

MISSOURI ALUMNUS

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1971

SOCIAL & COMMUNITY

Nickolaus Becomes Assistant Dean

George Nickolaus assumed his new duties July 1 as assistant dean of the School of Social and Community Services.

Nickolaus has been a legal specialist and assistant professor in the School's department of regional and community affairs. He will continue his service in the department.

He has helped initiate educational programs for citizens participating in local and state government. To this he has brought personal experience--dating back 13 years--as city attorney, mayor and member of state and municipal governmental organizations.

Nickolaus is a native of southside St. Louis. After receiving his bachelor of arts degree (1952) and doctor of law degree (1967) from the University, he served as Columbia city attorney for two years and as city counselor for six years. He was mayor of Columbia from 1967 to 1969.

Since the fall of 1966, Nickolaus has been associated with the governmental affairs program of the department of political science and has been engaged in extension and continuing education programs primarily in the area of local government administration, management and land use control.

The whole idea of continuing education, Nickolaus believes, is that the University has an obligation "to give inservice training to help Missourians fill their citizen roles and accepted responsibilities as government officials."

Finding little material available for such training, Nickolaus prepared many handbooks and bulletins for the Campus's Governmental Affairs Program and the Missouri Municipal League. His writings have covered annexation, incorporation, fire protection, road districts, collection of delinquent taxes, ambulance service, Missouri statutes, grants and financing. Requests for the publications have come from across the United States and from foreign countries.

There are big demands in this area, but the people need more than textbooks and theory, Nickolaus emphasizes. They need how-to-do-it information.

"My mayoral experience has been of great assistance to me in working with other municipal officials," Nickolaus says. "I hope to continue meeting with these officials and I will continue to work with extension, which now has 29 community development specialists."

Curriculum Changes In Social Work

The School of Social Work is continuing an intensive curriculum study which will eventuate in a major revision of the existing curriculum. In April Dr. Lewis Mayhew, of Stanford University, consulted with persons attending the annual field instructors' meeting.

During the first week in June the entire faculty "retreated" to Ranch Roy-L to continue curriculum work.

Students and faculty were enthusiastic about

preliminary efforts to implement charges by reducing required courses in the fourth semester to one.

A number of new electives were established such as Law and Social Work and Afro-American Studies.

Thacker Street Honors Agent

It's been a long-time practice for communities to name streets after presidents and generals, and now community development specialists have arrived.

Mayor Robert Nichols of Southwest City, in his presentation at the Governor's Conference on Rural Development, notes that his city has a Thacker Street--"named after our community development agent, Don Thacker, whose help has been so valuable to our town."

Mayor Nichols acknowledged the help his community has received from many agencies and particularly mentioned the University of Missouri's Extension Community Development Program and Don Thacker.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER?

1. Would you like more news, less news, or about the same amount of news about:

More Less Same

Students	_____	_____	_____
Faculty, administration	_____	_____	_____
Research	_____	_____	_____
Placement	_____	_____	_____
Alumni activities	_____	_____	_____
Curriculum, teaching	_____	_____	_____
Continuing education, conferences, workshops	_____	_____	_____

2. Would you like the newsletter to contain (check one only)

More short, newsy items _____
or
More longer features _____

3. This newsletter contains news only about Social and Community Services. Would you also like to know some of the news highlights from the other schools and colleges on campus? Yes _____ No _____

4. Comments

PLEASE FILL OUT THIS QUESTIONNAIRE, TEAR IT OFF, AND MAIL IT. NO POSTAGE IS NECESSARY. THANK YOU.

Parks, Recreation Publishes Guides

Eleven publications were completed during 1970 on recreation, parks and tourism; nine of which were discussion guides covering the areas of park boards, volunteer services in recreation, uses of consulting services, recreation and park planning process, and toward an understanding of recreation.

Recreation and park administration has added a new course, Interpretive Outdoor Recreation, to its curriculum.

Mental Health Unit Funded by NIMH

NIMH has awarded the School funds to underwrite a field unit directed by the School of Social Work and the Mid-Missouri Mental Health Center. The unit is completing its first year of a five-year program that is designed to educate students for entry into the community mental health field by providing them with a practice experience that encompasses exposure to the entire mental health services delivery system in a given, rural geographic area. This involves experience in all the practice methods of casework, group work, research, and community organization.

The School received permission from NIMH to continue its Community Mental Health Training Project in Howard County during the summer months. Two students, Jim Werner and Jean Lewis, and two faculty

members, Joanne Mermelstein, assistant professor of Social Work, and Paul Sundet, instructor in social work, worked part-time to continue the services started during the past year. Particular emphasis during the summer was on consultation to the NYC programs, volunteer training, and development of a county-wide mental health association.

Denny to Head Bootheel Study

The Bootheel Regional Planning Commission has contracted with the department of regional and community affairs to produce an economic-population study. Professor Hugh Denney is the project leader for the study. Dr. Rex Campbell of sociology will help analyze the 1970 census data and Dr. Robert Bevins of the agricultural economics department will share responsibility for projections of the data.

Welfare Directors Meet in Columbia

For the sixteenth year, the Columbia Campus in July was the scene of the State Division of Welfare's Annual Staff Training Institute for County Welfare Directors. Welcomed to the campus by Dean Arthur W. Nebel, the county welfare directors and staffs heard remarks by state welfare director Proctor N. Carter, and a review of pending federal public welfare legislation presented by Harold Hagen, Washington

representative, American Public Welfare Association.

"The Dynamics of Change: Implications for the County Welfare Director," was the theme of a presentation by Dr. John Ham, Department of Psychiatry, University of Chicago.

The School of Social and Community Services continues to cooperate with the Missouri Division of Welfare under a grant from that agency funding the Public Welfare Training Center directed by Professor Rhasneh Tidwell of the School of Social Work, in cooperation with the University Extension Division.

Publication Draws Favorable Response

Don Littrell's publication, "The Theory and Practice of Community Development - a Guide for Practitioners" has received very favorable reaction. Requests for it from around the country for use by professionals in academic programs and in extension and other agencies have been received.

Brochure Defines Role of Specialist

St. Louis County area community development specialists Sam Ritchie and Don Moschenross have collaborated to develop a brochure "Community Development: A Joint Enterprise." The brochure includes a concise definition of community development and uses text and pictures to illustrate the process with

examples from the local program. It concludes with an explanation of the role of the community development specialist.

Normandy Municipal Council President James R. Butler's comments on one of the recent developments in the local program are used effectively in the brochure:

"For as many years as I can recall, the twenty-five or so communities in the Normandy School District area have all gone separate, independent directions. The community development specialist, however, has provided the essential common denominator and catalytic role to bring these municipalities together to form the Normandy Municipal Council."

Specialists Ritchies and Moschenross both hold masters degrees from the University in regional and community affairs.

Croll Authors Planning Study

John Croll, assistant professor in the department of regional and community affairs, is author of a case study, "A 3 County Planning Program," recently published as Extension Publication MP 199, University of Missouri-Columbia.

The publication chronicles the development of a comprehensive planning program by three counties and six small cities in Northeast Missouri, and outlines the relationship and inputs of a professional community development worker in such a public affairs activity.

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