

Dr. George Harrar, Director
Rockefeller Foundation

Dear Dr. Harrar:

Since 1954 the Rockefeller Foundation has assisted in the development of the Escola Superior de Ciências Domésticas of the University Rural of Estado de Minas Gerais. Perhaps in terms of the total Annual grants of the Foundation the help to ESCD has been small. For us, however, it has been very important, not only for the grant itself but also for the help this was able to stimulate from other sources. Another important factor in the usefulness of this grant was its immediate availability and the relative freedom in its use. This fact alone made it possible to purchase needed equipment and to put it into use when waiting for state appropriations and working through the cumbersome state procurement system often delays purchase to the extent that the initial appropriation is no longer sufficient.

ESCD is again requesting help from the Rockefeller Foundation, but first we would like to report on, the progress the school has made since your first visit in 1953.

At that time we were offering the second of our one year course (Administração do Lar) and had not as yet begin the superior level course of four years. Classroom space was limited to two rooms in the dwelling built for the Rolfs family and to classroom not in use by the Agriculture School. Boarding student lived in the basement of the Rolfs home under very crowded conditions.

Your first grant of twenty thousand dollars for Purchase of equipment was a great incentive toward the University remodeling an old warehouse for laboratories in Food Preparation, Clothing, Child Care and Home Decoration. Purchase of equipment also stimulated the initiation of the superior level course in 1954. In 1958 we were able to obtain a federal grant for the construction of the first wing of a new classroom building. This building made additional laboratories available so that an increased number of students could be accommodated. With the increased number of students the housing situation become worse and the old remodeled warehouse was pressed into service as a temporary dormitory.

Construction on the first wing of a women's dormitory was begun in 1962 and was put into use in March 1963. Furnishing and equipment in this dormitory are provisory. The most part they are ones discarded by the Agriculture school or the ones purchased in 1952, for temporary use until the school could provide something better. A part of this request will be for help in furnishing and equipping this dormitory which we will make specifically on a separate page.

While the new classroom and laboratory building was a great improvement over the old situation it did not provide for office space for teachers nor for space for teaching home management or an Animal laboratory for work in nutrition. Temporary solution of these problems was managed by remodeling an old building near the home economics

building for the Nutrition and home management laboratories. Teachers are presently officed together in a large room that eventually will be converted into a student lounge and reading room or a nurse school. We hope to begin this year on the second part of the classroom building which will improve the situation. We will continue to work for federal and state appropriations to complete the classroom building and to add the second half of the dormitory. This will increase our student capacity to about 200 students.

While improvement in buildings and physical equipment are the part of our progress most readily seen we recognize this as of lesser importance than the part we have had in the development of the home economics profession in Brazil.

To date we have had 547 graduates of the one year vocational course (Administração do Lar) and 97 graduates from the superior course. These students represent 20 states in Brazil and 401 municípios in the state of Minas Gerais. While more than half of these students have chosen homemaking as their "career", we have furnished a large number of people to the various extension services, have produced most of our own staff members (a total of 24), furnished 8 teachers to the other superior home economics school in Brazil at Pelotas, Rio Grande do Sul and one teacher to the newly opened school at Manizales, Colombia. Four of our graduates have positions with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture working with home economics in vocational school and 8 are working or have worked with state or private schools in the area of home economics. Two have worked with food service here at the University and one will soon take charge of the food service in a hospital in Rio. 6 have been employed with social welfare services of one type or another and one is presently employed in industry.

We are presently working on an agreement with the secretary of education through which we hope to initiate a pilot program of home economics in state and private colegios. Last year we participated in the formulation of an Agreement between the state secretary of Agriculture and USAID in which we agreed to assist with a program of consumer Education in the city of Belo Horizonte. While we have always cooperated in the holding of short courses here on the Campus this has not been one of our principle activities. Now the school is entering more into these activities. Beginning this year we will have a full time person working in Extension Activities. Her area of operation will be in the immediate vicinity of Viçosa and in the city of Belo Horizonte. We hope that these activities will open up other career possibilities for home economists.

To take care of the increasing opportunities that we see for home economists in Brazil we need a larger number of graduates from our superior level course and better training for all our students.

Undoubtedly our teachers have made much improvement through experience but they need further training. Some of our attempts to encourage graduate training in the United States have not been entirely successful. Some of our teachers are married and cannot be away from their families for an extended period of time; some that we have sent to the States have married there and have not returned. Partly to meet the problem of teacher training we hope to make graduate work available to our teachers through a combination of graduate level courses offered in the school of Agriculture, summer sessions or brief periods

of study in the United States or other foreign universities and
through technical assistance available from Purdue University or
through visiting professors on sabbatical leave.

This last is also some help we would like from the Rockefeller Foundation. We think that among the many Land Grant Universities there are some professors of Home Economics who would be willing to spend their sabbatical leave in Brazil orienting work on research and theses and doing some research on their own if they had some foundation support to meet the cost of travel and living costs.

Please excuse this lengthy letter. We are trying to explain that the kind of help given by the foundation in the past has greatly assisted the school and the same kind of help can aid in its future growth and improvement. On the attached sheet we are making a request for further aid which we hope will receive your consideration.

Yours truly

- Maria das Dores de Carvalho Ferreira -
Diretora

