

SUMMER SCHOOL

or

SUMMER POSITIONS?

Victoria McKibben discusses two constructive ways of utilizing summer for personal advantage

HUNDREDS of varied requests for temporary summer employees reach the Home Economics Placement Office each spring. The advantages of accepting summer positions are far reaching.

With their eyes toward the future, undergraduates look to summer positions to provide a backlog of experience in their field. An application blank for a permanent position is more impressive, emphasize employers, with a record of working experience, for it is evidence that the home economist at the beginning of her career is experienced in getting along with people and carrying responsibility. The recommendation of a summer employer may be the deciding factor in choosing between two applicants.

Summer positions may provide invaluable contacts with professional people. Undergraduates who have done exceptional work during vacation periods often find permanent positions with their summer employers awaiting them upon graduation.

The Home Economics Placement Office advises students to accept positions in the professional field which they hope to enter. In this way summer employment helps the students to determine whether or not they are enrolled in the major field for which they are best suited. After such work, students sometimes change their majors or become more enthusiastic about their chosen fields. This enthusiasm transferred to college work makes courses more meaningful, and the student knows better what to seek in studying.

Students who wish to remain at home during the summer should not overlook the possibilities in their own homes and in part time volunteer work. Excellent experience in food buying, menu planning and food preparation, skills which are essential to home economists who supervise and direct others, may be of far more value than cash remuneration.

One student said that summer work had made her appreciate the value of a college education in her future career. Many students find that a 3-months change of activity leaves them more ready to settle into the routine of study and gives them an opportunity to assimilate the year's work.

THE speeded program enabling students to finish college in 3 years has been enthusiastically accepted by many women who desire to keep pace with the men on the campus. Forthcoming marriages and the desire to be out and making a war contribution, with a college degree safe in hand, make summer school seem highly desirable.

Reasons for going to summer school which existed before 1941 are as good as ever. Some women want electives that they cannot take in the few hours allotted in the highly specialized home economics curriculum. The nutrition major may want two or three extra textile and clothing courses for her personal use, plus some advanced work in experimental cookery for professional use. Only by going to summer school can she fit these into her schedule along with advised electives.

While there are evident advantages to be gained by taking part in worthwhile extra-curricular activities in college, loading a schedule heavily with activities may mean taking a lighter schedule of courses and going to summer school, at least for part of the time, to finish in 4 years. The future journalist who does editorial work on college publications may find the record of responsible positions in these activities as valuable as a summer experience when she applies for a permanent position.

Most home economics women have not found the four quarter program a burden, because carrying fewer courses for a 6-weeks' session is a welcome change from a full load during a regular quarter. Although the work is more concentrated, the smaller number of courses makes them easier to pursue.

Socially, summer school offers a varied array of leisure activities. The popular activities during the summer are fewer in number, but include swimming, seminars by visiting authorities, mid-week dances and other informal groups.

In summer school, when sorority houses are usually closed and there is an opportunity to live in the dormitory, Greeks and non-affiliated women have an excellent opportunity to become better acquainted.