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DULUTH --- A revolutionary case study lecture room and a language laboratory second to none are the University of Minnesota, Duluth's latest contributions to higher education.

These modern, attractive classrooms in the recently completed Humanities building addition are the result of thorough research, planned to provide the student with the best possible learning environment.

The addition--a \$525,000 fourth floor project--also contains eight bright, airy classrooms designed for small classes of 30 and 40 students and a seminar room.

A suite of 15 offices houses the Department of English and 13 other offices are occupied by faculty from the language and philosophy departments.

"We have excellent facilities in this new addition," according to Dr. Dale R. Miller, chairman of the Division of Humanities. "Concentrating the English, language and philosophy departments in their own areas will allow better communications and assure a more efficient operation overall."

The case study room was developed at Harvard University in that institution's law school. It was initially designed for law courses in which case study methods are used.

"The case study lecture room is one of the answers to the big class in these days of increasing enrollment," explained Dr. William A. Rosenthal, head of English. "The aim is to increase the size of the class without sacrificing the advantages of a small class for discussion."

"No one benefits more than the students," said Dr. Rosenthal. "It puts them in close proximity to the instructor and each other and allows for class participation not possible in the large conventional classroom."

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Rosenthal pointed out that the instructor is not more than 15 to 25 feet away from any student. In any other classroom the distance would be twice as great, he said.

The lecture room can accommodate a class of 67 on comfortably-contoured, stationary chairs that swivel on 180 degrees. There are four table levels of straight-line horseshoe design before a combination bulletin-blackboard.

It is a windowless room to eliminate outside distractions and to facilitate the use of audio-visual aids. It is mechanically ventilated, well-lighted and very carefully designed for "sight lines."

"The sight lines are all-important," said Dr. Rosenthal. "They control the shape of the room in relation to the projection screen and blackboard."

Dr. Rosenthal is amazed at the room's acoustics. "Perforated acoustical paneling allows everyone to be heard when speaking at a normal, conversational level. There is no need for an instructor to ask a student to speak up."

The language laboratory utilizes extreme flexibility in providing students with "the most modern equipment possible in the language field today," said Jacques Comeaux, assistant professor of language, and responsible for laboratory activities.

"The long range objective of the department is to key the entire language program to the laboratory," he revealed. "We can handle 50 students at one time and could broadcast 10 different languages at one time for students to select from."

Eight of the 10 channels available are in use. All of them are operated from an elevated master console in the front of the laboratory. Six are assigned to lesson tapes, another to a recording turntable and another to a movie projector.

Also, there is a PA system with stereo speakers in the laboratory and an adjacent classroom. The projection booth has audio-visual capabilities with slide and movie projectors.

A workroom behind the projection booth contains cabinets for tape storage and areas for the eventual installation of a tape-duplicating machine and a short-wave radio to pick up and record programs in foreign languages.

Each student sits in a side-walled booth with a console for selecting channels, a tape machine for listening and/or recording lessons, a microphone and earphones.

"At present our tapes cover only the beginning courses in Spanish, French and German," said Comeaux. "We plan to put all of our language courses on tape and when a student buys a text he will also be required to buy a tape.

"The tape will have a double track with the upper one non-erasable for the recording of a particular lesson. The student uses the lower one to practice the lesson. He then can listen to his voice, hear his errors and improve."

Students presently are required to spend two half-hour sessions in the laboratory to review lessons outside of regular class periods.

"As you can see the laboratory's main feature is it's flexibility. It can be used as a library for study or a classroom. And a classroom that can handle more than one class at a time, if need be," continued Comeaux.

"An instructor can listen or talk with an individual student or students without disturbing the rest of the laboratory. And he can connect two or more students for conversation or talk to the entire class himself."

After several years the English department has classrooms concentrated near its offices. Until now the department was occupying space originally intended for the music department, library and education division.

The individual offices are set around an outer reception room with a small alcove reference library and overlook what will become the Tweed Gallery sculpture court.