

Guide for Matrimony

Mrs. Roberta Ortenburger talked herself right into the college curriculum and everyone's happy.

A pleasant appearing woman stood at the head of an unusually large class. She smiled a greeting to the students. The pupils notebooks were open; their faces fixed on the features of the middle-aged woman at the front of the room. They listened attentively.

"Today I'm going to speak on pregnancy," she announced in an informal tone. There was no uneasy shifting of positions, no nervous glances from one student to another, no tittering and no wise cracks. The student interest and attitude was sincere. Mrs. Roberta Ortenburger, assistant professor of zoological sciences, began another lecture in "Marriage Orientation."

Listed in the catalog as Zoo 17, the

course could be subtitled "A Guide for Marriage." Besides teaching the five sections of class, Mrs. Ortenburger reserves a good part of her time for personal counseling of students.

College curricula furnish students with an ample supply of courses that teach them to make a living, but few courses teach them the applied facts of life. The significant step of marriage is one that should be preceded by preparation on both parts. Unfortunately, education for marriage is sadly neglected or vigorously discouraged in many schools.

But thanks to Mrs. Ortenburger, that's not the case in Soonerland.

If any student is suffering from the ten-



Courtships and the problems that accompany them will always be common to the campus. Sooner students, thanks to Zoo 17, work their problems out soundly.



Instructing five student-crowded sections is only half of Mrs. Ortenburger's job. She always has to keep plenty of conference time available for students who seek personal counseling on their present courtships, and the plans and problems of future marriages.

sion of a strained romance, his friends, unhesitatingly, will send him to Mrs. Ortenburger. Here he is assured of receiving frank facts and wise counsel from an understanding and tolerant source.

"Marriage is for adults," says Mrs. Ortenburger, "unfortunately there are too few of them. It isn't necessary to be completely mature for marriage, but it is necessary to be willing to grow."

Each semester the Zoo 17 class rolls are quickly filled. Enrollees take in students from every school and college on the campus—from engineering to fine arts—from home economics to physical education.

Several engaged couples take the course together as well as students who are in the "going steady" stage. Until this semester there were so many married couples taking the course together Mrs. Ortenburger held a special section for them. In some cases, the students are divorced and take the course to consider a new marriage or a remarriage. In all cases, those divorced have told Mrs. Ortenburger, "If I had only taken this course before . . ."

The classes are conducted in an air of

good humor and the lectures soundly sprinkled with common sense. Speaking from experiences amassed from counseling and her own marriage, Mrs. Ortenburger convinces the students and they readily accept her advice.

Though the course meets only once weekly, its scope of topics is as wide in range as appeal. Adequate information on everything from petting to nursing and sterility to puberty is given by Mrs. Ortenburger. A poll indicated that petting and pre-marital relations didn't rate too high in capturing student interest. The most popular subjects, and ones that students believe warrant more discussion, are "General Principles of Successful Marriage," "Pregnancy," "Psychological Differences Between Men and Women" and "Emotional Differences."

Information on child raising and budgets (time and finances) take top billing with married students. "Hope I don't start a stampede for altars," said Mrs. Ortenburger in one of her class lectures, "but students who are married do better work than single students. And those married couples

who have children tend to do better with their classwork than married couples without children. The reason is that the students have a stronger stimulant to do better work. Their futures are living with them."

Approximately 4,000 students have taken the course since it was first offered for credit in 1947. One of the surprising things about the course is that the men students have outnumbered the women from the start. On the average 55 per cent of the students are men. To begin with, however, the men students were a little shy; it took almost five weeks to get all of them in class at the same time, laughed Mrs. Ortenburger.

Paul MacMinn, dean of students, received quite a few visits from wary males who wanted to make certain other members of their sex would attend the class.

Mrs. Ortenburger's first interest in family relations came when she was at the University of Michigan. Here, she met her future husband, Dr. A. I. Ortenburger, now professor of zoological sciences at O.U. They both received degrees in biology at the same graduation exercises.

"Then he went into graduate school and worked for his master's and doctor's degrees in zoological sciences while I worked on my 'Mrs.' degree," she said. "And I got my degree before he did."

Mrs. Ortenburger is a trainee of Paul Popenoe's famed American Institute of Family Relations in Los Angeles. Probably her biggest asset to teaching such a course, however, has been her own happy marriage to Professor Ortenburger. They celebrated their thirtieth wedding anniversary last year.

The Ortenburgers are homebuilders in the exact shade of the word. Three years ago they built their own house. Mrs. Orten-

burger drew up the blueprints and designs while Mr. Ortenburger came in on the manual end of the project. Mrs. Ortenburger has three sons and four grandchildren (two grandchildren from each married son) which provide her with seven additional training points in her counseling career.

Robert Ortenburger, '47bs, is assistant cashier of Citizens State Bank, Tulsa. He is married to the former Betty Wood, '47bs; they have two sons Billy, 3 and a half, and Tommy, 2.

Arthur, Jr., '43-'44, took his pre-med at O.U. and graduated from Harvard Medical School cum laude. After serving his internship, he went into practice in Kemmerer, Wyoming, but at the present is a 1st lieutenant in the 11th Airborne Medical Battalion (paratroopers). He and his wife, Ethel, have a boy Mark, 3 months, and a girl Leigh, 2. They named the girl after Ortenburger's third son. Leigh, '51ba, is doing graduate work in mathematics at the University of California at Berkeley. He has a unique hobby—mountain climbing—and was recently licensed guide in the Grand Teton Range and admitted to membership in the American Alpine Club.

Mrs. Ortenburger's first step into orientation work began when she started giving short talks to girls in a sorority of which she was counselor. In the spring of 1942, other sororities asked her to talk to them. Soon she was talking to coed groups almost every night. By the fall of 1942, the Associated Women Students organization on the campus had set up a committee to prepare a schedule of lectures for Mrs. Ortenburger.

The sorority and independent women were divided into 18 groups and she lectured to each group twice, first on biology

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Attentive faces listen respectfully to every classroom lecture delivered by Mrs. Roberta Ortenburger in her class of marriage orientation. Here the students learn the key materials on which to found a happy marriage—a knowledge and understanding of problems.

David Busby, '51Law, has discontinued his law partnership in Coalgate and is now associated with the law firm of Busby, Harrell, and Trice in Ada.

Lt. Robert Lain Hazel, '51Journ, and Mrs. Hazel, the former Jayne McFarland, '49ed, formerly of Oklahoma City, are living in Roswell, New Mexico, where Lt. Hazel is stationed at Walker Airforce Base. The Hazels have one daughter, Peggy Ann, 6 months.

George W. Price, '51eng, and Mrs. Price, the former Marilyn Jennings, '47-'50, formerly of Republic, Michigan, have established their home in Texarkana, Arkansas. The Prices have two children, Wayne, and Ann Lorene.

TILLMA-TROST: Miss Ann H. Tillma, '51ed, became the bride of Louis F. Trost, Jr., '51bus, both of Oklahoma City, on March 23 in the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Oklahoma City. At the University, Mrs. Trost was a member of Chi Omega social sorority. Trost was affiliated with Phi Gamma Delta social fraternity. The couple is living in Oklahoma City where Trost is employed by the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company as a staff assistant.

OGLE-NOBLE: Miss Anna Mary Ogle, '51ba, Wewoka, and Charles Noble, '51ba, Oklahoma City, were married May 5 in Norman. The couple is living in Oklahoma City.

POWELL-DICKERSON: Miss Barbara Rose Powell, '51fa, Lawton, and Edward W. Dickerson, Salt Lake City, Utah, were married recently in the First Presbyterian Church in Lawton. At the University, Mrs. Dickerson was treasurer of Delta Phi Delta, national art fraternity, and a member of Gamma Alpha Chi. The couple has established their home in El Reno.

SWANSON-RENEGAR: Miss Charlotte Marie Swanson, '51ba, and James M. Renegar, '50bus, both of Oklahoma City, were married October 19 in the First Lutheran Church in Oklahoma City. At the University, Mrs. Renegar was a member of Delta Gamma, social sorority, and Renegar served as president of Alpha Tau Omega, social fraternity. The couple is living in Oklahoma City.

Jim S. Downing, '50pharm, and Mrs. Downing, Norman, announce the birth of a son, James High, born October 18 in the Norman Municipal hospital.

Cranston W. Flesher, '50bs, '51eng, Sidney, Nebraska, is now employed as a junior engineer for the Huntsman Gasoline Plant of the Ohio Oil Company.

VINSON-OAKES: Miss Suzanne Vinson, Tulsa, and Ens. Herbert Charles Oakes, '50eng, Edmond, were married October 20 in the Boston Avenue Methodist Church in Tulsa. At the University, Ens. Oakes was a member of Phi Delta Theta, social fraternity, Tau Beta Pi and Sigma Tau, honorary engineering fraternities. The couple has established their home in Coronado, California.

DENNIS-KAHLER: Miss Betty Dennis, '49-'51, Tulsa, and Lt. Don Scott Kahler, '50eng, Oklahoma City, were married October 21 in the Rose chapel of the Boston Avenue Methodist Church in Tulsa. At the University, Mrs. Kahler was a member of Alpha Delta Pi social sorority, and Alpha Epsilon Delta, honorary pre-medical fraternity. Lt. Kahler was affiliated with Acacia social fraternity, Phi Eta Sigma, honorary scholastic fraternity, Tau Beta Pi and Sigma Tau, honorary engineering fraternities, and Scabbard and Blade. The couple is living in Ft. Campbell, Kentucky, where Lt. Kahler is stationed.

CONNELL-SMITH: Miss Shirley Connell, '50 Journ, Oklahoma City, and James W. Smith, '51ba, were married in June in Oklahoma City. At the University, Smith was a member of the varsity track team. The couple has established their home in Sweetwater, Tennessee, where Smith is an instructor and coach at the Tennessee Military Institute

and Mrs. Smith is news editor of a weekly newspaper.

HART-FRAZIER: Miss Laurantta Hart, '50 Journ, Hennessey, and James C. Frazier, '49-'51, Ponca City, were married recently in Oklahoma City. At the University, Mrs. Frazier was a member of Delta Delta Delta, social sorority. Frazier was affiliated with Sigma Alpha Epsilon social fraternity. The couple is living in Oklahoma City.

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of reproduction and later on marriage psychology. The plan was too successful; the sessions sometimes lasted till midnight.

"The sessions took up so much of my time and the girls' time at night that it was suggested that the talks be held in a classroom," Mrs. Ortenburger said. In the early stages of the game she was doing her counseling without pay. Regular classes without credit were set up in the fall of 1945 with over 300 coeds enrolling. In 1946, when the veterans came back to school, the girls decided "The boys should know these things also." The boys agreed and circulated a petition requesting the classes be opened to male students. As a result, Mrs. Ortenburger was appointed a special assistant professor to teach a marriage orientation course. At first men and women were segregated, at the girls' request, but another wise demand by the students ended segregation of the sexes.

"The students believed," said Mrs. Ortenburger, "that they would obtain a greater understanding of family relations by being instructed in a mixed group."

One of the principal features of the class is the preparation of a term paper. Each student selects a subject he wishes to know more about.

"Always it is a personal problem and by the time the student finishes his paper he often has solved the problem for himself," Mrs. Ortenburger said. "I am pleased, too, when so many men students choose subjects such as 'Education for Family Life' and 'Problems of a Father.'"

Many of the students are concerned with inter-faith marriages. Just name your faith—Greek Orthodox, Catholic, Jewish, Protestant—they are all represented on the class rolls.

The student opinion about the course, given on unsigned questionnaires, was pretty much in agreement. "The main criticism that I would have with the course is that it is too short"—"It is the most useful course offered by the University. Could you make it longer?"—"Make it a required course for graduation."—"The most helpful and beneficial course offered at the university. Make it a three hour course."—"Only one improvement possible, make it a longer course."

The student demand is for more of the same, unfortunately, Mrs. Ortenburger doesn't have enough time to teach advanced courses for she must be available to those students whose romances have struck a reef.

Zoology 17—a course designed for better living with an instructor who is not only aware of the conflicts of courtship, but is capable of smoothing them out.

Dale Talks on Wax. Thanks to Dr. E. E. Dale, '11ba, the famed cowboy historian, you can hear his famous lectures in the leisure of your living room.

Dale has recorded an album of four long-play records on Oklahoma's early days and colorful leaders. It is something new in teaching methods and the response indicates it will be popular, O.U. Extension Division officials report. The first personal order came from Dr. M. A. Nash, '19ba, '27ma, chancellor of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, Seminole, was the first public school to request the records.

The four-record history course covers Oklahoma pioneers, the Five Civilized Tribes and other Indians, ranchers and trail-driving days, the Boomers and Sooners and life in Old Oklahoma and Indian Territory. The first edition, which is being limited to 200 albums, is available for \$10. Requests may be sent to the Extension Division.

Dunn Selected. John W. Dunn, director of University radio station WNAD, was elected regional director of the National Association of Educational Broadcasters. Dunn was named to the post at a meeting in Biloxi, Mississippi, last December.

He will serve Section Five, which includes Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico and Colorado. He was also chosen on the NAEB board of directors.

Youth Counselor. Pauline Chappell Keaton, dean of girls at Tulsa's Will Rogers highschool, has been appointed assistant professor of education and educational counselor for the University, Dr. George L. Cross, president, announced recently.

Mrs. Keaton assumed her duties at the beginning of the spring semester. As a part of her new duties she is visiting the highschool seniors of Oklahoma and offering guidance to the young people about to finish their secondary education. Her work is the first phase of a statewide

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