

Pupils Must Write Book to Receive Engineer's Degree

Most engineers who harbor the secret ambition of becoming authors—or just have plain hands to "write a book"—lack the task after they graduate from school and have been in the workaday world for a number of years.

The opposite situation prevails at the Detroit College of Applied Science, Ferndale, where book-writing has comprised an important part of book-learning for the past 37 years!

Here, at this non-profit, tax-exempt institution, which specializes in engineering education at the technician or semi-professional and engineering or professional levels, students in each graduating class have been required to "write book" literally and figuratively speaking, according to George Ferret, business manager and assistant secretary.

STUDENTS TO be graduated this year will carry on this unique tradition—a source of pride to DCAS, he adds.

Chronologically, it all started back in 1926 when the president of the college, O. B. Jones, then chief tool designer at Studebaker Corporation, founded the school.

Having charge of what has since become known in industrial circles as the tool engineering department, he was repeatedly requested by workers throughout the plant to teach them how to design, tools, dies and production machines and how to develop manufacturing methods.

There were no textbooks or other teaching aids in these areas of applied engineering commercially available at that time. So, Jones used blueprints of various car parts in production.

Periodically, students made re-

ports on how the equipment developed by his engineers performed in actual operation.

Since Jones' students were all working in the plant where the tools were used, it became a simple matter to obtain information from the users of these devices and from inspectors responsible for checking the parts for accuracy.

Then Jones and his students devised some lesson and work sheets for home study and future reference use. Later these materials were broadened as they became the basis for chapters of standard texts.

THIS TEACHING method won such an enthusiastic response from both students and instructors alike that the college has continued the practice to this day.

Accordingly, each DCAS graduating class is required to develop detailed specifications for setting up a complete manufacturing plant, a project which is completed during the fourth and fifth years of the evening training program.

Thirty students participate in

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 Navy Lieut. John T. Dinan Jr., son of John T. Dinan of Gulfport Road, Bloomfield Hills, is serving aboard the guided missile cruiser USS Little Rock, flagship of Commander Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean, which recently visited the Spanish port of Barcelona.

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this unusual, traditional assignment; it requires 28,000 manhours of application—equivalent to one year's full-time work for 14 men!

IN EFFECT, the students and their instructors (who supervise each class) are in industry; compile and write two books on manufacturing engineering and management, which encompasses the basic knowledge of mechanical drafting, tool designing, process engineering, and tool engineering.

Each volume contains 600 pages of material typed on 2 1/2 inch by 11 inch paper. Each student retains a copy of the books for reference while employed in industry.

"Their cumulative product reflects substantial improvement through the years," he says, but such a book never has been published.

"IT'S MOST unlikely that such a book ever will be published as technological changes in materials and machinery make that impractical. That's why each class is required to make this analysis."

First also indicates that the instructors gain so much from their participation in this "book-writing" program that "they say they learn more than their students."

"In fact, everyone at DCAS feels that the students and instructors who use the texts in process of development receive better training than those who use completely developed texts. Many students have become excellent research analysts for manufacturing organizations."

Such training develops creative-

ly—a prime requisite for successful engineering.

STUDENTS participating in this activity must have considerable knowledge of production methods and manufacturing equipment. Ferret adds.

"The best place to get such knowledge is in a manufacturing engineering department or in a production plant. Because of this need for the knowledge required to do the research and development involved in the latest design project, students are not permitted to attend full-time classes at DCAS beyond the second term."

Most of our students go to work in a manufacturing engineering department after completing the first term of the manufacturing engineering and management course, then continue their classes for 4 years during part-time night sessions."

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FERRET ALSO points out that many of the 14,000 students trained at DCAS since 1926 hold a Michigan Professional Engineers License.

The college, birthplace of the American Society of Tool and Manufacturing Engineers, an international organization with more than 40,000 members, is often called "The Cradle of Tool Engineering."

Answer To Puzzle 774

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Four Factors Help Child in Reading Skill

Intelligence is less important in learning to read than at least four other factors in a child's make-up, Oakland County Primary Teachers learned in a preschool reading clinic recently.

Dr. Helen Murphy, director of the Educational Clinic of Boston University, told 150 teachers at Oakland Schools 154 visual perception, auditory perception, memory and speaking vocabulary all out-rank intelligence as factors in children's ability to master the printed word.

"If a word is in a child's speaking vocabulary, it is appropriate for his reading vocabulary whether or not it is in his reading text," she said.

During the week teachers will be shown how to make teaching materials that will help the child get the maximum amount of his reading vocabulary into his reading vocabulary in his first grade year.

Teachers from 20 of the 30 school districts in the county are attending the Oakland Schools reading clinic this week.

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