Freshmen introduced to Rice fields of study; Sophomores to decide soon

By DARRELL HANCOCK

"A student makes one of his most important decisions when he chooses a major," noted Dr. W. E. Gordon, Dean of Engineering and Science, "but many students make this choice without enough information. Our purpose is to help provide this sort of information."

Gordon was enthusiastically discussing the University-sponsored Majors Day to be held Wednesday, March 1. Faculty members, graduate students, and upperclassmen in each department will be available from 9 am until 4 pm to counsel freshmen and sophomores on major and career choices. All first and second year courses will be dismissed for the day.

Each department will have a somewhat different approach to the counseling project, it was pointed out. In general, however, academics will be invited into the departments on an informal discussion basis, while science and engineering students can expect hourly tours of department facilities as well as the individual consultation.

Satisfaction Not Guaranteed

Dean Gordon will discuss the problems of choosing a career and selecting a major at Rice in a short 9 am program at Hamman Hall. The discussion is primarily for science-engineering students, he said, but it will be of a general nature, and other students are invited.

He also suggested that upperclassmen who are uncertain about their major and career choices can take advantage of the counseling.

Wiess College, which has previously sponsored a career counseling program on campus, cancelled it this year because of declining participation.

Dr. Roy Talmage, vice president of the University, and Dr. M. V. McEnany, Dean of Undergraduate Affairs, emphasized the problem of revitalizing the guidance program and agreed that the University should handle it. Dean Gordon originally suggested having a Majors Day.

"The planning has taken about a month," said McEnany. "If it isn't successful, we'll try something else next year."

Major Decisions

Sophomores will be required to make a tentative choice of major by the end of the fall semester, Gordon pointed out, and freshman will face the same problem next year. Many of these people either haven't yet decided on a major or have decided, but for trivial or insubstantial reasons.

Gordon pointed out that the activities of Majors Day will not be immediately fruitful in all cases. The student who was uncertain at the start of the day, for instance, may be as uncertain when he goes home that evening.

"We will know faculty members and students in the field he's considering," Gordon said, "and hopefully he'll be in a better position to make the right choice."

MAJORS DAY
Science-Engineering Schedule
Hamman Hall. Dean Gordon will discuss the problems of choosing a career and selecting a major at Rice. What information does a student need before making a decision? Where can the information be found? 9 am to 1:30, 2:30 to 4:30 pm: Tours and special activities in the field, beginning at the Department Offices (listed below): Biology—Room 100, M D Anderson, Biological Laboratories Chemical Engineering—246 Abercrombie Laboratories Chemistry—129 Chemistry Laboratory Civil Engineering—241 Rice Engineering Laboratory Electrical Engineering— 202 Abercrombie Laboratories Geology—106B Keith-Wiss Geological Laboratories Mathematics—116 Anderson Hall Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Materials Science—230 Rice Engineering Laboratory Physics— 117 Physics Laboratories Space Science— 209D Space Science Building Laboratory of Bio-medical Engineering—Mechanical Laboratory Laboratory of Environmental Engineering—301C Building Laboratory 9 am to 4 pm: Faculty, graduate students, and upperclassmen available for individual consultations in each department. Contact the department office.