

1912

#### Baylor Offers the First Journalism Class in Texas

The first journalistic class known as English G. was offered in Baylor University and was the first such class given in Texas. The course included special exercises to drill for newspaper work. Students were treated as "cub reporters" and set out to cover various assignments. Mr. Frank G. Burkhalter, a reporter on a Waco newspaper, and a graduate of Columbia's School of Journalism, cooperated with Miss Scarborough in directing the course.

As a text-book, the class used Hyde's Newspaper Reporting and Correspondence. In addition to the work in the text, daily assignments were given the members of the class. The plan for the class read: "The class as a whole will meet at least once a week, go on a hike for news, to visit some manufacturing establishment, some unusual architectural work under progress or the like and give individual write-ups of their inspection."

The class developed splendidly. Commentary on the class was fairly widespread over Texas. From the San Benito Light, a paper in the extreme south of Texas, we find an article which speaks very highly of it. "A news item in the Waco Morning News advises that there has been established at Baylor University a class in newspaper English, which, it is hoped, may prove the nucleus for the formation of a regular course in journalism after the university is better equipped and the demand for such a course will justify the expansion. Baylor is to be commended for taking the lead in Texas toward the establishment of a regularly organized class of journalism which from its inception should, and doubtless will,



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#### Dr. Armstrong Returns to Baylor

Dr. A. J. Armstrong returned to Baylor in the Fall of 1912 as Head of the Department of English.

A number of changes were made in the English curriculum. Because it was discovered that many students entering the Freshman course in English soon dropped out, being unprepared for the work, a "catch-up" class was devised whereby all students deficient in spelling, grammar, and composition were given an opportunity to overcome such weaknesses. No credit was allowed for the work.

English G was designed with a special section for journalistic work. This will be discussed at further length later.

Then, in the spring term, a new course in argument and debate was offered by the English Department and was taught by Professor Courtney.



become a popular department of the Waco institution. None but the "reactionaries" of the profession now ridicule the idea of special training for the journalistic or newspaper writer."

Part of the work for the class was the publishing of a small newspaper. The first issue of the Times created some interest in college circles and received favorable comments in some of the leading dailies. It was published March 15, 1913.