



A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL ENGINEERING  
OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

1966

INTRODUCTION

A common freshman curriculum was initiated in the fall of 1925 for all students registered in Civil, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering. This accounted for all freshmen in the School of Engineering except those in the Industrial Arts major. The Oregon Agricultural College catalog of 1925-26 states, "The common first year curriculum has been arranged to permit students to wait until the beginning of the second year before deciding finally upon the particular branch of engineering they wish to follow".

This common freshman curriculum was a forerunner to the formation of a Department of General Engineering established in 1928 for the administration and teaching of engineering courses of the common freshman curriculum. The newly organized department under the guidance of Department Chairman, Assistant Professor Glenn Holcomb, taught and administered courses in Engineering Problems formerly taught by the Department of Civil Engineering, and Mechanical Drawing previously taught by the Department of Mechanical Engineering. Members of the teaching staffs of these two departments were utilized, but they remained assigned to the respective professional departments.

In the fall of 1932 the department expanded its student coverage by providing general engineering courses for the new Lower Division curriculum for Chemical Engineering, Industrial Chemistry, and Mining Engineering as well as the previous majors of Civil, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering.

In 1940, Assistant Professor Rupert Alfred Wanless, was reassigned from the Department of Civil Engineering to replace Professor Holcomb as Chairman of the Department of General Engineering.

The School of Engineering established a new major in Industrial Engineering in 1943 and this, in turn, was serviced by General Engineering courses and faculty. Starting in the fall of 1944 a new major of Metallurgical Engineering was likewise served.

In 1947, the Department of Agricultural Engineering was placed jointly under the direction of the School of Engineering and the School of Agriculture. The General Engineering Department expanded its services once again to meet the demands of the newly established department.

In 1954 a Department of Production Technology developed as an out-growth of the previous Industrial Arts major. In 1960 a department major of Engineering Physics was established jointly with the Department of Physics and the School of Engineering. Both of these new majors were, in turn, served by the General Engineering Department.

In 1960, with the retirement of Professor Wanless, Professor Richard L. Richardson was appointed head of the Department.

### CURRICULUM OFFERINGS

The departmental curriculum remained nearly static for some 15 years with offerings being confined to the areas of engineering problems and mechanical drawing.

For the fall of 1945 curriculum offerings in the department were expanded to include Production Illustration, Technological Patents, and Descriptive Geometry in addition to the already existing offerings of Engineering Problems and Mechanical Drawing.

In 1946 a new two-year sequence course in Pilot Training was added to the curriculum.

Major curriculum changes for the department in 1951 included the addition of a three-credit, three-term sequence in Engineering Fundamentals, a four-credit, three-term sequence course in General Engineering, a three-credit course in Structural Drafting, and a three-credit course in Elementary Machine Design. At the same time courses in Pilot Training were dropped.

In 1955 a new three-credit course in Applied Mechanisms was added to the curriculum offerings.

Essentially a complete curriculum revision in the Department of General Engineering came about for the fall of 1957. It included the following changes, additions and deletions:

Changes;

Engineering Drawing, two-credit, three-term sequence to  
Engineering Graphics, two-credit, three-term sequence,

Additions;

Engineering Concepts, three-credit, three-term sequence,

Deletions;

Engineering Problems,

Production Illustration,

Descriptive Geometry,

General Engineering,

Structural Drafting,

Elementary Machine Design.

Curriculum changes for 1960 included the addition of a course, Historical Development of Engineering, the deletion of Technological Patents, and a change in Engineering Fundamentals from a three-term sequence to a single three-credit course.

In the year 1962, major curriculum changes were made throughout the entire School of Engineering which brought a substantial increase of responsibility for engineering curricula under the supervision of the Department of General Engineering. This was the year in which the traditional classical fundamental engineering courses were replaced with the "engineering sciences". The sciences, basic to all areas of engineering, were thereupon placed under the administration of the Department of General Engineering.

The engineering science courses offered comprised the following, which are all three-credit courses:

Electrical Fundamentals, GE 201, 202, 203;

Mechanics of Solids, GE 211, 212, 213;

Mechanics of Fluids, GE 301, 302;

Thermodynamics, GE 311, 312, 313;

Nature and Behavior of Materials, GE 321, 322, 323;

Transfer and Rate Processes, GE 331, 332, 333.

Other courses added to the General Engineering curriculum in 1962 were a three-credit, three-term sequence in Analysis and Design, and a two-credit, three-term sequence in Engineering Orientation.

At the same time Engineering Concepts was dropped from the curriculum, and Engineering Graphics was no longer retained as a required part of the curriculum for engineers at Oregon State University. Engineering Graphics was, however, continued as service courses for students of Forestry, Industrial Arts Education, Business and Technology, and students in the School of Engineering in the areas of Production Technology, Mechanical Engineering, and Pre-Engineering.

Still other courses dropped in 1962 were Applied Mechanics, and History and Development of Engineering.

In 1963 the course, Historical Development of Engineering was once again offered, and a Seminar, GE 407 was added to the list of courses offered by the department. Historical Development of Engineering was deleted from the 1964 offerings.

In 1963 the department, by approval of the State Board of Higher Education, became a degree-granting department. The first degree in General Engineering at Oregon State was granted in 1964. As of 1965, Bachelor of Science degrees offered by the Department, in addition to a General Engineering degree, are Aerospace Engineering, Automotive Engineering, Bio-engineering, Metallurgical Engineering, and Nuclear Engineering.

### TEACHING FACULTY

The college catalog for 1944-45 is the first to list a separate teaching faculty for General Engineering. In addition to Chairman Wanless, Instructors Boals, Kirk, and McClintock, are listed.

The teaching faculty for 1945---

Associate Professors Wanless, Chairman, and Willey.

Instructors Guldeman, Vulliet and Hutchinson.

The teaching faculty for 1946---

Professors Wanless, Chairman, and Willey.

Instructors, Haith, Richardson, Allen and Lockwood.

The teaching faculty for 1947---

Professors Wanless, Chairman, and Willey.

Assistant Professors Haith and Richardson.

Instructors Parkinson, Rice, Rook and Viggers.

The teaching faculty for 1948---

Professors Wanless, Chairman, and Willey.

Assistant Professors Haith, Richardson and Rook.

Instructors Boyd, Gray, Lockwood and Parkinson.

Fellow Rice.

The teaching faculty for 1949---

Professors Wanless, Chairman, and Willey.

Assistant Professors Haith, Richardson and Rook.

Instructors Boyd, Gray, Lockwood, Parkinson and Rice.

The teaching faculty for 1950---

Professors Wanless, Chairman, and Willey.

Assistant Professors Haith, Parkinson, Richardson, and Rook.

Instructors Gray, Lockwood, and Rice.

The teaching faculty for 1951---

Professors Wanless, Chairman, and Willey.

Associate Professors Haith and Richardson.

Assistant Professors Lockwood, Parkinson and Rook.

Instructors Gray and Rice.

The teaching faculty for 1952---

Professors Wanless, Chairman, and Willey.

Associate Professors Haith and Richardson.

Assistant Professors Lockwood and Parkinson.

Instructors Gray and Rice.

The teaching faculty for 1953---

Professors Wanless, Chairman, Willey.

Associate Professors Haith and Richardson.

Assistant Professors Gray and Parkinson.

Instructors Boal, Cox, Sharp and Stover.

The teaching faculty for 1954---

Professors Wanless, Chairman, and Willey.

Associate Professors Haith and Richardson.

Assistant Professors Gray and Parkinson.

Instructors Cox, Renner, Sharp and Stover.

The teaching faculty for 1955---

Professors Wanless, Chairman, and Willey.

Associate Professors Haith and Richardson.

Assistant Professors Campbell, Gray and Parkinson.

Instructors Bucy, Northcraft, Renner and Stover.

The teaching faculty for 1956---

Professors Wanless, Chairman and Willey.

Associate Professors Haith and Richardson.

Assistant Professors Campbell, Gray, Parkinson, and Simpson.

Instructors Bucy, Croeni, Olson, Renner and Stover.

The teaching faculty for 1957---

Professors Wanless (changed from Chairman to Head), Richardson and Willey.

Associate Professor Haith.

Assistant Professors Campbell, Gray, Jensen, Miller, Parkinson and Simpson.

Instructors Cox, Croff, Garrard, Haynes, Hugelmann, and Bucy.

The teaching faculty for 1958---

Professors Wanless, Head, Richardson and Willey.

Associate Professor Haith.

Assistant Professors Campbell, Gray, Jensen, Miller, Parkinson and Simpson.

Instructors Bucy, Charters, Cox, Croff, Garrard, Haynes, McClellan,

Schmitz, Staton and Wilbur.

The teaching faculty for 1959---

Professors Wanless, Head, Richardson, and Willey (emeritus).

Associate Professors Gray, and Haith.

Assistant Professors Campbell, Cox, Haynes, Jensen, Miller, Parkinson  
and Simpson.

Instructors Bucy, Charters, Croff, Dillard, Garrard, Shrock and Staton.



The teaching faculty for 1960---

Professors Richardson, Head, and Willey (emeritus).

Associate Professors Gray, Haith and Jarvi.

Assistant Professors Bucy, Campbell, Cox, Jensen, Miller and Parkinson.

Instructors Charters, Croff, Dillard, Garrard, Shrock, and Staton.

The teaching faculty for 1961---

Professors Richardson, Head, and Willey (emeritus).

Associate Professors Gray, Haith, and Jarvi.

Assistant Professors Bucy, Campbell, Jensen, Miller and Parkinson (emeritus).

Instructors Croff, Dillard, Garrard, Shrock and Staton.

The teaching faculty for 1962---

Professors Richardson, Head, and Willey (emeritus).

Associate Professors Campbell, Gray and Jarvi.

Assistant Professors Bucy, Croff, Garrard, Jensen, Parkinson (emeritus).

and Staton.

The teaching faculty for 1963---

Professors Richardson, Head, and Willey (emeritus).

Associate Professors Campbell, Gray and Jarvi.

Assistant Professors Bucy, Croff, Garrard, Parkinson (emeritus) and

Staton.

The teaching faculty for 1964---

Professors Richardson, Head, and Willey (emeritus).

Associate Professors Campbell, Gray and Jarvi.

Assistant Professors Bucy, Croff, Garrard, Parkinson (emeritus) and

Staton.

The teaching faculty for 1965---

Professor Richardson, Head.

Associate Professors Campbell, Gray and Jarvi.

Assistant Professors Bucy, Croff, Garrard, Parkinson (emeritus) and  
Staton.

#### LOCATION ON CAMPUS

The Department of General Engineering has been housed in four different buildings on the campus since its inception in 1928. The locations and corresponding years are as follows:

Apperson Hall-----1928-to 1946  
Benton Hall-----1947 to 1948  
Industrial Arts Building----1949 to 1960  
Covell Hall-----1961 to date

