

Three alumni receive awards during Arts and Science Week



Anna Jane Harrison

Three alumni of the University of Missouri College of Arts and Science were honored by the College and the University Alumni Association at the annual Arts and Science Week banquet, held December 1 at the Memorial Student Union.

The Alumni Association's Citation of Merit, for exceptional achievements, was awarded to Dr. Anna Jane Harrison, professor of chemistry at Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Mass.; Paul Van Osdol, Jr., prominent attorney and civic leader of Kansas City; and Dr. Herbert G. Blumer, professor of sociology and Director of the Institute of Social Sciences at the University of California. Mr. Van Osdol was the banquet speaker and Dr. Fred McKinney, professor of psychology at the University, was toastmaster. Earlier in the day, Dr. Blumer gave the address at a Convocation in Jesse Auditorium.

Dr. W. Francis English, Dean of the College of Arts and Science, said the three graduates receiving the Citation of Merit are among the outstanding alumni of the University and have reflected credit on their alma mater. Two of them have served on the University staff at some time in their careers.

Miss Harrison is a specialist in physical chemistry who has combined teaching with research. Born in Benton City, in Audrain County, she holds A.B., B.S., A.M., and Ph.D degrees from the University of Missouri, receiving her doctorate here in 1940. Her doctoral research was concerned with the absorption of light, a study which she has expanded for years.

She has received two outstanding award grants, one for research at Cambridge University in England, and the other for studies at the National Research Council in Ottawa, Canada.

Before going to Mount Holyoke, Miss Harrison

taught for five years at Sophie Newcomb College of Tulane University in New Orleans. And during 1942-43 she was on leave from Sophie Newcomb to work on confidential war defense research here at the University of Missouri and with an industrial corporation in Kansas City. In the summer of 1945 she did some research for the Corning Glass Co., in Corning, N. Y. For her findings in this project, on the infrared absorption of water in various glasses, she received the Frank Forrest Award of the American Ceramics Society.

Miss Harrison is a member of the board of publication of the *Journal of Chemical Education*, and is author of a number of articles published in professional publications. She is a member of Sigma Xi, of the American Association of University Professors, and of the American Chemical Society.

Paul Van Osdol, Jr., distinguished civic leader in Kansas City and throughout the state, is a native of Brookfield, Mo., and attended elementary and secondary schools there before entering the University. His father, also a graduate of the University, is a former Commissioner of the Missouri Supreme Court.

The younger Van Osdol received his A.B. degree here in 1936, and his LL.B. degree in 1938. He was president of the Student Government Association of the University in 1937-38; was president of the Burrall Bible Class; a member of Omicron Delta Kappa, Blue Key, and Q.E.B.H., honorary service fraternities at the University; and a member of Phi Delta Phi, legal fraternity.

Since his graduation, Van Osdol has practiced law in Kansas City except for more than four years he served as an officer in the U. S. Air Force during World War II. An active member of numerous civic



Paul Van Osdol, Jr.

and quasi-governmental organizations and committees, he is presently a member of the Judicial Selection Committee of Jackson County. He has served approximately three years as a member and secretary of the Kansas City Board of Election Commissioners. He has also served as a member of the fourteen-member Commission to draft a new county charter for Jackson County.

Mr. Van Osdol is a member of the Kansas City Bar Association, the Missouri Bar, the American Bar, the American Law Institute, and the American Judicature Society.

He was married in 1942 to Miss Evelyn Foreman of Kansas City, who also received an A.B. degree from the University in 1938. They have two children.

Dr. Herbert Blumer is nationally known as an educator, a sociologist, and a labor relations consultant but to the older generation at the University of Missouri and thousands of sports enthusiasts he is best remembered as one of Missouri's all-time football greats and later a professional football All-American.

Herb Blumer was one of those rare individuals—a football star and a Phi Beta Kappa. In fact, he was captain of the Tiger team in 1921, the year he was elected Phi Beta Kappa and the year he received his A.B. degree. He was also a member of the University debate squad and a member of Delta Sigma Rho.

Dr. Blumer, a native of St. Louis, received his Master of Arts degree here in 1922, and then served as instructor in sociology here as he continued graduate studies. He went to the University of Chicago as an instructor in 1927, and received his Ph.D. degree from that institution in 1928, continuing on the faculty there with successive promotions to the position of professor and remaining there until 1952.



Herbert G. Blumer

As if his graduate work and subsequent teaching at the University of Chicago weren't enough to keep him busy, Blumer played professional football with the Chicago Cardinals from 1925 to 1933, and he was selected All-American professional guard in 1928 and 1929.

Dr. Blumer was granted leaves to serve in 1936-37 as a visiting professor of sociology at the University of Michigan, and in 1950-51 as visiting professor at the University of Hawaii. In 1952 he joined the faculty of the University of California at Berkeley as chairman of the department of sociology and social institutions, and in 1958 he was named Director of the Institute of Social Sciences there as well as professor of sociology.

During World War II, Dr. Blumer was "borrowed" by the Federal government to serve as chief liaison officer of the Office of War Information to the Department of State in Washington. In 1943-45 he served as a member of the National War Labor Board, Region VI, and from 1945 to 1947 he was chairman of the National Board of Arbitration for the United States Steel Corporation and the United Steelworkers of America. During 1958-59 he served as special consultant to UNESCO on the social effects of rapid industrialization.

Dr. Blumer was president in 1955 of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, and president in 1956 of the American Sociological Association. He is a charter member of the Sociological Research Association and of the National Academy of Labor Arbitrators, and is presently a member of the executive committee of the International Sociological Association. He was editor of the American Journal of Sociology from 1940 until 1952.