

The
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CENTRAL STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE
STEVENS POINT, WISCONSIN

THE CONCLAVE GAVEL

There is a gavel which is used to open the national meetings of the society. After each annual meeting, it is given into the custody of the host chapter for the ensuing year. The head of the gavel is composed of seven pieces of wood, each of historical significance scientifically, that were contributed by the representatives of the seven founding chapters.

In the center of the gavel head will be found a piece of ancient oak, the contribution from the Grand Chapter, Alpha, at Shurtleff College, Alton, Illinois. This is from a beam of a house built by the founder of Shurtleff College, Rev. John M. Peck. The house was built in 1821. The wood into which the handle of the gavel is inserted, is a piece of mahogany. This represents the Epsilon Chapter at Westerville, Ohio. The wood is from a case from a battery of Leyden jars in the Physics Department. The exact age of the wood is not known but it dates back well toward the founding of Otterbein College, 1847. The light piece of wood next to the mahogany represents the Zeta Chapter at Central State Teachers College, Stevens Point, Wisconsin. This is a part of a stair railing, taken from the stairs leading to the assembly hall in the old administration building. Next to this is a piece of spruce representing the Eta Chapter of Southeast State Teachers College, Cape Girardeau, Missouri. It is from the original flooring of the science hall of the college, this building being one of the oldest upon the campus. Next to this is a piece of walnut representing the Beta Chapter at McKendree College, Lebanon, Illinois. This is wood from an old piece of laboratory equipment in the physics department. The age of the piece is not definitely known but it is thought to be from near the year 1835. The wood next to this represents the Gamma Chapter at the Medical College of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia. It is a piece of yellow pine from the wide flooring of the oldest building on the campus. The building is known as the Egyptian Building and dates back to 1845. The seventh piece of wood is a piece of walnut. This represents the Delta Chapter of Kirksville State Teachers College, Kirksville, Missouri. Although the piece of wood is old there is nothing of scientific interest connected with it.

Silver bands have been added to the head of the gavel to give it added strength as well as to afford a means of identifying other chapters that may be added to Sigma Zeta from time to time, the Greek letter standing for the chapter or some other form of identification being engraved upon the silver bands.

THE SIGMA ZETAN

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George A. Scherer, Grand Editor

Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana

“SHALL I CHECK YOUR OIL?”

Gasoline makes an automobile go, and if you run out of gasoline your car stops. However, if you put more gasoline in the tank it runs again, and the motor is not injured. But suppose you run out of oil, which doesn't in itself make the car go, but which makes the motor operate smoothly and quietly. Then the motor becomes overheated, the bearings burn out, and the car will not run at all until you spend a lot of money on repair bills.

Doing the best that you are capable of doing in college is much like the oil in an automobile. This is not primarily the thing that keeps you moving towards graduation—doing only average work is all that is necessary for that—but it is the thing that makes your college course more than just four years between high school and your life work. How your life can be ruined by just “getting by” in college! If you fall into the habit of doing less than your best, your life will be damaged. After college you will continue to do less than you are capable of doing unless you realize your situation and take considerable trouble to change this habit of life.

The time to determine your habits of life is in college. Keep yourself oiled by doing your best. Don't allow yourself to operate below par. It will save you lots of trouble later. Sigma Zeta is a gauge to help you determine your oil supply by encouraging greater achievements. “How is your oil?”

THE LANGUAGE OF SCIENCE

As we look back over the road Sigma Zeta has come in this first few years of its existence, we are pleased with what has been accomplished. We know that Sigma Zeta has been given a fair trial. It has proven one of the most beneficial organizations upon the college campus. Let us now plan for an increasingly useful Sigma Zeta.

The fact that Sigma Zeta is made up of representatives from various science departments is very significant. The nature of its organization makes it necessary that each scientist who addresses its chapters make use of a method of presentation that is intelligible to others who may not have more than mere rudiments of the science in which the speaker is well versed. To make sure that the material offered is understood by all the listeners calls for careful analysis, careful formulation, careful phraseology.

The method of presentation marks a point where scientists often fail. The scientist who says “To understand my address you must speak my language,” will fail to reach the masses. Large numbers of people may be interested in the problem at hand but not interested to the point that they will learn a new technical vocabulary just to understand that particular problem.

We know that the masses must be reached if science is to serve to best advantage. Sigma Zeta can do much to stimulate students of science, to so formulate subject matter that the material presented can be understood by all. Let us do what we can to foster greater cooperate among the various sciences and to bring about a more wide-spread knowledge of the truths of science.

PROF. F. A. HANAWALT (Epsilon).

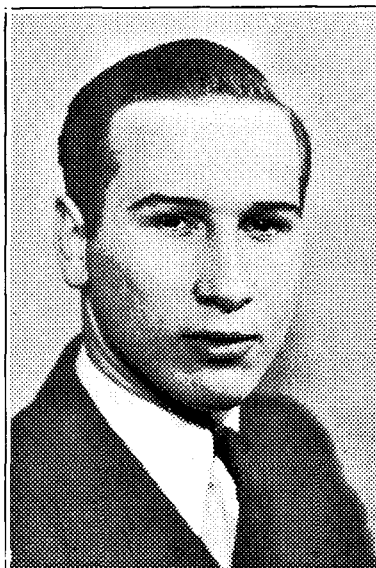
THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL CONCLAVE, 1937



Professor T. A. Rogers
Grand Recorder-Treasurer

The national conclave was entertained by the Zeta Chapter at Central State Teachers College, Stevens Point, Wisconsin on April 15, 16, and 17. The arrangements were in charge of Professor T. A. Rogers, Grand Recorder-Treasurer, and William A. Thiesen, General Chairman for the Conclave, who were assisted by the rest of this chapter. Representatives from four states were present.

The program of the conclave began with registration at 9:15 on Friday. Following this the delegates were taken on a field trip through the Whiting Plover Paper Mill which occupied the rest of the morning. After lunch the visitors enjoyed the Science Open House which is sponsored annually by the Zeta Chapter. Some of the high points in this program were chemical exhibits, photographic demonstrations

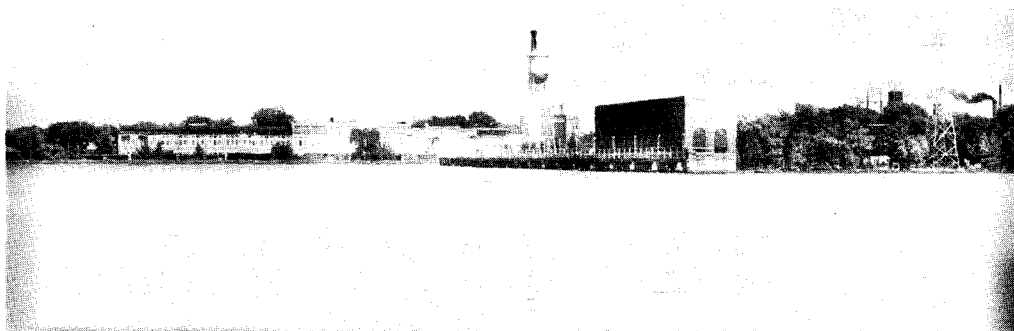


William A. Theisen
General Chairman For Conclave

in the dark room, astronomy lecture and demonstration, demonstration of high frequency static electricity, scientific production of heat, production of light, movies on chemistry and other scientific subjects, experiments in botany and zoology and a display of scientific books. After a band concert directed by Professor Michelson at 3:30, Mr. Berglund of Minneapolis talked on "Liquid Air and Dry Ice."

The Conclave Banquet was held at the Hotel Whiting, Friday evening. After a delicious fried wall-eyed pike dinner a welcome was given by Frank S. Hyer, President of Central State Teachers College. The main address of the evening was given by Professor Benjamin Morris of the University of Wisconsin who lectured on "Electrical Phenomena."

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The Whiting Plover Paper Mill

THE CHAPTERS

ALPHA (1925) Shurtleff College Alton, Illinois

Alpha Chapter of Sigma Zeta launched into the year 1936-37 with a shortage of active members (due to graduation and withdrawals from school) and an abundance of associate members. However, the old adage "that numbers mean nothing" once more held true and an interesting and profitable year has been enjoyed.

Among the programs presented this year were the following: Prof. E. E. List introduced the chapter to some of the secrets of geology in his interesting talk on "The Metallurgy and Reduction of Aluminum." Dr. A. J. Miles, professor of physics and mathematics, presented an illustrated discussion on "light" touching on both its theoretical and practical sides. Students also had their chance to entertain, and two students presented motion pictures which they themselves had taken. One was a color film of the Rocky Mountain Region, and Old Mexico, the other was an actual picture of an autopsy taken in the St. Louis Morgue. Dr. Richie, a member of the faculty since the beginning of the second semester, presented a delightful lecture on the practical applications of polarized glass.

Dr. Livingstone of the faculty and also employed as an engineer on the Federal Dam Project on the Mississippi at Alton is to be the speaker at the last meeting of the year. The regular Sigma Zeta picnic will be held the latter part of May.

BETA (1926) McKendree College Lebanon, Illinois

McKendree College is one of the smaller liberal arts colleges with an average enrollment of 200 students, of which one-third to one-fourth are women. The college officials say that the enrollment would be closed at 300, with 200 to 250 as perhaps the desired number, so that Beta Chapter cannot look forward to an increased growth due to school enrollment increases. McKendree is a denominational school, and like many of the older schools of this type, whose student body is inherited from fathers, grandfathers, and in some cases, great-grandfathers who attended the college in their day, in the past has prepared principally for the professions: medicine, law, teaching, ministry, and the graduate school in general.

Of these 200 students approximately only one out of five is a science major, and this number is somewhat lessened in the senior college by the pre-professional students who enter medical and other professional schools at the end of their sophomore year. Not only are

the eligible students comparatively few in number, but the rather severe standards for the Bachelors degree not infrequently renders a potentially valuable man ineligible. Therefore, the total of available science students is small and must continue to be small.

On the other hand the requirement for graduation of two years of science or mathematics keeps the junior college division fairly well filled, although the emphasis here is on scientific training for its cultural value rather than on preparation for professional work. Accordingly then, the problem is the stimulating of interest in science under these conditions, and to acquaint the student with the method of approach known as scientific thinking. This can be accomplished by interesting the freshmen and sophomores in some phase or branch of science even though the interest of the majority is primarily in some other field.

To this end Beta Chapter established five years ago a freshman essay contest. While response to this has been occasionally less than the chapter expected, the value of the project appears to justify the existence of the project at least, and may have stimulated scientific reading and thinking more than is generally realized.

This year the chapter is undertaking a more ambitious program, in creating a unique memorial honoring the late Dr. Edward B. Waggoner, professor and emeritus professor of natural science at McKendree from 1884 until his death last year. This memorial has taken several forms or phases of activity. First, the chapter is sponsoring an essay contest open to all students, limited this year to topics connected with the science work of Professor Waggoner, and rewarded with the Waggoner Memorial Medal, designed, incidentally, by a non-science student. Secondly, the chapter is arranging for an annual memorial lecture, to which the student body as a whole is invited, and dealing, of course, with some scientific subject. The reorganization of a mass of museum material is a third phase of the memorial; geological, biological, and miscellaneous material is being resurrected, identified and labeled and catalogued.

Although the Beta Chapter is not directly responsible for the project, her members are much interested in the plans at McKendree for the increase of the work in geology to that of a full department. The project includes the establishment of a field station for outdoor study. The development is being carried on through an alumni committee of five, four of which are members of Beta. The chapter is much interested in this work and believe it will prove a major factor in stimulating interest in the sciences.

The seven active members of Beta believe that they are accomplishing, at last in some measure, the fraternity objectives of stimulating an interest in science among the general cultural group of the McKendree student body.

EPSILON (1929)

Otterbein College
Westerville, Ohio

The officers of the Epsilon Chapter are as follows: Duane Mills, Master Scientist; Clarence Pope, Vice-Master Scientist; Virginia Hetzler, Recorder-Treasurer. The active members are Russell Brown, William Catalona, John Flanagan, Elmer Funkhouser, Joseph Fields, Jay Hedding, Virginia Hetzler, Donald Martin, Duane Mills, Clarence Pope, Mary Musser, John Smith, Charles Stuhl, Emerson Shuck, Dr. A. D. Boston, Dr. E. W. E. Shear, Prof. James McCloy, Prof. F. A. Hanawalt, Prof. A. J. Esselstyn, and Prof. B. G. Glover.

The chapter took the initiative in organizing a science club, The McFadden Science Club, for the freshmen and sophomores of the college. This is to promote the interests of science in those students who are not eligible for active membership in Sigma Zeta. There is no restriction as to membership. However, those eligible for associate membership in Sigma Zeta are so considered.

Some of the very interesting speeches that have been given this year are: "The Medical Missionary," "The Field of Dentistry," "The Field of Dietetics" and "Photo-electric Eye."

ZETA (1929)

Central State Teachers College
Stevens Point, Wisconsin

The officers of the Zeta Chapter are as follows: Master-Scientist, Maxine Miner; Vice-Master Scientist, Alvin Bucholz; Recorder-Treasurer, Jesse Caskey. The active members are Arnold Hotvedt, Harold Dregne, Harold Dent, Gene Connor, Jesse Caskey, Helen Blake, Sylvia Anderson, Charles Hartvig, Bill Larson, John Maier, Dorothy Richards, Ruth Schwan, Bronislaus Slotwinski, La Verne Swanson, Clifford Malchow, Rita Murphy, Carl Bachman, Robert Andre, James Berard, Dr. Ethel Horton, Grand Recorder T. A. Rogers, Mr. Gilbert Faust, Ellery Bassler, William Theisen. The associate members are George Church, Roland Cady, Clifton Fonstad, Ruth Johnson, Theodore Ketteral, Bill Miller, Eileen Marx, Thoburn Peterson, Anthony Posluzny, John Steiner, Jeanette Winarski, John Hanson.

Zeta Chapter had only six active student members and five associate members at the beginning of this year. At the November meeting twenty new members were initiated, two of whom were faculty members.

The chapter won second prize for its float in the Homecoming parade this year. The idea of the float was to "Disintegrate De Kalb." Gun powder was used for the exploding or disintegrating the DeKalb "dummy".

During the year the chapter had had many interesting and instructive programs among which were an illustrated lecture on the moon by Mr. R. M. Rightsell of the college faculty and a lecture on ferns by Dr. A. S. Lyness, also of the faculty.

ETA (1929)

State Teachers College
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

During the year the Eta Chapter has held a series of meetings to which all those interested in the field of science were invited. A program of motion pictures was inaugurated. Among those pictures shown were: "Beyond the Microscope," "Our Wild Life Resources," and "The How and Why of Bird Banding."

THETA (1932)

Elizabethtown College
Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania

The Theta Chapter held many instructive programs this year. Each meeting involved some special phase of a scientific nature. At one meeting Professor Shortness gave an illustrated demonstration of living microscopical animals projected upon a screen.

At the March meeting, which was open to the public, motion pictures were shown. John Glass gave a lecture on "How sound films are made." The April meeting was devoted to a field of chemistry. At the May meeting the officers for 1937-38 will be elected and there will also be a social or picnic.

The chapter took in seven new members this year bringing the membership to thirteen, with six active members and seven associate members.

KAPPA (1935)

Western Illinois State Teachers College
Macomb, Illinois

The Kappa Chapter has had seven meetings, the first three each consisting of an interesting and educational lecture: Dr. Stubblefield, Head of the Health Department at Western, talked on Mental Hygiene; Miss Genevieve Chase, Dean of Women at Western, in her lecture traced the evolutionary development of the nervous system; and Mr. Harris gave an interesting and enlightening discussion of Native Americans and Indian Relics.

The advanced students of chemistry, physics, and biology have had charge of three programs; and before the year is over, each of the other departments will have their opportunity.

LAMBDA (1936)

Mansfield State Teachers College
Mansfield, Pennsylvania

The Lambda Chapter was installed on October 19, 1936, by Dr. H. W. Olson. There were twenty charter members. The active members are Margaret Mercer, Paul J. Steele, Kimble G. Marvin, Herbert Grant, Donald Berry, Maurice Rumsey, Eugene McDonald, Wilber Fahringer, Gaylord Schribner, Norman Walt-

man, John B. Quick, Hugh W. Alger, Alice Alger, Carlyle Young and Maynard Smith. The associate members are Walter Batulis, Charles Anderson, Janet Alger, Raymond Drew and Charles Dewey.

The officers for the first semester were: Master Scientist, Gaylord Schribner; Vice-Master Scientist, Eugene McDonald; Recorder-Treasurer, Maynard Smith. For the second semester they are: Master Scientist, Maurice Rumsey; Vice-Master Scientist, Eugene McDonald; Recorder-Treasurer, Maynard Smith.

There has been an instructive program of some kind for every meeting, such as a speaker or an open discussion of some interesting subject by the members. At one meeting each member gave an oral report followed by a general discussion. The reports were based on current topics which had to do with science.

The chapter has organized an initiation team which is able to dramatize the initiatory services. A college movie has also been sponsored. The last meeting of the year will be a banquet at which some new members will be taken in.

THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL CONCLAVE, 1937

(Continued from page 4)

After breakfast Saturday morning at the Gingham Tea Room the group met in the college auditorium to hear reports and discussions at which time Professor Edwin W. Schreiber of Western Illinois State Teachers College talked on the "History of the Metric System" and Professor F. A. Hanawalt of Otterbein College talked about "Scientific Terminology."

The final session of the conclave was the business meeting at 10:30. T. A. Rogers, the Grand Recorder-Treasurer, reported that during the past year the Science Club at Mankato, Minnesota, State Teachers College petitioned for a chapter which was granted by a unanimous vote of all the chapters. This chapter was officially installed as the Mu Chapter of Sigma Zeta. The conclave also granted a charter to a chapter at the DeKalb State Teachers College at DeKalb, Illinois.