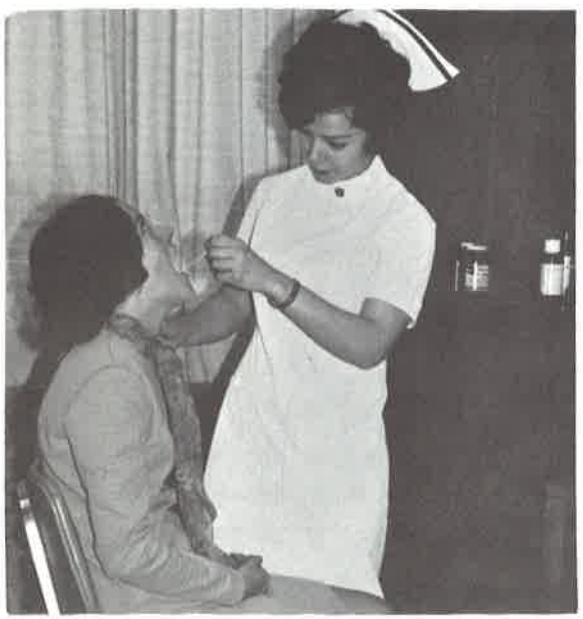
BULLETIN

An Investment in Christian Education Earns Eternal Dividends

MICHIGAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Volume 9, No. 5 MICHIGAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE April, 1970

William (Bill) Shinsky
MCC's Veteran Coach



A Bouquet of Roses to (Mrs.) Ruth Handley, the efficient Michigan Christian College Nurse

Michigan Christian College Launches Baseball Program

Michigan Christian during the 1969-70 school year is launching into intercollegiate competition in the field of baseball. This is in keeping with plans which were officially approved two years ago.

The MCC baseball team will compete in twelve games during the kick off season. Prospects look good for a successful season.

The team will be coached by William (Bill) Shinsky who also coaches intercollegiate basketball at MCC. Coach Shinsky is currently in his tenth year as coach and director of intercollegiate sports at MCC.

The completion of an excellent athletic field on the MCC campus has made it possible to enter the field of baseball. A special thanks goes to the MCC (Ladies') Associates for providing the funds necessary to construct the athletic field.

An Invitation to the 1970 High School Graduate

MCC extends congratulations to all those graduating from high school this June. You are reaching a definite milestone in your life.

For many good reasons we invite and encourage you to attend Michigan Christian College in September. We know you will find MCC to be a good academic college and a good place to especially enjoy your first two years of college life.

We are confident that we can help any student come to MCC. If, therefore, you need financial help, a scholarship, or if you especially need to counsel with someone about "going to college," we urge you to come to the campus and visit with us. If you can't come we would appreciate a telephone call or a letter from you. Address your requests to the Director of Admissions and he will respond immediately.

BIOLOGY PROGRAM GOES AUDIO-TUTORIAL

With the beginning of the winter quarter, a new instructional method was introduced in the teaching of General Biology at MCC, according to Dr. Joseph F. Jones, Dean of the College. For several years conversion from the conventional lecture-laboatory approach has been under consideration, with encouragement and guidance being provided by Dr. Sam Postlethwait, Professor of Botany, at Purdue University. (Dr. Postlethwait is a nationally known authority in the biological sciences, something of the father of the audio-tutorial method, and an elder at the church in Lafayette, Indiana.)

And what is the audio-tutorial method? Responding to this question in a personal interview with the Dean, Miss Sue Reich, Biology Instructor said, "It is an independent study of integrated work between laboratory and discussion teaching methods. By independent study more stress is laid on student initiative and personal instructor-student relationships."

In contrast with the more conventional lecture-laboratory approach, the AT (audio-tutorial) method employs essentially the following procedures, as mapped out by Miss Reich. First, there is the General Assembly Session (GAS) in which all students taking biology enroll and attend once a week through the first quarter. Later attendance at this session becomes optional based upon the student's own evaluation of his personal progress.

The second part of the course procedure is known as the Integrated Quiz Session (IQS). Here a small group of students (approximating eight to ten) meet with the professor for discussion and oral testing over the current unit of study. The third part of the approach is called Independent Study Session (ISS), where Miss Reich states that "each student familiarizes himself with the unit study through tapes, audio-visual, and personalized instruction."

The present Biology Laboratory was readily converted to the audio-tutorial arrangement as concerns physical facilities. Twelve carrells, each approximating 20 x 40 inches, were installed in the regular lab. Each carrell is equipped with a tape recorder and study materials for the current unit. There is also a demonstration table and a review area to encourage student preparation for the IQS.

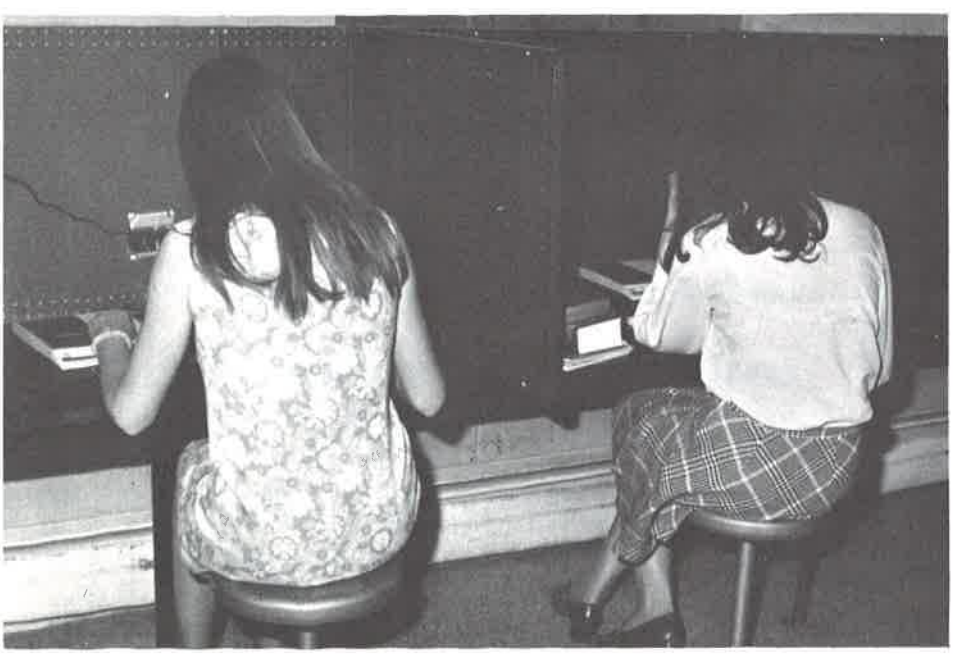
When asked what advantages the audio-tutorial method might have over the more conventional approach in teaching biology, Miss Reich readily enumerated several: (1) it eliminates any time lapse between the old lecture method and the lab experience; (2) a greater degree of retention through interrelated learning experiences; (3) it allows each student to progress at his own rate of learning; (4) greater flexibility in the scheduling of other subjects; (5) it encourages a more personal relationship between instructor and student; (6) it eliminates time consuming procedures of taking a roll call, and also avoids having to answer lengthy, detailed questions in a lecture session which might be of interest to only one or two students; (7) in involves students in the teaching process with students, and such peer teaching has demonstrated its validity; (8) the program can grow with increased student enrollment with a minimum of additional facilities or costs.

When asked about disadvantages, the instructor only suggested the possibility that some students might simply lack the personal motivation or initiative essential to satisfactory progress. Self-discipline is certainly a requirement, but the nature of the program enables an instructor to spend time with such students to stimulate more personal initiative.

It is obviously too early for any definitive evaluation of the program's effectiveness, although Miss Reich will be making a rather thorough study of the first two quarters in which it has been used. Initial responses from students have generally been very favorable.

Michigan Christian College
800 W. Avon Road
Rochester, Michigan 48063

Second Class Postage
Paid at Rochester, Michigan
Published bi-monthly by
Michigan Christian College
from August through June



Students in new carrells listen to tapes containing lectures and instructions for independent study.

Instructor Miss Sue Reich and freshman Ron Brown discuss biological speciman.