

'I'm Proud To Be A Home Economist ...'



Professional Home Economist, Dean Helen LeBaron, and Student Linda Ireland, H. Ec. 2, proudly approach MacKay Hall, a campus symbol of home economics accomplishments.

Khrushchev's visit prompted many comments slanted toward the home economists and the Iowa State co-ed. The article in Newsweek "Co-eds in the Kitchen" painted a gruesome picture of our home economics college, by commenting:

"The Russian told girls at Ames, Iowa, "We don't have such schools — our mothers teach us that." By "that" he meant home economics, academic dialectic for, among other things, cooking and changing diapers.

"Suppose a man marries one of these girls." Khrushchev wondered (as has many another man), "How can he check her knowledge and efficiency?"

"If she graduates from Iowa State, she is bound to be efficient," replied Dean Helen R. LeBaron. Khrushchev was not to be put off. "Suppose she's a graduate and doesn't know how to cook pancakes?" he asked, sniffing the unmistakable odor of burning pancakes. "I think," he added, turning to the girls, "when you get married you'll settle that question better with your husband without the help of the dean."

"The girls giggled at this sally — but Mr. Khrushchev poked his thumb into a tender spot. The truth is many of the 1,338 Iowa State home economics girls are lured to Ames not so much by the challenge of getting straight A's in advanced wifemanship, but because of 'The Ratio': Four men to one girl."

This national publicity hurt us. Where do we stand now? Are we still proud to be home economics majors? Our dean, a new wife and a student take their stand for home economics...

says
dean
helen
lebaron

I AM PROUD to be a home economist—a member of a profession dedicated to promoting the welfare of the family and its members. We are a young profession, with most of our growth occurring since 1900; yet we have a professional organization (the American Home Economics Association) of some 25,000 members. There are degree-granting programs in some 500 colleges and universities, homemaking education programs in most of the nation's high schools, and extension home economists in nearly every county. In addition, we are proud of our program of service to families through health and welfare organizations, through those working in business and industry, in hospital dietetics, and in group feeding projects.

I am proud to be a member of a profession which has been in the fore-front in a number of significant movements. Home economics pioneered in programs of higher education for women, in pre-school education, the estab-

lishment of school lunch programs, consumer education, and in service to consumers through our home economists in business and journalism. Home economists were responsible for the establishment in our Federal Government of the Institute of Home Economics—a unit developed to do research for the benefit of homemakers and families.

We have a record, too, of national service in times of crisis, during two world wars and a depression. In these emergencies we mobilized our resources to develop national programs in nutrition education and food preservation; to promote emergency feeding programs and child care centers.

I am proud once again when I think of the new knowledge that has been developed through our research programs in all subject matter areas of home economics. Through the years, Iowa State University has been a leader in extending our frontiers of knowledge through both basic and applied research.

I AM GLAD I am a home economics graduate! Presently director of the student commons at Parsons College at Fairfield, Iowa, I also teach a class of sophomores in elementary food preparation. Naturally, my background in home economics specifically has given me invaluable information and preparation for these positions.

I also enjoy the professional aspect of my job. I have access to the professional journals that keep me up-to-date in my field. The stimulation of an ever-changing profession is valuable in my teaching career. I feel an instructor must have enthusiasm and interest to convey the material to his class properly. This enthusiasm is a result of interest in a progressive profession.

It is satisfying to teach my sophomore girls the fundamentals of food preparation, for I know that no matter where they go they will use this information.

I am a bride and again I can say I am glad I am a home economics graduate. First and foremost, my major has created an interest which makes homemaking enjoyable and fun. It has given me a background of standards for selecting drapery fabric, buying a new range or making a flower arrangement.

Because I am a working wife, I have found it especially important to manage and organize my time. I can bless the home management course I took last spring when I stop at our college library to look up a chapter in the home management textbook.

I must plan quickie meals, as I return home at 6:30 p.m. and my husband is hungry at five. But through planning I find a few minutes to enjoy the evening paper.

A home economics major has provided me with a background to give my family the best.

a recent
graduate
agrees

By Mary Sue Kritzman Salmon,
H. Ec. '59



Nancy Connell, H.Ec. 4, demonstrates "how to show we are proud" as she makes use of professional clothing construction techniques.

how to show we are proud

ONCE YOU are outside the campus atmosphere and someone asks about your major, do you reply rather hesitantly, "Well, ah...I...ah...am taking home economics?" Or do you proudly answer, "I'm a home economics student."

Most of us have discovered that everyone's conception of our profession isn't that of high merit and esteem. Why?

This is a pointed question which cannot be answered any longer with generalities. The easy answer is that others just aren't aware of what home economics involves. When Mr. K. made comments, it roughed our fur. When some leading news magazines implied that home economics involved diaper skills and pancake burning, we were upset. "Where on earth did those people concoct those weird ideas??" we shout. The answer is from us...

Naturally each of us is proud of home economics or we would not have chosen Iowa State. As home ec. students we COULD do the most to boost public opinion toward home economics — if we only WOULD.

When a science student sees us on our way to a foods class, do we smartly reply, "Oh, I'm going to waste a couple hours boiling an egg?" Where is that pride now? The opinion the science or engineering students have of our profession is what we have given them.

If we are really proud of our profession, we will stop before we complain and analyze our courses. We will not be going to foods to learn to cook; to art to learn to cut and paste; or to household equipment to burn toast. We will be learning the science of nutrition, the principles of design, and the wise selection and use of appliances. See how many times we catch ourselves ready to make a slanderous remark about home economics — then don't make it.

We should be interested in recruiting others to our university. This job is not the sole responsibility of the recruitment committee. Each of us should be an ex-officio member!

We have a right to be proud of our profession. We know the reasons why. Let's pass the word along to the world — beginning with the contacts each of us can make.