Two Seniors Get Involved with "Mental Hospitals: Fact or Fiction?" Symposium at the University of Dayton

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DAYTON, Ohio, April 9, 1969 --- "We've always addressed ourselves to the need," is the way two University of Dayton senior students, Dennis Waite of Gary, Indiana, and Thomas Markowski of Elmont, New York, explain their involvement in a symposium, "Mental Hospitals: Fact or Fiction?" to be conducted Saturday, April 19, at the University's East Campus. The program, which is under the sponsorship of UD's Department of Psychology, will open at 9:30 a.m. and close at 4 p.m. in Sieben Hall.

Waite, a psychology major, and Markowski, majoring in social work, have dreamed about this program since they began working at the Dayton Children's Psychiatric Hospital and Dayton State Hospital respectively.

"We have been very concerned about mental health and mental hospitals ever since we started working," says Waite. "This is the practical part of our academic life and we feel that more attention and consideration should be given to the young and old alike who live a part of their life in mental hospitals.

"We feel more information should be made available to the public through experts in the field," he continued. "Our symposium is designed to do just this. That's why we have invited the public."

Two of those "experts in the field" at the symposium will be Dr. Benjamin Pasamanick, associate commissioner for research of the New York State Mental Hygiene Department and newly-installed President of the American Orthopsychiatric Association, and Dr. Simon Dinitz, professor of sociology at Ohio State University and long-time research associate of Dr. Pasamanick's. Dr. Dinitz will speak at the morning session and Dr. Pasamanick in the afternoon.

Dr. Pasamanick, considered one of the leading authorities in the world on mental health, has been active in the field since 1941. He has served at Yale, Michigan, Ohio State, Illinois, and Columbia universities, and at State University of New York, Brooklyn; Johns Hopkins, Long Island College, Chicago Medical School and New York School of Psychiatry.

He has also received professional appointments to Neuropsychiatric Institute, Ann Arbor, Michigan; Kings County Hospital, Brooklyn; the Phlyps Clinic and Harriet Lane Home, Johns Hopkins Hospital; Illinois State Department of Mental Health, Ohio State University's Department of Psychiatry, Research Division; and the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene.

He has lectured extensively, participated in films, and written monographs, papers and books on the subject.

Dr. Dinitz, who has been a recipient of the Hofheimer Prize for Research given by the American Psychiatric Association, has been a professor at Ohio State since 1951. He also has served as research associate in the Department of Psychiatry in Ohio State's College of Medicine.

Dr. Dinitz, who is currently doing research on the causes and treatment of juvenile delinquency and mental illness, received the Hofheimer Prize for the book, "Schizophrenics in the Community." He also is the co-author of the textbook, Social Problems," has written more than 50 articles in professional journals, and is the editor of "Criminology," the Journal of the American Society of Criminology. He also has lectured on alcoholism.

Dr. M. T. Faruki, superintendent of Dayton State Hospital, will speak at the morning session along with Joseph J. Trevino, former director of the division of psychiatric criminology of the Ohio Department of Mental Hygiene and Correction, and Professor Joseph Rosa of the University of Dayton's Department of Psychology.

Joining Dr. Pasamanick on the afternoon program will be Dr. Bernard M. Kuhr, director of the Good Samaritan Hospital comprehensive community mental health center, and Dr. John Davis of UD's Department of Psychology. The latter will give the closing summary.

There is a $2.75 registration fee to cover the luncheon and operating expenses. All surplus funds will be used to purchase athletic equipment for Dayton Children's Psychiatric Hospital.