourth of his class.

The next oldest and the largest organization of its kind on the campus is Sigma Tau. From a small local society established at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska, in February, 1904, this organization has developed into a strong national fraternity of twenty-one chapters and now enjoys nationwide scope and recognition.

The University of Oklahoma Mu chapter was established eighteen years ago and its members have been leaders in student activities and in the professional world.

One of the leading engineering groups in Oklahoma and the second oldest honorary fraternity in the country is Tau Beta Pi. Starting eleven years ago on the University campus with only a few members, this organization has become recognized as the highest honor society in the engineering school.

Tau Beta Pi was founded at Lehigh University in June, 1885, and since then has been built up into an organization consisting of 61 chapters and more than twenty thousand members throughout the country.

Its purpose is to offer students of technical schools of America membership in an honorary association. It is not wholly a professional society since students who are qualified in any branch of engineering may become members. The annual elections to the society, which are based upon scholarship, integrity, breadth of interest, adaptability, and unselfish activity, are limited to the upper one-fourth of the senior class and three students who have grade averages within the upper one-eighth of the junior class. The government of the organization in each chapter is under the direction of the elected student officers and an advisory board consisting of four faculty members of Tau Beta Pi. Membership in Tau Beta Pi is one of the highest scholastic honors that an undergraduate engineering student can receive.

The youngest honor society in the school of engineering is Tau Omega, the national honorary aeronautics fraternity. This organization was founded here at the University during the fall of 1927, and by February 18, 1928, received its charter giving it a national scope. Beta chapter of Tau Omega was established in the spring of 1932 at Wichita University, Wichita, Kansas. Petitions are now being considered for chapters at the Universities of Minnesota and Florida.

The primary purpose of the chapter when organized was to promote interest in aeronautics among undergraduates of universities and colleges. Through its efforts the University aeronautical courses were offered in the fall of 1929. Since the organization of the fraternity, it has been experimenting in every field of aeronautics. Contrary to the stand taken by the other honor societies in the school of engineering, Tau Omega does not limit its membership to engineering students alone, but to anyone who has the proper qualifications and, in particular, to those who have shown that they are truly interested in aeronautics and are willing to work for its advancement. However, nearly all of its membership is confined to the engineering school and as a result its activities are along engineering lines.

Tau Omega has been considered as one of the most constructive honor organizations in the engineering school. It has been through its activity, under the direction of Professors Joseph Liston, J. C. Davis, and L. A. Comp, that courses in aeronautics have been added to the curriculum in the University. In addition equipment has been made and procured by this active organization for instructors and research purposes.

Under the guidance of Professor Liston, Tau Omega has built the only wind tun-

nel in Oklahoma and its members are now doing research work on it. The organization is also working on two large airplane engines procured from the U. S. Navy by the society preparatory to running efficiency tests on them. Work is being done on an "acroplane" procured by the fraternity for the purpose of stimulating interest as well as for learning more about the mechanics of flight.

Tau Omega has among its members men who are deeply interested in aviation and in the engineering school. It is such membership as this which will eventually be the source of realization of one of the finest schools of engineering in the country.

Dean Felgar and his faculty have done their part toward erecting a foundation upon which to build. The student must then build upon that foundation. But the strength of his structure and the beauty of his design must be attained by his own efforts, these efforts bearing the real fruits of success by proper association. And it has been the purpose of these organizations to offer that association and initiative, which will ripen the fruit he has been growing and cultivating, and which will realize for him that for which the Dean and faculty have been striving, the makings of real engineers and men. And without such men any institution must fall.

## Sooners at Teachers Convention

**S**OONER alumni attending the annual convention of the Oklahoma Educational association early in February in Oklahoma City made headquarters at the Biltmore hotel and enjoyed reunions with classmates who were drawn from all parts of the state to the meetings.

Fisher Ames, '30law, president of the Oklahoma City Alumni club, was toastmaster at the luncheon of Sooner alumni in the Biltmore dining room. The young president who will "run the show" when the Oklahoma City club holds its Homecoming roundup next fall in Oklahoma City, identified himself as a clever master of ceremonies.

The Biltmore lobby was thronged with Sooner alumni every minute of the three-day meeting. Frank S. Cleckler, alumni secretary, was in charge of an information and registration table in the lounge room. Assistance in finding meetings and friends was provided by the association through its secretary.

Alumni who signed the register during the convention period follow:

1901  
John T. Hefley, Enid.  
1902  
Roy Gittinger, Norman.  
1913  
E. R. Kraettli, Norman; E. C. Houston, Honolulu, Hawaii.  
1914  
Luther H. White, Tulsa.  
1915  
Mrs. J. B. Newby, Oklahoma City.  
1916  
Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Kitchens, Cheyenne.  
1918  
Clay DeFord, Afton; Marjorie Brainard, Oklahoma City.  
1920  
J. C. Conrad, Crescent.

1921  
Mr. and Mrs. Ulrich Beeson, Alva; Lewis E. Salwaechter, Pond Creek; Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Beaird, Norman; Frank S. Cleckler, Norman.

1922  
Bessie Herrin, Oklahoma City; Joe J. Miller, Chickasha.

1923  
Bertha Downing, Norman; Emma Estell-Harbour, Edmond.

1924  
Gordon P. Shelton, Frederick.  
1925

Frank D Hess, Drumright; Anna Cottingham, Tulsa.

1926  
Virginia K. Sage, Verden; Herbert H. Scott, Norman.

1927  
C. N. Conwill, Lawton; Murrel Bixler, Oklahoma City.

1928  
M. V. Van Meter, jr., Oklahoma City.

1929  
Paul W. Partridge, Oklahoma City; Mrs. A. P. Lever, Oklahoma City; Don Hansen, Marble City.

1930  
Fisher Ames, jr., Oklahoma City; Grace Combest, Blackwell; Florence G. Miller, Wilburton.

1931  
Paul Thurber, Tishomingo; J. O. Shaw, Frederick.

1932  
Odiene H. Lynch, Chelsea; Streeter Stuart, El Reno; Waldo L. Geis, Shawnee; Vernon C. Walker, Crescent; Ernie Hill, Norman.

1933  
B. W. Weber, Oklahoma City; G. S. Fields, Oklahoma City; Vida M. Lynch, Chelsea; C. O. Moore, Guymon; Ralph Brand, Pauls Valley; Ermon Boyd, Enid; Smith Watkins, Putnam City; J. G. True, Lawton.