History of The Women’s Course at MSU

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East Lansing Prime Time
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Early MSU History

- Founded 1855
- First students entered 1857
- Conflict about purpose of college
Early MSU Women’s History

- Early curriculum not of interest to women
- First women students entered 1870
- Main problem was housing women students
Advocating for Women students

Some thought ladies provided refinement to the “rude and uncouth” male students
Opposition to a Women’s Course

R. C. Clute wrote editorial in College Speculum, “Co-Education Would be Detrimental to the College,” May 10, 1888
Women do persist

- First woman to graduate: Eva Dian Coryell McBain – Class of 1879
- Second woman – Mary Merrill, Class of 1881
- Merrill then became first full-time librarian at MAC
Mary Mayo’s influence

- Leader in State Grange
- Felt curriculum not suitable for farm girls, let alone city girls
- Advocated for a course just for women students
Women’s Course becomes Reality

1895
Report on the Status of the University

Course begins 1896

42 students enrolled
Edith McDermott
Early Curriculum

Five Sections
- The House
- Foods
- Health
- Clothing
- Emergencies
The Women’s Building
Development of Home Economics

Term coined at Lake Placid, NY in 1902

American Home Economics Association founded in 1909
Maude Gilchrist Administration

- 1902-First course in education
- 1905- Program in teacher training
- 1911-Formation of Michigan Home Economics Association
- 1912-Formation of Omicron Nu honor society
Expanding Student Skills

- Senior house to practice skills
- Students prepare to become more than just teachers
Coming of Age in the 1920s

- Increased interest in dietetics
- Introduction of child development courses
- Under leadership of Irma Gross, home management achieved national eminence
Dora Stockman’s Influence

- Helped obtain funding for new building
- Advocate for liberal arts as a major
Marie Dye and the Golden Age
Graduate Education

- Graduate program began in 1930
- Master’s degrees in all departments
- Doctoral programs in foods, nutrition, and home economics education
The Great Depression

- Program curtailed due to budget constraints
- Employment opportunities scarce
- Extension program focused on economic problems of families
Growth and the War Effort

- Enrollment begins to increase
- MSC professors create textbook
- Extension focused on war effort
- Division becomes School of Home Economics
The Golden Anniversary

“Home Talent” pageant

Two Books Published: “The First Three Decades” and “Home Economics-50th Anniversary”
1947 – A Banner Year

- First Gross and Crandall text published
- Veterans’ Nursery School opens
- New Home Management Building completed
Post-War Revisions

- Curriculum reviewed and revised
- Emphasized specialization and professional training
Period of Constant Change

- Dye retired in 1956
- Thelma Porter becomes dean
- Beginning of organized program in continuing education
- Committee studies future of home economics
Revamping the Curriculum

- Reduced core requirements
- New core curriculum consisted of five completely new classes
- Increased general education component
- Increased free electives
Switch to Human Ecology

- College renamed
  - 1970
  - Human Nutrition and Foods
  - Human Environment and Design
  - Family and Child Services
  - Family Ecology
Paolucci Symposia

1st Beatrice Paolucci Symposium is held in 1985

Subsequent symposia are held in 1989 and 1996
A Century of the Women’s Course

100\textsuperscript{th} anniversary in 1996

College recognizes 100 emerging leaders and 100 outstanding alumni
Legacy of Women’s Course

In 2005 the College of Human Ecology dissolved and programs were transferred to other Colleges.

In 2008 Morrill Hall authorized for destruction.

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from the Dean

It is with a mixture of excitement for the future and some sadness as the College of Human Ecology concludes its long and proud history that I write this column for the final issue of the Ecologue. This magazine has been a direct link to the College for its various stakeholders, chronicling the many successes and accomplishments, projects and initiatives that have made our College an outstanding place to teach and learn. So we have sought to make this final issue of the magazine a special one, a commemorative issue that includes a history, as well as descriptions of the various academic programs and outreach projects that have been at the heart of the College and the experiences of so many of our wonderful alumni.

We have also tried to provide practical information, including a display of all of our programs and their new homes within the university. As you may know, the realignment of the College is nearly complete. The Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition is now under joint administration by the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the College...