

History of the Stockbridge School

- **1918 course began**
 - **"Two-Year Course in Practical Agriculture"**
 - offered by MA Agricultural College
 - organized to meet the demand for short courses in agriculture & horticulture
 - designed to provide the largest amount of practical information and training in agriculture in the shortest possible time consistent with thorough-going work
 - opened to men & women 16 years of age, who could not take four-year college courses
 - first class enrolled 37 students
- **1921 course re-organized**
 - due to growth of course & demand for specialized vocational training
 - students were required to specialize in one of 7 vocations
 - animal husbandry, dairy, floriculture, horticulture, pomology, poultry & vegetable gardening
- **1928 (May) course name changed**
 - **The Stockbridge School of Agriculture**
 - named after Levi Stockbridge
 - 5th president of MAC
 - 1st faculty member
 - 1st professor of agriculture
 - voted by College trustees
 - emphasized distinction between degree courses & non-degree courses offered by the College
- **1943 (June) two-year courses terminated**
 - due to war conditions
 - replaced with one-year emergency program for 1944 & 1945
- **1946 (October) two-year courses resumed**
- **certificates vs. degrees**
 - 1921-1960
 - certificates awarded
 - 1961-present
 - associate degrees awarded
- **directors**
 - 10 directors
 - 1 associate director

History of the Stockbridge School of Agriculture

Motivation. Education. Initiative. These three words, once inscribed over the Stockbridge School office hallway, have been used to describe the Stockbridge philosophy for over 75 years. On May 14, 1918 the "Journal of the House" of the Massachusetts Legislature proclaimed "Resolved, that in the opinion of the General Court there should be established at the Massachusetts Agricultural College a two-year course in practical agriculture in completion of which certificates of graduation should be granted..."

This resolution came from the Committees on Agriculture and Education sitting jointly in response to critics of Massachusetts Agricultural College (M.A.C.) who felt it should give more attention to training real farmers. Subsequently the resolution was adopted by the Senate and House. While the Legislature could not compel the college to establish the course it did resolve that such a course would be desirable. In October of the same year, the college trustees voted to "offer a course of study that will meet the intent and spirit of the Legislature of 1918..."

The State Legislature passed this resolve at a time when Massachusetts agriculture was booming. World War I created a need for trained men. However, most of the agricultural college graduates were not interested in pursuing production agriculture. Few high schools offered agricultural courses. Many country boys were interested in working their home farms but lacked sufficient training in areas necessary to bolster their success. They welcomed this two-year course. By spending the two years studying scientific farming their horizons were greatly widened. Thus there was a need to train young people to become farmers in the state and not draw them away into other pursuits and professions.

This was not the first attempt by M.A.C. to establish a program of short courses. In the 1870s, following the lead of the large western land-grant colleges, short courses were offered using the Amherst campus as a demonstration laboratory. These courses ran from one day to ten weeks. President Henry Hill Goodell announced in 1892 the introduction of a two-year, non-degree course in practical agriculture. Although the official objective was to help farmers' sons and others proposing to follow some branch of agriculture who lack either time or means for the longer course it was apparently intended somewhat as a feeder for the four-year curriculum. Twenty-two men signed on to the program in the fall of 1893. The

program failed, mainly because of poor leadership and organization. At first, these students were considered part of the freshman class; they joined fraternities and played on freshman athletic teams. Later, they were called students of the Wilder School of Agriculture. Finally, the bewildered men were organized into a separate class. Of the first class of 22 students, only 13 graduated. The next two classes had only 9 and 6 graduates, respectively. The Board of Trustees voted to abolish the program in 1896. After the suspension of this program a series of ten short winter courses were set up. They began in January, and consisted of eleven week classes in botany, chemistry, dairy, floriculture, horticulture, market gardening, and zoology.

Kenyon Leach Butterfield was appointed president of Massachusetts Agricultural College in 1906. He helped shape the so-called Country Life Movement in 1908 under U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt. President Butterfield brought William D. Hurd from Michigan to be director of the Extension Service and Short Course supervisor. Mr. Hurd oversaw all campus functions that were not part of the degree curriculum. At this time the entire scope of the college program and the extension field was being vigorously expanded, influencing the short course field. He published the first circular of college short courses in 1910. The first two week poultry short course was offered in 1910. In 1914, a short course for tree wardens and city foresters was added. Hurd so strengthened the short courses that when a re-established two-year school began in 1918 its long-lasting success was guaranteed.

President Butterfield called on Rural Sociology chairman Professor John Phelan to become the first full-time director of Short Courses, and therefore the first director of the Two-Year Course in Practical Agriculture. John Phelan was born in Homer, Michigan in 1879, and graduated from Western State Normal School in Kalamazoo, Michigan in 1908 with a B.A. He received a Master's degree from the University of Michigan in 1910, and then served as an assistant in the Department of Economics. He also worked for the dean of the College of Liberal Arts at the institution and for the statistician of the Interstate Commerce Commission. He returned to the Western State Normal School to work as acting director of the Rural Education Department in 1910. In 1912 he was named director of the Rural School Department at the State Normal School at Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

Phelan joined the Massachusetts Agricultural College in 1915 as professor

and head of the Department of Rural Sociology. He was considered to be the foremost authority in the country on rural sociology. He was an excellent and popular teacher who attracted many students to his courses.

In the position of director of Short Courses, he rendered outstanding service to the college, organizing and developing a pattern of two-year instruction which, although updated to meet the needs of the times, continues today. Phelan strongly believed in vocational training and practical emphasis in teaching. He introduced the feature of six months practical experience between the first and second year of courses. His popularity with his students is demonstrated by the fact each graduating class dedicated its yearbook to him, noting his "devotion to the two-year school, his wise counsel, his earnest and sincere desire to help students, his friendship towards students and his unceasing efforts to attain the highest standards for the two-year school." In the 1924 yearbook, the students wrote of Phelan, "In giving liberal, in his speech reposed, in business affable, in hearing patient, prompt in expedition, gentle in chastisement, and benign in pardoning." Future Director Verbeck once said of John Phelan, "He laid the foundations of our present Stockbridge School truly and well."

A catalog of courses was quickly assembled and made available to eager prospective students. On December 2, 1918, the first students entered The Two-Year Course in Practical Agriculture. Domestic labor conditions resulting from the World War I emergency precluded more than a four-month course. The term concluded on March 22, 1919. At this time the course was organized on a two-year basis. Six months of study at the college would be followed by six months of farm practice. The second year was to consist of nine months of resident study.

The M.A.C. Bulletin of 1918 announcing The Two-Year Course in Practical Agriculture of the Massachusetts Agricultural College made note that the course "...is intended for those who wish to know more about the business of farming and who cannot take the regular four-year college course. It makes the resources of the college available to a large number of young men and young women..." In support of the financial merits of a college education to return to farming the bulletin goes on to say "...There is no business, profession or occupation to-day that calls for a wider range of knowledge or a higher degree of skill than farming." The bulletin predicted that "...With the close of the war it has been estimated that Europe will have to depend upon America for the next ten years for a much larger part of its food supply

than ever before in the world's history. To increase one's productive power on the farm through education is not only good business but also a patriotic service in these days when so much depends upon the efficiency of men and women who produce the world's food...Men and women who through training increase their productivity on the farm render a service not only to themselves but to the nation and to the world at large..."

As is the case today, instruction was given primarily by the regular faculty and the facilities of the entire college were made available to the new students. The 45-acre orchard, 4-breed dairy herd, well-equipped Flint Lab dairy building, 1200-adult bird poultry plant, 10-acre vegetable garden, 22,000-feet of greenhouse glass, 1000 species of perennial and annual flowers, and 750-acre demonstration forest all provided ample resources for the student population. Ten subjects were offered from which students could choose three or four to study this term. The courses offered were:

- Crop Production, including Soils and Soil Fertility
- Feeding and Care of Farm Animals; Livestock Judging
- Dairying
- Business Principles of Farming and Marketing Farm Products
- Market Gardening
- Fruit Growing
- Poultry Husbandry
- Insect Pests and Plant Diseases
- Farm Machinery, Farm Shop Practice
- Farm Management

All of these major programs were organized on the basis of existing agricultural operations in Massachusetts and New England. The first large class entered in the fall of 1919. In the school's infant years several hundred World War I military service veterans enrolled under the guidance of the Federal Board for Vocational Rehabilitation (later the Veterans Bureau). Former professor of agronomy Charles Hiram Thayer once wrote that as students gained confidence in their teachers, they would relate their tales of battle experience and of wounds and some would produce a Distinguished Service Cross. Within a few years the veterans largely disappeared from the school and their places were taken by civilian students, mostly graduates of public high schools. Occasionally a graduate of some

classical college would enroll in the Stockbridge School. More faculty were added to the list of those who already taught short courses. From buildings named in their honor, the reader is probably familiar with at least a few surnames: Alexander Cance (agricultural economics), Walter Chenoweth (horticultural manufactures), William Clark (forestry), Henry Fernald (entomology), Christian Gunness (rural engineering), Curry Hicks (sanitation and hygiene), James Paige (veterinary science), Edna Skinner (home economics).

On November 5, 1919, a temporary student council appointed by President Butterfield held its initial meeting. Although they struggled with the irregularities of an infant institution these pioneer students lay enduring foundations. The fraternities Alpha Tau Gamma and Kolony Klub were started in 1919. K.K. closed in 1958, but Alpha Tau Gamma still runs proudly today on North Pleasant Street. One sorority for the two-year students has been organized over the years. Alpha Sigma Delta was founded in 1920. Its name was subsequently changed to S.C.S. and later to Tri Sig. In more recent times it was called Sigma Sigma Alpha.

The Stockbridge yearbook known as the SHORTHORN was first published by the Class of 1921, the name coming from the nickname of two-year students of the day. In 1958 the yearbook became known as STOSAG, the former name of the honor society. Other Stockbridge traditions of varying duration have included Stockbridge sports (football, basketball, soccer, golf, hockey, and others) the Progress Banquet, the Horticultural Show, the Livestock Classic, Glee Clubs, Dramatic Clubs, the Stockbridge Octet, and the School Orchestra.

From the start, actual farm experience was required of each two-year student. Following a six-month period of resident instruction in the freshman year, students were to work six months in their respective fields. Positions were secured by the Short Course office through contacts with leading farms in poultry, dairy farming, orcharding, vegetable gardening, milk plant operation, commercial floriculture, and ornamental horticulture, including nursery work, landscape gardening, public park maintenance and private estate work. At first many of the students elected to complete their placement training on their home farms. This practice was later discouraged as it was felt that students would benefit most from being exposed to new techniques rather than those with which they were familiar.

There had been and continued to be other short courses offered by the

College, which included the One-Year Vocational Course in Poultry Husbandry, the Summer School, the Winter School (established 1900), and Unit Courses. President Butterfield was a firm believer that education could improve the quality of rural life. He intended to accomplish this in two ways - establishment of an extension division and increase on-campus (short) courses. In his first annual report he stated, "The College lives not merely because it teaches students, it lives permanently only as it clasps hands with the farmer himself."

Indeed the 1920-1921 M.A.C. Announcement of the Two-Year Course in Practical Agriculture stated that short courses "have made a universal appeal...valuable to experienced farmers...to college graduates who wished to know more about the science of agriculture...open the door of opportunity for busy men and women who wish to increase their efficiency and earning power. The aim of the short course is...to afford the largest amount of information and training...in the shortest possible time. In this State, there are thousands of young men and young women who are to become future farmers, orchardists, poultry producers, dairy men and women. It is to the interest of both the individual and the State that these young men and young women keep pace with the rapid development of agriculture. There are also many mature men and women well past the usual school age who desire to acquaint themselves with the more recent developments in agricultural science and practice. It is to meet these needs that short courses are offered."

The new program proved to be successful from the start. Interest was high yet there was demand for more specific vocational training. Therefore the programs were reorganized in 1921. After this time, students could specialize or major in one of seven vocations or programs of study. As established in 1921 the seven majors were: Animal Husbandry, Poultry Husbandry, Dairy Manufactures, General Horticulture, Pomology, Floriculture, and Vegetable Growing. Initially class lectures were large. This soon gave way to smaller sections to facilitate better discussion and more work with individual students. It was intended that the Stockbridge School should appeal to both men and women as well as students of any age who wished to know more about the business of farming or associated agricultural industries.

A look at student life in 1922 was a far cry from that of today - tuition was free to citizens of Massachusetts, board was \$7 per week, books and stationery were estimated at \$24-51 per term. Attendance was required at chapel, assembly,

recitations, lectures and laboratory exercises. Memorial Hall was a social gathering place for students. Contained in the building were bowling alleys, pool tables, and a lounge room. Dances and parties were held on the second floor. All parties were to be properly chaperoned and the names of the patrons announced prior to the event. The president's office maintained a bulletin board to list college events. The president reserved the right to cancel any function which did not appear on the bulletin board! Draper Hall was the college dining hall of that era. The college library boasted more than 60,000 volumes and was located in the Chapel-Library building. An agricultural reference library was maintained in the newly-built (1914) Stockbridge Hall, in room 115 which is today the Stockbridge School office.

A General Course for Women was offered from 1922 to 1929. It was designed for women desiring preparation for rural life without specialization in a particular branch of agriculture. Course work included a mix of agricultural and home economics classes. As with the other programs of study, six months of farm placement training were required. This was an era when women were just starting to receive just recognition, and they had only received the right to vote under the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1920. Mention is made in the first School bulletin of available scholarships. Interestingly, they were for women and were offered by the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association.

Director Phelan left with President Butterfield for Carlton College at Northfield, Minnesota in 1924. He finished his professional career in the years 1928 to 1949 as professor of Education at Carlton College, Northfield, Minnesota. He died March 15, 1952.

Phelan was succeeded by Roland Hale Verbeck. Mr. Verbeck was born in 1886. He was a graduate of Massachusetts Agricultural College, Class of 1908; he had also earned a B.S. from Boston University. He served as principal at Petersham High School from 1908-1909 and then as headmaster of Parsonfield Seminary (Maine) from 1910-1916. He earned his Master's degree at the Harvard Graduate School of Education 1916-1917. Following graduation, he commanded the 281st Aero Squadron as First Lieutenant Air Service during World War I. Following his discharge from military service in 1919, he became director of the New York State School of Agriculture at St. Lawrence University, a position he held until his appointment as director of Short Courses at Massachusetts Agricultural College in September of 1924.

As the director of Short Courses for 30 years, he was responsible for much of its development after Director Phelan had laid its groundwork. In the dedication of the 1942 Stockbridge yearbook to Verbeck, the students wrote, "The sound development of the Stockbridge School during the eighteen years of his administration and the splendid record of its graduates are ample testimony to the wisdom of his leadership. The Director's keen interest in 'his boys', whose histories he loves to relate with an eloquence beyond words is in no small measure responsible for his splendid success."

The forerunner to the Stockbridge Alumni Association was founded in 1926 by a group of loyal graduates. Their first meeting was held at Sherer's Restaurant in Worcester that year. The Two Year News, later called the *Stockbridge Alumni News*, was first produced as mimeographed sheets by Paul W. Viets, an early director of placement training.

In 1927, the Winter School began to offer an 11-week short course for greens keepers and golf course foremen in the science of golf course management. The course was under the direction of Lawrence S. Dickinson, and was the first program of its type in the United States. For the first years its largest attendance was from the Midwest. The Canadian Pacific Railroad sent the brawny Scottish superintendent of their Lake Louise and Banff resorts. He was a regular attendee at the course for three years. The program has expanded over the years and still runs today. It is extremely popular, and at times difficult in which to be accepted. One year, an applicant sent in a 35-page resume including his military service record, his high school grades, and every other thing he could think of!

On May 5, 1928 at a special meeting of the college trustees it was voted to change the name of the school from the somewhat unexciting names (The Two-Year Course in Practical Agriculture) to the Stockbridge School of Agriculture. As originally intended by the trustees, the new name was to more clearly emphasize the distinction between the degree courses and the non-degree courses. It was also to correct the misinterpretation that students completing the course had completed two years of the college course. At that time, graduates of the Stockbridge School of Agriculture were not eligible for entrance into the college and their two-year credits were not accepted as college credits. Although several directors enacted ideas to enhance the value of Stockbridge classes, it would be another 60 years before the last vestiges of this system would be erased.

But more importantly, the school's new name honors Levi Stockbridge, a farmer from nearby Hadley. Levi had only a common school education yet possessed the foresight to recognize that not only hard work but also science was necessary to ensure success at farming, one of our primary industries. He grew up at a time when broom corn was the chief crop of this section of the Connecticut River Valley. Levi worked diligently in lobbying the State Legislature to accept the provisions of the Morrill Act under which the land grant colleges were to be established and later in the selection of Amherst for the site. Stockbridge was appointed farm superintendent and instructor of agriculture in 1866. He was made first professor of agriculture in 1872. Through careful scientific research, he developed the first balanced formulas for crop fertilizers in the East, a development which has helped increase our nation's agricultural production, thereby freeing many toilers of the soil to pursue other occupations. In 1880, Levi Stockbridge was named the fifth president of the Massachusetts Agricultural College.

Former dean of the College of Agriculture, Dale Sieling, once wrote "Levi Stockbridge was a man who loved agriculture and contributed much to teaching, research, and the agricultural industry. As a practical educator, it was through his leadership that the research program of the Massachusetts Agricultural Experiment Station was started. He worked out formulas that revolutionized the fertilizer industry, and the money received in royalties was used in experimental work that helped to lay the foundation of the Experiment Station movement in this country. Because knowledge of scientific agriculture was very limited at the time, Stockbridge had to blaze his own way without books or charts into the unknown field of agricultural education. His contribution to that field, locally and nationally, was significant. It is, therefore, appropriate that the specialized two-year course in practical agriculture at the University of Massachusetts should bear his name...a fine tribute to a great man." In July, 1992 his descendants and other members of the Stockbridge family held a family reunion in Amherst and paid honor to this fine man.

Shortly thereafter, under great pressure from students, alumni and industry, the name Massachusetts Agricultural College itself was changed to Massachusetts State College. Governor Joseph B. Ely signed the legislation on March 26, 1931. This in effect paved the way for the foundation of a state university.

According to old school catalogs the major first called Floriculture was

renamed Flower Growing in 1926 and then back to Floriculture in 1930. The program in Floriculture at this institution dates back to 1912 when it was started by Professor Edward White under the direction of L.H. Bailey who had asked Professor White to learn how Cornell's program was put together. Professor White specialized in the study of orchids and wrote 3 books on the subject. In the mid part of the 20th century about one third of the tremendous number of Stockbridge Floriculture students went into the carnation business in Massachusetts. Until surpassed by California, Massachusetts was the nation's leader in carnation production. Today all the commercial carnations are grown in Columbia and Israel.

"Terms" were changed to "semesters" for the fall of 1933. The Class of 1934 had the semester plan for the senior year only and the Class of 1935 was the first class to graduate with the full semester program. In 1935 Stosag, the Honorary Scholastic Society was formed.

Edward A. Morgan, singing coach in 1933, wrote the words and music to our first school song "Stockbridge My Stockbridge."

Stockbridge, my Stockbridge
You'll ever be,
In memory,
A guiding star
To loyal sons
Where e're we are,
Near or far.

Then Stockbridge, my Stockbridge
We stand today
To sing thy praise
And pledge to thee
Our loyalty
Forever, S.S.A.

Later, a new school song was written which, although now slightly changed, is currently our school song. It was composed by Charles F. Mandell '39, Russell S. Shaw '39, and by Timothy C. Sullivan '40. Kevin John Hollister '78, a popular tenor, has performed this annually at commencements in recent years.

'Neath the elms of dear old Amherst
Stands our college fair,
Hail to thee our Alma Mater
For our love lies there.
Working ever, falter never,
Onward to our goal,
We give our best to dear Old Stockbridge,
Body, heart, and soul.

Tho' the hours are quickly passing
And we soon must part,
Thy great halls will not be lonely
They contain our hearts.
In the future thought will wander
Back, and we will see
Scenes we knew at dear Old Stockbridge
Always dear they'll be.

In 1935 a Wildlife Management major was added at the request of College president Hugh P. Baker. The program was built around the conservation of game birds and animals. After a five year trial period the conclusion was reached that state conservation departments were not making the best use of the Stockbridge graduates and employment possibilities had dwindled, so the program was closed. The last students graduated in 1941.

By a vote of the college trustees in June of 1937, authorization was given for the establishment of a two-year course in Hotel Stewarding. This may have been the first course of its type at a land grant institution anywhere in the country. The Massachusetts Hotel Association actively sponsored the organization of this course and established several scholarship loans. Because hotel placement jobs would not be available until June, all students in this major would remain in resident instruction from April to June and have only a four-month placement training. For the period of 1938-1939 the major was referred to as Foods and Food Processing. It was called Hotel Stewarding after that. The program was canceled in March of 1943 as most prospective students had been drafted or had volunteered for military service.

In 1938 the Animal Husbandry Club put on the first Little International Livestock Show. The idea was that of Professor M.F. Ensminger. In the late 1940s a popular event was the coed milking contest. Other events included a livestock judging contest, bucking-barrel competition, a parade of sires from the campus stables, sheepdog demonstrations, and baby animal parades. In the early 1970s, the International was combined with the Dairy Classic and renamed the Baystate Livestock Classic. It was held at Grinnell Arena through 1990 and has since been held at The Hadley Farm (known as Young Meadow Farm before its acquisition by the University of Massachusetts Foundation).

A course by the name of Marketing Perishable Foods was offered 1941-1942. After the war ended a food management major was started (1945). Many successful students graduated from this program. In 1960 it was renamed Food Distribution.

In 1943, twenty-five years after the school was started, two of the original members still remained on the faculty, Professors A. Vincent Osmun of Botany and Christian I. Guinness of Rural Engineering.

During the years of World War II it was decided to condense the programs into one year. This was because most college age boys had either joined the service or were granted draft deferment for agriculture and were required to stay on the farm. Thus there were two very small one-year classes in 1944 and 1945. In addition, the entrance age was changed from 17 years to 16. Under a plan effective September 27, 1943 by the college trustees, a student would take all technical classes in a period of six months, divided into two 12-week terms, September to December, and January to April. A six month job placement period followed. A special one-year certificate was awarded upon satisfactory completion of all requirements. Despite the state's industrialization, the years 1941-1945 saw the greatest production of food by Massachusetts in the entire three centuries of existence of the Bay Colony. During the war years there were 30,000 farms in the state which included 400,000 acres of cultivated land and a total area of 2,000,000 acres.

During the war various programs were offered by the Short Course office. A look at the 1943 catalog published jointly by the Massachusetts State College and Massachusetts Committee on Public Safety reveals three such programs offered as part of the Wartime Recreation Training Institutes: Community Recreation in Wartime, Training Young People of Wartime Recreation Service, and Outdoor

Recreation and Wartime Camping.

More than 800 Stockbridge students and alumni, largely from the Classes of 1939 to 1943, served in every branch of the service. History records 43 individuals who gave their lives in the service of their country during the second world war.

In the mid-20th century all placement work was supervised by Director of Placement, Emory E. Grayson. Students were graded based on the employer's report submitted at the end of summer and on the placement report submitted by the student prior to registration for the senior year. At one time Mr. Grayson noted that placing students for their six months' training had required a considerable selling job to the farmers, businesses, etc. This changed however as the reputation of the School and its students became more well-known. "I used to write literally hundreds of letters to possible employers, farmers principally, throughout the state, but during the past ten years I have had to do very little selling. The training students did such a good job that the word got around among the farmers so that now I have many more applicants for training students than I have students available."

Adjustments have been made in the placement program from time to time to meet not only the needs of employers but to provide students with the widest experience possible in their fields of study. At one time Pomology students began their second year October 1 to enable them to see the apple harvest, thereby allowing them a completion of the full crop season from seed-time to harvest. At one time Poultry majors had a seven-month placement training period starting March 1. This was because years ago most big poultry breeding farms started their incubation and brooding in December and January resulting in a peak of spring hatching by March.

A Forestry and Wildlife Management major was offered starting in 1945. It was renamed Forestry in 1948. Another new major was first offered in 1946: Arboriculture. This program was started because members of The Massachusetts Arborists Association and the Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association had gone to President Van Meter and sold him on the idea of a two-year program. For the first 14 years it was under the Landscape Architecture Department. Professor Theodore Mathieu oversaw this program for the first few years, turning it over in 1950 to Gordon King.

After many years of consideration Governor Robert A. Bradford finally signed

the legislation on May 6, 1947 which transformed the college into a university - the University of Massachusetts.

Back in 1922 horticulture majors had the option of taking a course on lawn construction and maintenance, lawn mowing, and weed eradication. In 1933 students attaining an average of 75 or higher during the first semester of their second year could enter the Winter School for Greenskeepers which by then included courses in landscape appreciation and botany. The turf option was again offered in 1947 with eight students graduating in 1948. Fine Turf Maintenance, renamed Turf Maintenance a year later, opened in September of 1948. In 1951 Placement Officer Emory E. Grayson reported that summer placement salaries for turf students were the second highest among the ten majors; two years later they earned the highest salaries. Dr. Joseph Troll joined the program in 1957 and subsequently became its advisor after the retirement of Dr. Dickinson. Professor of Agronomy John M. Zak was also heavily involved with the program for over 45 years at the Winter School, Stockbridge, and University levels.

Director Verbeck retired in 1954. A tribute to him in the 1954 yearbook states "When one thinks of the Stockbridge School of Agriculture, one also thinks of Roland Hale Verbeck, ...he has been its ardent champion and guiding hand these past 30 years. The students and faculty alike will miss his booming laughter and boundless enthusiasm. Perhaps the greatest tribute that can be paid Director Verbeck is the fact that under his direction the Stockbridge School of Agriculture has become THE outstanding two-year agricultural school in the country." Starting in 1955 the Roland H. Verbeck Award has been presented annually by the Stockbridge Alumni Association to the senior who best typifies the ideals and spirit of the Stockbridge School of Agriculture. Roland Verbeck died August 9, 1964 at his retirement home in Winter Park, Florida.

In 1954 professor and head of the Department of Poultry Science Fred Painter Jeffrey became director of the Stockbridge School of Agriculture and associate dean of the College of Agriculture. Mr. Jeffrey was born in Trauger, Pennsylvania in 1911. He earned his B.S. from Pennsylvania State College in 1932. He completed his graduate training in avian genetics at Massachusetts State College in 1934. He worked at Rutgers University from 1935-1944 doing research and teaching in poultry science and quickly rose from instructor to associate professor.

In 1944 he had been unanimously selected to head the Massachusetts State College Poultry Department. In the dedication to the newly appointed director, the editors of the 1955 yearbook wrote, "As an administrator, he has the happy faculty of getting along well with people, and keeping an even pressure on things, instead of being absorbed in one thing while other matters lag. Punctuality and an absolute lack of procrastination are virtues that he embraces in a high degree. As a teacher, the students like him because he 'knows his stuff,' his lectures and assignments are clear, concise, and are free of nonessential time fillers." Fred Jeffrey was a highly-respected administrator who paid close attention to details and worked tirelessly in many ways to benefit Stockbridge students.

During Dean Jeffrey's tenure the school offices were moved from South College to Stockbridge Hall. From 1960-1961 he served as acting dean of the College of Agriculture. Although offered the position of dean, he refused it, preferring to remain at his post as director of the Stockbridge School of Agriculture. He was much in demand as a speaker around the state and in the East at leading poultry conferences and he published many papers on genetic studies and a textbook co-authored with Professor Dean Marble of Cornell University on the science of poultry management. He was an active person in the community, he took a leading role in his church, town administration and on many campus committees. Fred Jeffrey retired from the University on February 20, 1971. At his retirement dinner, University President John W. Lederle said of Mr. Jeffrey, "The longer I served as President, the more I came to appreciate the 'good citizen' role of members of the faculty. Universities don't run themselves. There are always too few 'good citizens' willing to take on the onerous committees and other assignments which are essential to good faculty government. Someone must serve on the financial aid committee, the athletic council, the admissions committee, the commencement task force; and there is the ubiquitous faculty senate. Fred Jeffrey, over the years did more than his share and I know the University was a better place because of this."

After his retirement from the University Fred Jeffrey remained active in the field of poultry genetics, especially bantams and wrote several books on the subject. He was executive secretary of the American Bantam Association and secretary of the Old English Game Bantam Club of America.

At a ceremony making Dean Jeffrey an Honorary Alumnus in 1991 he remarked, "Everyone does not need a bachelor's degree, but we need schools for

...training interested people who have motivation, for training them well to a technical level. We at the Stockbridge School of Agriculture have been doing this, and doing it very well for 70 years." Fred Jeffrey died on September 7, 1997.

During the 1950s, in part because of fewer members, faculty started working interchangeably between instruction, research and extension. Former Harvard University President Conant complimented the University of Massachusetts on its "successful development of a two-year terminal college...that focuses on the practical educational needs of its community." The Stockbridge program continued to flourish through the 1950s. Interest and enrollment increased. Charles Hiram Thayer, long-time professor of agronomy (career 1919-1954) known affectionately as "The Old Naturalist (and also called "Professor Dirt")," once said, "Now when one meets an outstanding farmer in Massachusetts, it is better than half a chance that he is a Stockbridge man." In the 1950s Agnes Tamm Nemiccolo '30 started a trust fund named after Charles Hiram Thayer to provide no-interest loans. The fund was turned over to the University in the 1960s with the interest to be available to the Director of the Stockbridge School for providing loans to students. This loan program is presently administered by the University of Massachusetts Foundation.

Upon recent reflection of a half century association and familiarity with the Stockbridge School of Agriculture, retired department head and professor of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Thomas W. Fox wrote "There were other two-year schools established in the Northeast but the Stockbridge School was by far the most successful. The integration of Stockbridge with the resident instruction programs of the College of Agriculture, including transfer capability, was an important element of its success. Two-year programs completely independent of four-year resident instruction, research and cooperative extension have had difficulty maintaining prestige and recognition as programs of excellence. In addition, faculty recruitment and retention are supported by association with University or College programs organized in the Land-Grant tradition."

In 1956 the major in Dairy Industry, originally Dairy Manufactures, was renamed Dairy Technology. In 1958 the major which had first been known as General Horticulture and had become Ornamental Horticulture in 1939 became Landscape Operations.

The Class of 1961 was the first to receive an Associate of Science degree

rather than a diploma. A change in policy was made so that Stockbridge students were no longer required to live separately from other students at the University. The honorary service organization STOSO was founded in 1962 to promote the welfare of the School. A weekly newspaper called the SHORTHORN began publication in 1962. In 1963 the Honorary Scholastic Society once known as Stosag was renamed LEAR, a word of Celtic origin meaning learning. Today students with high academic credentials are elected to membership in December and May of their senior year.

In 1960 Arboriculture was transferred from the Landscape Architecture Department to the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology. In September of 1962 it was transferred back to the Landscape Architecture Department. At this time the Arboriculture program was expanded to include similar material previously offered in the Vocational Forestry major. The Forestry major was closed and the last class graduated in 1964. The new major was called Arboriculture and Park Management, and continued to be run under the direction of Professor Gordon King. The new Park Management option included studies in park recreation, general forest management and wildlife conservation. Students in either option shared a common curriculum during the first year and would be required to select one or the other option not later than the start of the second year. Freshmen in either major were required to attend a one week intensive training course in the use of ropes, climbing and safety practices the week before the opening of school.

A joint curriculum was first offered by the Departments of Dairy and Animal Science and Poultry Science in 1963. Animal Husbandry and Poultry Husbandry became known respectively as Animal Science and Poultry Science in 1960. In 1966 Poultry Science was merged into Animal Science and for several more years electives were offered on poultry subjects.

In 1964 the majors Fruit Growing and Vegetable Crops were combined to form a single new major, Fruit and Vegetable Crops. It has continued under that name through the present time. Dr. Wesley R. Autio is currently the program coordinator of this major. Fruit Growing had been known originally as Pomology before it was renamed in layman's terms in 1926. Vegetable Gardening became Commercial Vegetable Growing in 1945, Vegetable Growing in 1956, and Vegetable Crops in 1960. This major, along with Floriculture, were briefly grouped under Horticulture in the early 1960s. Turf Maintenance was also renamed in 1964. Its new name was Turf Management

Several new majors appeared on the scene during the 1960s. Wood Utilization was opened in 1964. A new Restaurant and Hotel Management major began in 1966. It would later be known as Hotel and Restaurant Administration (1970) and later still as Hotel, Restaurant and Travel Administration (1972). Agricultural Business Management was also begun in 1966. A program of Lumber and Building Materials Business Management opened in 1968 but lasted only a short time, being closed in 1971. The Laboratory Animal Management major, usually referred to simply as L.A.T., began in 1968. For a short time in the early 1970s L.A.T. as well as Poultry Science were considered options under Animal Science.

In 1970 a Division of Continuing Education was started at the University of Massachusetts. Until that time most short courses were sponsored under the auspices of the Short Course office or the Stockbridge School as many were related to production agriculture. These had been modeled after the system established at Wisconsin by their Cooperative Extension Service in 1907. The new Division received its funding from state sources unlike many of the previous ones which were largely federally funded. From this time on most short courses would be offered through the Division of Continuing Education.

Our beautiful school seal was designed by Alice A. Tognini '67. She submitted her design as part of a contest which was judged by Calvin T. Saulnier and Paul A. Parent, the yearbook editors for the Classes 1969 and 1970, respectively. This had been the suggestion of their advisor, Floriculture Professor George Goddard.

Following the retirement of Dean Jeffrey in 1971, John W. Denison of the Department of Veterinary and Animal Sciences was promoted to replace him. "Jack" Denison was born in Harrison, Maine on April 20, 1927. Upon graduation from Bridgton Academy he enlisted in the Navy as a radar technician. He studied poultry science at the University of Maine, graduating in 1950. He then operated a market egg farm until it was lost in a disastrous fire. He also served his hometown in Maine as a deputy sheriff during the time he ran his own farm. He was a professional wrestler, a wrestling coach, and a Boy Scout leader. Next, he went to work for Wirthmore Feeds as a sales and service person. He became Massachusetts' first regional poultry specialist in 1961, and was appointed an instructor in the University of Massachusetts Department of Poultry Science in 1963. After the merger of the Poultry, Veterinary, Dairy and Animal Science departments in 1964 to form the

Department of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Mr. Denison became assistant professor and later professor. He completed his graduate work at the University of Massachusetts while on the faculty. He earned an M.S. in Agricultural and Food Economics in 1965 and an Ed.D. in Educational Administration in 1970. From the 1960s on he was a much sought-after banquet speaker on Maine humor. He held a great rapport with students, industry and alumni. He retired as the fourth director of the Stockbridge School of Agriculture in the summer of 1987. Jack Denison died May 20, 1991.

Other changes in school staff happened about the time of Director Jeffrey's retirement. The secretaries Miss Catherine F. Heffernan and Miss Katherine M. Martin who had served in the school offices for many years also retired. Ms. Karen H. Cerow, daughter of Stanley Keegan '33, and Ms. Elizabeth A. Wiernasz joined the school at this time. Throughout the years these fine ladies have provided a warm and friendly atmosphere in the school's main office.

Professor Iona Mae Reynolds from the Department of Veterinary and Animal Sciences was appointed associate director in August, 1972. She is a graduate of Massachusetts State College Class of 1941 with a degree in bacteriology. She joined the faculty in 1949, and received her M.S. in Public Health from UMass in 1957. She taught in the Laboratory Animal Technology program. Since her retirement in 1985 Professor Reynolds has continued to serve as class news editor for the *Stockbridge Alumni News*.

The 1970s saw the closure of several majors. The last students majoring in Dairy Technology, one of the original programs, graduated in 1971. A Food Processing Technology major had been started in 1970 but it too closed in 1975. The eight year old Wood Utilization major closed in 1972. A major in Environmental Technology was begun in 1972 but only lasted until 1975. Three more majors were closed in the next several years - Hotel, Restaurant and Travel Administration (1976), Food Distribution (1977), and the popular L.A.T. major in 1980.

Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, a decrease in the presence of production agriculture was noticed on campus, partly due to changes in the state's demographics and a desire by the University to broaden its spectrum of programs. The College of Agriculture was renamed the College of Food and Natural Resources. In 1966 a new

poultry facility opened at Tillson Farm on the northeastern corner of the main campus. Although poultry had been kept there previously, existing buildings were renovated, new buildings were constructed, and the ranges were eliminated. The main flock at the old poultry plant near the current Textbook Annex was moved to Tillson Farm. About the same time a new orchard was opened in Belchertown to take the place of the campus facility on Orchard Hill. Construction of the Orchard Hill dormitories had displaced some of the orchard. After a period of poor physical condition the greenhouses at French Hall were finally rebuilt in the early 1980s.

The dairy processing plant which for years had processed the milk produced by the college herd and occupied the first floor of Flint Lab was closed. When opened in 1911 it had been touted as being the finest equipped dairy building in America. Through the mid-20th century there had been many producer-dealer dairy farms in the state which bottled their own milk. Thus there had been a widespread need for the knowledge in milk processing. Changes in economics and government regulations had decreased this need.

In 1974 the University dairy herd was moved from the campus barns to a new state-of-the-art complex built on land purchased by the University on River Road in South Deerfield. It featured freestall housing for production cows with the first liquid manure handling system in the state, a double-4 herringbone milking parlor, and two wings for research and replacement cattle in pens and stanchions. At one time the dairy herd consisted of several breeds - Holsteins, Guernseys, Jerseys, and Ayrshires. By the 1970s the decision was reached to concentrate on Holsteins, the most popular breed in the state, and attempt to reach their full genetic potential. In 1991 the University horses moved into the former Young Meadow Farm in Hadley. The last horses from the old facility at Tillson Farm were ridden through campus in a much-publicized move.

To help bolster support and increase awareness of the Stockbridge School of Agriculture, a promotion and recruitment committee was started in 1985. Committee makeup was wide-based as members included administration, faculty, staff, alumni and students. One of the most long-ranging accomplishments to grow out of their work was the hiring of a recruiter, funded by alumni contributions, to work specifically on Stockbridge recruitment. The first recruiter was Debbie Boyce, a 1985 Floriculture graduate. The position is currently held by Kathy Conway.

H. Dennis P. Ryan III, a Stockbridge Arboriculture and Park Management graduate of the Class of 1968 served as interim director following the retirement of Dr. Denison in 1987. Following a term in the service after Stockbridge, Dr. Ryan earned a B.S. in Environmental Design from UMass, and then a Master's degree in Forestry. He worked at SUNY in Farmingdale and New York City before returning to Amherst and assuming leadership of the Arboriculture and Park Management program when Gordon King retired in 1983. He completed his Ed.D. in 1987.

Harry Mosher was called to become the next director in 1988. Dr. Mosher was a native of New York State. He attended the New York State Ranger School in Wanakena as well as the University of California. For 25 years he was the director of forest technology at the Mont Alto campus of Penn State. Dr. Mosher worked to strengthen the existing programs and studied the establishment of several new majors. He changed the classes from Stockbridge numbers to UMass course numbers which made it much easier for students to transfer to UMass after completing their Stockbridge education. By now a third or more of graduating students were transferring to UMass. It has also helped faculty recognition. Dr. Mosher was never afraid to "dig in and get his hands dirty." On more than one occasion he was found painting classrooms, cleaning out sheds to be made into laboratory facilities for classes, or improving the campus landscape. He separated the offices of the Stockbridge School from those of the four-year undergraduates in order to provide a more efficient process for students.

In the fall of 1989 a new major was started - Equine Industries. This was organized by Veterinary and Animal Sciences Professor Anthony Borton who had built a very popular four-year equine option in the Animal Science program. Mr. H. Gerard Schurink is currently the program coordinator of this major. Three years later, in 1992, the final class in Animal Agriculture graduated. This major had been offered by the school since its inception. Known in its early years as Animal Husbandry, the name was changed in 1960 to Animal Science, and again in 1984 to Animal Agriculture.

For several years in the mid-1990s a soil evaluator course was run through the Stockbridge School office. It was sponsored by the Department of Environmental Protection and has since been run through the Division of Continuing Education.

In 1991 Landscape Operations was renamed Landscape Contracting. Mr.

Michael Davidsohn '86 is currently its program coordinator. In the same year Turf Management was renamed Turfgrass Management. It continues under that name, and in 1998 its new program coordinator is Dr. J. Scott Ebdon.

Under the leadership of Program Coordinator Nancy L. Garrabrants the Floriculture major was expanded in 1991 to include options in Commercial Floriculture and Retail Floral Design. In 1994 a third option was added - Garden Center and Nursery Management. In 1998 the major was revamped - its name became Horticulture and the options of study were to be: Floriculture Crop Production, Management of Woody Plants, and Retail Floral Design.

The last class majoring in Agricultural Business Management graduated in 1992. The major had never boasted a very large enrollment.

When Dr. Mosher left in 1996 Richard G. Floyd, a graduate of the Class of 1961 (Arboriculture) and an associate dean of the College of Food and Natural Resources was named interim director. He has worked in administration of the College of Food and Natural Resources in both the Extension and Dean's offices. He received a B.S. in Plant and Soil Sciences in 1964. Mr. Floyd worked to draw school and alumni relations closer together and to prepare for a new permanent director.

Floriculture Program Coordinator Nancy Garrabrants was named director of the Stockbridge School of Agriculture in the spring of 1998 and began her new duties in the summer of 1998. She was replaced as Horticulture program coordinator by Dr. Thomas H. Boyle.

The Stockbridge Alumni Association continues to meet on a regular basis - a banquet in the fall and a luncheon in the spring as well as monthly meetings of the board of directors. The *Stockbridge Alumni News* is published to keep alumni abreast of happenings at the school and of fellow alumni. The Stockbridge Alumni Association has traditionally been a large and loyal body of alumni, active in their support of the school. The Stockbridge Foundation was founded in the early 1990s by interested alumni and other parties to provide long-range, permanent support for the school.

As the years of the 20th century have wound down major changes have

occurred within the College of Food and Natural Resources. Study in practical agriculture is no longer of major prominence. The Stockbridge curriculum has changed, largely in an effort to adapt to a state with increasing urbanization. Today most programs of study are tied with the green industry rather than with food production. As in the past, Stockbridge students remain a close-knit group typical of a small school but within the large university community. Stockbridge students enjoy the attributes of a small school atmosphere yet benefit from the resources and opportunities available at a major university. Stockbridge graduates are much sought after by industry and the school is highly regarded.

Today, over ten thousand men and women have earned the proud title "Stockbridge graduate," beautified our landscape, maintained crop, dairy and livestock enterprises, and are productive members of society.

*-prepared by Christopher A. Coyle '82,
Past President, Stockbridge School of Agriculture Alumni Association*

Addendum;

In 2012, the 2-year associate of science and 4-year bachelor of science degree programs were brought together under the Stockbridge School of Agriculture umbrella.

Now, the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts Amherst offers six Associate of Science degrees, four Bachelor of Science degrees, and graduate education at the M.S. and Ph.D. levels to highly motivated individuals. It is unique in that all Stockbridge students have close student-faculty relationships.

Stockbridge students are involved in a broad range of activities, including clubs, intramural sports, residential activities, community service activities, national competition teams, and faculty research projects.

The approximately 10,000 Stockbridge alumni form cohesive networks within the farming and green industries. They strongly support the work of the School and its graduates.