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Study of Arabic is 'Pastime'

This Coed Finds Study 'Relaxing'

UA Beauty Is Student In Engineer College—And Good One, Too

By ELLSWORTH MOE

These University of Arizona coeds are quite a group of girls. They appear in plays, dance recitals, swimming exhibitions, and even pursue male students in a Sadie Hawkins day race each year.

Believe it or not, they study, too.

Take Raclare Cordis, for example. She's probably not exactly typical of the UA coed, but a lot of educators wish she was. You see, Raclare likes to study.

This semester she is enrolled in such classes as structures, fluid mechanics, engineering design, engineering economics, industrial management, Greek civilizations and Spanish-American civilizations.

Engineer Major

The comely 20-year-old senior is majoring in mechanical engineering. That's not unheard-of these days (four other girls are taking engineering at the university, too) but it's certainly not a popular field for women.

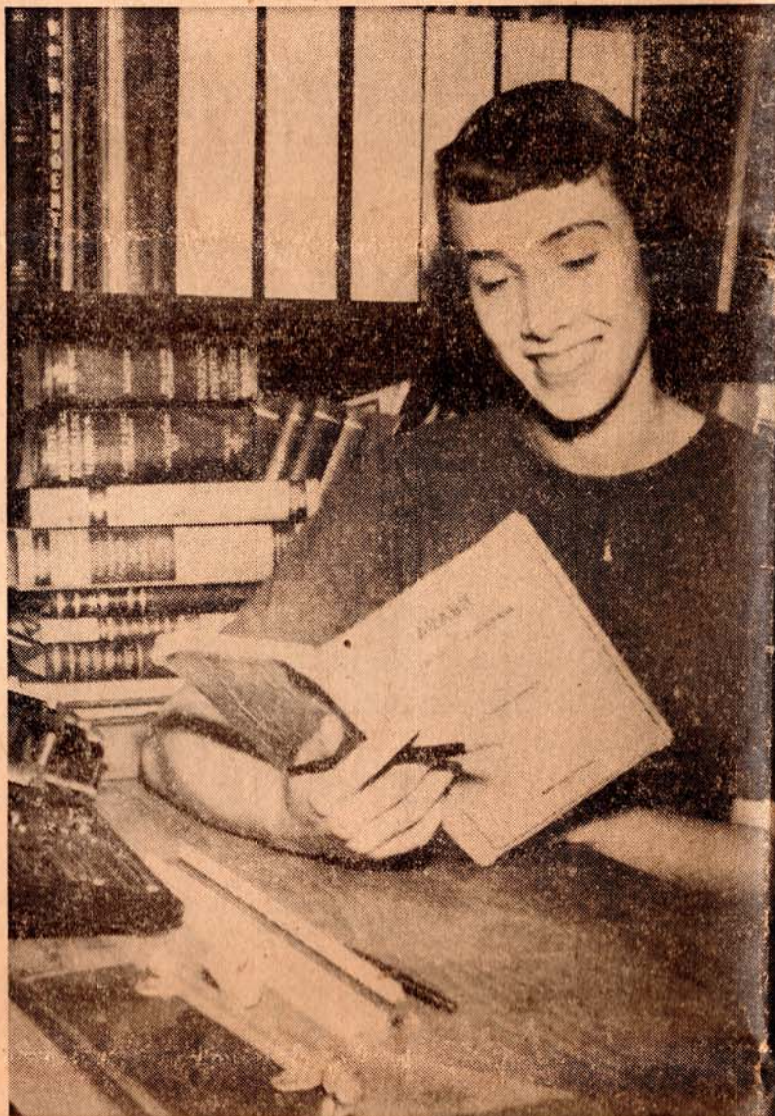
Her seven courses total 25 hours of classwork a week. She had planned to take Greek, but found the Greek class met at the same time she was scheduled to take industrial management.

She already has taken Spanish at the university and can speak and write it. She can read French and speaks "a little."

Alternate Language

But she wanted to take Greek, too. When that became impossible, she decided to learn Arabic. The university offers no courses in that language—so she decided to teach herself.

She had to have something to



This pretty brunette is Raclare Cordis, senior in mechanical engineering at the University of Arizona, who astonishes her fellow students by studying Arabic on her own as a means of relaxation. The tomes at her elbow are her regular textbooks that range in subject matter from engineering design to Greek civilization. Yes, she finds time for movies, football games and dates too. (Wong-Sutton photo.)

do for relaxation—so Arabic it was.

Several students from Arabic countries are enrolled at the university so she gets some help from them. She's doing all right, too.

Plans Egypt Study

Her learning Arabic isn't completely a matter of recreation though. She hopes someday to take graduate engineering courses at the University of Cairo in Egypt, but it's still a dream.

There she would like to enroll in courses in Moslem cultures and the Arabic language. Eventually, she would like to work for a U.S. firm in this country that has dealings in the Arabic world.

"I think that is going to be a highly important area of activity in the years ahead—many changes are due to come there, and I'd like to know as much as I can about it," she explained.

Engineering Interest

How did she get into engineering in the first place?

That's easy.

"My father is an engineer and I heard a great deal about it as a child. In school I found mathematics easy and I liked it. An aptitude test indicated that I was best suited for engineering too. So that's why I am here," she said.

A native Tucsonan, she and her family moved to Pennsylvania and New York while she was a child and returned here in time for her to enroll as a junior in Tucson high school.

Other Pastimes

Most students, male or female would find her current course tough enough without taking Arabic, but that's not her only relaxation.

She is a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the Engineers' council, is acting president of the Pan-American league, is a member of Alpha Phi sorority, and this week was elected to Tau Beta Pi, a national engineering honorary society that demands high scholarship for membership.

Does she ever go to the movies, parties or dances?

"Oh, yes, to a surprising number—even to football games."