

Duluth--- Dr. A. Neil Pearson, head of the UMD Department of Sociology, will lead a team of seven experts who will spend a year strengthening agricultural education in the Philippines.

The team, appointed by the Paris, France headquarters of UNESCO, will be assigned to the Mindanao Institute of Technology, an 11 year old campus with about 1,400 students.

Dr. and Mrs. Pearson will leave Duluth around January 1 for two weeks of briefing in Paris before flying to the Philippines. Dr. Pearson has been granted a one year leave from UMD.

Pearson will go to the Philippines as an expert in rural sociology and extension. Other team members will come from such fields as agricultural engineering, farm management, irrigation, food technology, biological sciences, and agricultural teacher training.

The team assignment will be to train their respective Philippine counterparts. The team members also will help plan methods of teaching, the layout of laboratories and field installations, and the purchase of equipment. They will participate in the teaching program and will conduct demonstration classes for out-of-school youths and adults.

The Mindanao Institute of Technology is one of the state chartered colleges in the Philippines created in 1952 which offer courses leading to the B.S. degree in agriculture and industry, as well as courses at the secondary level and teacher training.

Dr. Pearson received his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees at the University of Minnesota. Prior to World War II, he taught at Carlton and Lakefield, Minn. high schools. Following active duty with the U.S. Navy, he served as an agricultural training specialist with the U.S. Veterans Administration in Minneapolis, was assistant state supervisor of agricultural education for the Minnesota State Department of Education, and taught one year at South Dakota State College. He came to UMD in 1953 and was named head of the Department of Sociology in 1955.

Dr. and Mrs. Pearson's daughter, Judy, a graduate nurse, will spend the next year in California.