

# Alumni Association Members Strive For Strong University

The University Alumni Association has the responsibility for maintaining complete biographical records on all former students of the University as well as maintaining the membership of the Association.

The Association is also responsible for publishing the Nebraska Alumnus. The Alumnus appears six times a year in a magazine format and twice a year in a newspaper format. The magazine is sent to all members of the Association, while the newspaper is sent to every 'good' address for former students. 'Good' addresses include 55,000 names.

A total of 11,000 members make up the Association, with 50 chapters around the country. The Association services these chapters through providing them with speakers for Founder's Day ceremonies, which are held on or around February 15th each year.

### Graduate Founders

The Alumni Association was started in 1874 by the first five graduates of the University, James Stuart Dales, William Snell, Frank Hurd, Uriah Malick and Wallace Stevenson met June 24, 1874 and "duly organized themselves into an alumni association, for purposes of mutual social improvement and the advancement of the interest of the University, whose memories and benefits they wish to perpetuate."

Their stated purpose was "to promote in every proper way the interest of our State University, and to foster among its graduates a sentiment of regard for each other, and of our attachment for our alma mater."

The five men decided that the meetings of the group would be annually on the day preceding commencement.

The membership grew from the five men in 1874 to 27 in 1879. At that time Dales said, "We have already reached a point where the Alumni Association becomes something more than a name, and henceforth it is destined to become a factor in the history of the University."

### Interest Increases

By 1897 the Regents reported that alumni were showing more interest in their organizations. Class reunions had been planned, and arrangements had been started for having a joint meeting of alumni of various colleges.

In 1904 the University Journal was started in the "interests of alumni and second-

ary education in Nebraska." At the June meeting in 1905, more than 400 alumni met together on the East Campus, then known as Ag campus.

The Nebraska Alumnus magazine came into being in October, 1913. At that time, the Alumnus announced that three days would be especially celebrated each year — Homecoming, Charter Day and Alumni Day at commencement.

### Roundup Held

In June of 1922, the first alumni "Roundup" was held. It was announced at that time that the Association had undertaken the project of stadium construction.

In November of the same year a ten-year program was announced. It included a dormitory system, stadium, gymnasium, library, museum, a million-dollar fund for loans and scholarships and "provision for the declining years of those who have given their lives to the University."

In 1923 the Regents agreed to pay \$5,000 a year toward upkeep of the Association in return for the maintenance of a complete list of graduates and ex-students, together with address and occupation.

### Post-War Boom

After the war years Association membership, Roundup and Homecoming luncheon attendance and club activities all reached new peaks.

The Association started a Big Red athletic fund drive in 1954 to try to provide money for athletic scholarships, according to George Bastian, present executive secretary of the Association.

The next big project for the Association was the Distinguished Teaching Fund.

Now called the Regents' Professorship Program, and administered by the University Foundation, there are 12 professors involved in this program.

To be a part of the program, a professor must be a full professor and must be teaching rather than researching. The outstanding professors meeting such qualifications are selected by the chancellor and the Senate, according to Bastian.

### Stay At University

They then receive \$3,750 stipends above their regular state salary, he said. The purpose of this program is to encourage outstanding professors to stay at the University rather than leaving for



The Alumni Roundup, which was begun in 1922, is now an annual event during which many alumni return to the University for a visit.

other higher-paying jobs. Bastian said that the Association would like to see the program increased to include about 30 professors. "We want to keep the good ones here," he said.

"With the rapid increase in enrollment, we have to have a hard-core of instructors to build upon and attract other outstanding professors," Bastian said.

The purpose of the Alumnus magazine is to act as the official journal of the University, according to Bastian. "There is no other publication which tells the story of the University as the Alumnus does," he said.

"We try to keep our alumni informed of enrollment trends, building and distinguished professors," he added.

The present editor of the Alumnus, Mrs. Harriet Coble, is "retiring" in her own words to become a homemaker. She will be replaced September 1st by Miss Sally White.

### "Nothing Greater"

According to Mrs. Coble, one of the most exciting things about her job as editor

is "the alumni. They're so wonderful and gracious." She said that returning from the football bowl games, she got the feeling that "There's nothing greater than Nebraska alums."

The annual Alumni Roundups which are held in connection with commencement have had from 400 to 600 people returning to participate, according to Bastian.

The structure of the Association today is built around its goal: to build a strong University. The Association's programs are financed by annual dues and life memberships.

### Alumni College

The Association sponsored the first annual Alumni College four years ago. Held prior to commencement, this program gives alumni an opportunity to continue their education by returning to the campus to hear faculty members discuss various topics of current interest.

The major fall events for the alumni are centered around the Homecoming football game. Next October, in

addition to the traditional Homecoming luncheon for alumni prior to the game, the various departments on the Lincoln campus will hold morning coffees for alumni. The return to Homecoming has become so popular that California alumni return annually for the weekend on a special plane.

### Promote Interest

The 50 chapters of the Association play a major role in promoting continuing interest in the University and its Alumni Association.

As the alumni have more leisure time (and the football team greater success), the Association stepped in with planes for European tours and flights to regular and post-season football games. The Association provides special mailings to alumni to inform them of bowl game activities.

The Association is open to any graduate or person who has attended the University for two semesters.

"It (the Association) provides the means for appreciative alumni to help insure that young people following them will have the same or better opportunities than they did," according to former Association Secretary James Pittenger.



The active California alum group now makes it an annual event to return to the University for Homecoming.

## You're A Nebraskan? What's A Nebraskan?

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following story was written by Peggy Speece, a June graduate of the School of Journalism. Miss Speece, who was sports editor of the Daily Nebraskan, was the first woman to be allowed in the press box to cover football games at the University. She is presently working for the Kansas City Star.

By Peggy Speece

You're from Where? It's a small town about fifty miles west of Lincoln . . . Lincoln?

Yeah, you know, the state capital? Seems like I should know . . . It's about 50 miles southwest of Omaha . . .

Oh sure. My wife has a cousin living in Omaha.

Well, I come from a small town about 100 miles west of there . . . Place called York, York, Nebraska. You know, I was in Nebraska once . . .

And for some reason, thereby always hangs a tale that is sure to be nothing but derogatory. Even if the guy's dog got sick in Nebraska, somehow he blames the fact on the state.

Why the name Nebraska always brings a smile or a disbelieving look to the face of a non-native is mystifying. It isn't as though Kansas or Oklahoma were a whole lot different — except Nebraska must have a funny sound to it.

Even telephone operators act as though they never heard of Nebraska. Just try going to Kansas City, Albuquerque, or Minneapolis and placing a call to somewhere, anywhere in Nebraska.

ka. If you want to get ahold of someone in Wahoo, Nebraska, you might as well give up.

They never believe that one.

And saying you were graduated from the University of Nebraska is like admitting you once tried to climb Mt. Everest. People snicker. They are convinced you only took courses in Nebraska history, Nebraska geography and how to plant corn on a hillside.

I've found only one way to keep so-you're-from-Nebraska hecklers from getting nasty. If they are Missouri or Kansas University graduates, you've got 'em. Just casually mention that there is a little bit of football played in Nebraska.

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### J-School Head Named To Study With Committee

Dr. William E. Hall, director of the School of Journalism at the University was recently named to a committee designed to strengthen the cooperation between newspapers and journalism schools.

Gene Robb, president of the American Newspaper Publishers Association and Edward Barrett, president of the Association for Education in Journalism, in a joint statement said, "There is both need and opportunity for joint undertakings by newspapers and journalism education in the development of outstanding professional personnel, in journalistic research and in other areas."

Hall is a member of an Association for Education in Journalism committee. He will be working on a team with Nelson Poynter of St. Petersburg, Florida, who is working with an American Newspaper Publishers Association committee.

### SNCC Goal Set For Summer

The summer program goal for the Student Non-Violence Coordinating Committee (SNCC) has been set at \$1,300, according to John Schreckinger, treasurer.

SNCC, a nationwide civil rights organization, was organized at the University last November. The organization is concerned with the cause of the southern Negro, and supports community action programs.

Three University graduates are assisting in voter registration, community center activities and supplementary education of adults and children in Gulfport, Mississippi, this summer.

Contributions may be made to any member of SNCC or at a SNCC booth appearing periodically in the Student Union.

### Student Teachers Must Apply Now

Elementary Education majors who wish to student teach during the summer session of 1966 must make application before July 30, 1965.

Applications can be secured in room 202 Teachers College.

### Summer Nebraskan

Editor: Priscilla Mullins  
Business Mgr.: Holly Spence

Information for publication may be turned in to 215 Nebraska Hall or called in at 47-8711, ext. 2824 or 312. The SUMMER NEBRASKAN is published each Tuesday during the summer sessions.

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