

Graduate Division Produces Educators and Intellectuals

If someone were to ask a student where a teacher comes from, he would probably receive a sarcastic smile and an equally sarcastic reply. The correct answer, however, is graduate school.

Though Canisius College does not have a school of graduate studies it does have a graduate division, the purposes of which, according to Dr. William F. Kean, its director, is to "develop scholars and teachers." The division accomplishes this aim through programs leading to master of arts degrees in English and in history and master of science degrees in chemistry and education.

The largest of the four is the education program. Its students comprise the greater number of the division and include high school and elementary instructors, principals, and guidance counselors. Ordinarily these students are attempting to satisfy the certification requirement of the state.

The other three departments satisfy those students wishing to increase their scholarship as such. The Chemistry Department, for example, has achieved almost worldwide fame through its research projects and some of its students have gone on for doctoral studies at such institutions as Princeton and Ohio State University.

There is a third type of student who pursues a degree or a course for the value it has for him in his non-academic position. Then, of course, there is the lover of knowledge.

Problems, however, unite all the students. There is the universal problem of time and conflict of interest brought about by a bi-polar world of teaching and studying or working and studying. But these problems are overcome by the intense desire a graduate student has. He realizes that his education is vital to his profession and to his life. A woman who personally contacted Dr. Kean to express to him her great enthusiasm for the creative writing course can best serve as an example of upper level interest. (She is not taking the course for credit.)

The graduate division is highly rated. The State Education Department through the Office of the Assistant Commissioner for Higher Education contacted Canisius and asked if the College would set up a Russian Institute for secondary school teachers.

The graduate division is now 74 years old. Growth has been its keynote and in the last few years the graduate division has tripled its enrollment from 215 in 1955-56 to 647 this year. Dr. Kean looks forward to a continuing success for a graduate division "in tune with the needs of the time."