

Smith: Builder In Architecture



Smith Hopes To See Momentum Continued

"We've got a thing going here . . . a momentum that I hope will keep going. I am

trying in my last year to make sure that momentum is an integral part of this department."

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Outstanding Nebraskan Linus Burr Smith was talking about his nationally recognized department of architecture. Sitting in his second floor office in Architectural Hall, Smith could talk of nothing but the "esprit de corps" of architecture faculty and students alike.

"It has been one crises after another for thirty years," Smith said after serving as the first and only chairman of the Department of Architecture.

Despite lacking sufficient

funds and staff, his department has achieved national and international acclaim from those meager beginnings in 1934. Smith attributes this success to an instilling of confidence in architecture students, both in their ability and instruction.

"Students who apply here must be willing to be up against the best—against world competition. In fact, world competition is the basis for student competition," Smith said.

University architecture graduates leave with the top jobs and scholarships, according to Smith. His architecture students have left their mark around the world and just this year they are going to Columbia, Minnesota and Michigan with rich scholarships, Smith said.

"Anywhere he goes, a University architecture student thinks he is as good as anyone there and I think he is," Smith said of the average architecture graduate.

Smith emphasized he did not encourage University students to leave the state after graduation. Their "personal confidence" and interests should be there guides, according to Smith, and the populated areas where architectural interests are high, naturally draw most of his students away.

"We expect to plow some knowledge back into Nebraska, even though students leave," Smith said. The Department of Architecture now elects problems for students in Nebraska and they go out in communities. He said these projects call attention to state needs and help to solve local problems.

Smith, who will continue to teach after stepping down as department head next year, cited two purposes of the University and his department to society.

"We have a duty to raise the general cultural level of the state year by year and also to educate our sons and daughters to live fruitful lives anywhere," Smith said.

Smith expressed reluctance in leaving his post after three decades and aired a concern for the department's future. At present, 250 students can be instructed at Architectural Hall and already this year an overflow of freshman have applied. More and more every year, the department has to turn away applicants because of insufficient facilities and instructors.

"Also, I hope the personal confidence and pride I have

seen so much of will continue," Smith said.

"We cannot get money nationally, from foundations. We are really a cultural activity and these days cultural activities and the humanities find it hard to get money," Smith said.

He quoted James Madison as hitting the point when he said "I must study war and engineering so my descendants might study architecture and music."

Smith said man might be portrayed as having a right hand of humanities and a left hand of science. If the two don't get together he said, "we are in trouble."

"Man must progress equily in the humanities and sciences—there shouldn't be such an imbalance," Smith said.

Three large letters, Smith's initials, are emblazoned above the department office in Architectural Hall. One "regular" on second floor said they wouldn't be soon forgotten there or by the University.

Across the hall from Professor Smith's office a plaque presented by his students hangs in his honor. Its tribute deserves repetition.

To Linus Burr Smith: "A disciple of excellence, an inspiring teacher, a creative artist, an incisive scholar, and an unusually gifted understander of his fellow man who minds and dignity he has served so well for 30 years at the University of Nebraska."

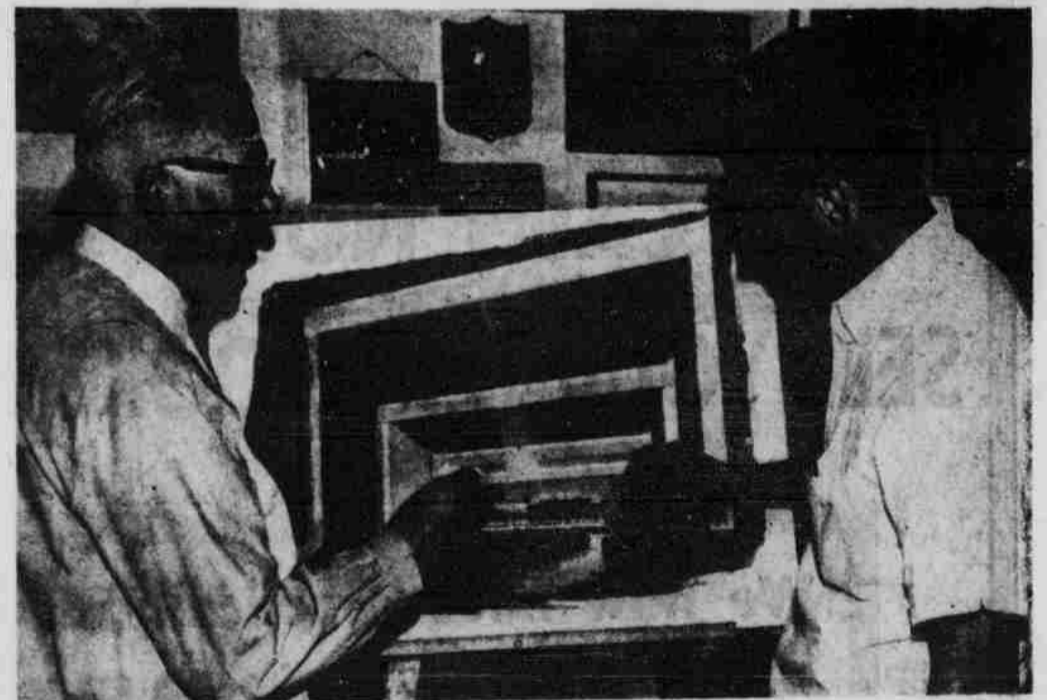
Home Ec Area Will Open Soon

The University's School of Home Economics has announced that a new Home Economics Teaching Area on the city campus will be completed in time to offer courses there, beginning with this summer session.

"This non-laboratory facility will make it possible for students from other disciplines as well as from Home Economics to gain an understanding of the need for improved homes and better living," says Dr. Virginia Trotter, director of the School of Home Economics and associate dean of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics.

The Area includes two classrooms. One is equipped for demonstration-lecture type classes; the other for discussion groups and lecture classes.

Courses offered during the summer session will be in the area of food and nutrition, human development and the family and home economics education.



DAILY NEBRASKAN Photographs by Dennis DeFrain

MAN OF MANY FACETS—Living with a versatile professor can be fun, or so Mrs. Smith can testify. From racing down the street on a bicycle-built-for-two (upper right) to relaxing at home in his favorite chair (upper left), Smith is always busy. He finds his desk never empty as he attempts to finish up all administrative duties before his retirement as chairman of the department of architecture. Smith is always available for individual help for a student, and Joe Johnson takes advantage of his counselling service. Home again, a walk through the garden with his wife (lower right) may end the day.

Undergrads Follow Trend To Summer Session

Over half of the University summer session enrollment this year will be composed of undergraduates, a reflection of a recent continuing trend which is changing the complexion of "summer school," Dr. Frank E. Sorenson said last night.

Sorenson, director of the University's summer sessions, said recent years have brought a steady increase in the proportion of enrollment accounted for by undergraduates who continue their college studies without summer interruption and by new

freshmen, fresh from spring high school commencements. "Last summer," he said, "we had just about 100 students who began their college study immediately after high school graduation. This year, apparently, we will have at least twice that number."

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