Careers Awaiting in Home Economics

by Bertha Akin Gregory
School of Home Economics

It is a compliment to the School of Home Economics to have many requests from various commercial concerns and school administrators who want to employ qualified home economics graduates at good salaries. It is deeply disappointing not to have enough graduates for the job. The demand for home economists in Arizona and in the nation is greater than the number graduating each year from the 500 colleges and universities offering home economics.

Help! A Shortage

Why should there be such a shortage? Is it because high school students, their parents and counselors do not know of the range of fascinating careers open to home economics graduates? Let's explore a few possibilities.

Home economics in business includes many exciting and interesting careers. Industry is continuing to add more home economists to its staff so that it may be sensitive to the demands of the woman consumer—as they control the buying power of the country. The home economist in business plays a dual role as she represents the consumer to her company and then represents the company and its products to the woman consumer.

Business Opportunities

Business opportunities include: as a home service adviser with a public utilities company, as a journalist for newspapers or magazines, planning and participating on radio or television programs. A home economics major with a background of textiles, clothing, and related art might become an educational specialist in fashions or textiles or enter the field of merchandising, or home planning and furnishing.

For those with a major in food and nutrition there are horizons in the field of institution management: as a manager of quantity food service in hospitals, test kitchen, school lunch program, restaurant, or with the armed services.

Another source of employment not commonly thought of is with a Social Welfare and Public Health Service—opportunities for nutritionists and homemaking consultants.

Extension Service

Many home economists are employed in the Extension Service, as county home demonstration agents, subject matter specialists, and as county 4-H Club leaders.

More positions are available in the field of Home Economics Education than any other professional area of home economics. This is true because there are home economics teachers employed in the elementary, junior and senior high schools, junior colleges, universities, as well as teachers for adult classes in home and family living and supervisory positions.

Research Calls

Research personnel are needed in all the areas of home economics as research provides new knowledge and is basic to the entire field. Home economics research is carried on in colleges and universities in Agricultural Experiment Stations, branches of the U. S. Government, and private industry. Research should appeal to students with an inquiring mind who enjoy searching for answers.

The most desired profession with the greatest appeal to men and women is that of homemaking. The trend today is toward a philosophy of marriage which emphasizes companionship and sharing. More men desire to share intelligently in the rearing of children, in family purchasing and in the other responsibilities of building successful family life. Home economics courses offer basic training for homemaking—the most important profession in the world.

Future in Arizona

What does the future hold for the home economics graduate?

Arizona is one of the fastest growing states in the nation. The increase in population brings expanding public utilities and industry. The increase in school enrollment calls for more schools to be staffed. The rising tide of growth means a general rise in the standard of living and a demand for a greater number of persons with post high school education.

The future is bright for home economics graduates. A profession that is concerned with the American home and the improvement of family life cannot help but grow, with new opportunities for employment of the home economics graduate becoming available to keep up with the modern times.

For the Wise Girl

Home economics is a career with a future that offers challenge, satisfaction and a good salary. A wise high school graduate might well investigate the opportunities provided by her home-state university to enter the field of home economics.

Mrs. Madeline Woodworth, University of Arizona graduate, teaches classes in sewing for teenagers at Jacome's Department Store, Tucson. From left to right: Mrs. Woodworth, Theresa Tomko, Grace Smith, Josie Siliceo, Jona Jo Cabe.

Marjorie Marvel, University of Arizona graduate, writes: "Home Economics training in college has been a great asset to me in finding an interesting job in business. As a home economist in the Consumer Service Department at Kraft Foods Company, I help prepare food for photographs which are used for television commercials and in newspaper and magazine advertising.

"Another fascinating part of my work is recipe development and testing. These and many other activities have given me a chance to use my basic college courses to develop ideas and think creatively!"