

Leonard M. Peairs



Leonard M. Peairs, Professor of Entomology at West Virginia University, probably had closer contact with more students over a longer period in the College of Agriculture than any other professor. For 41 years, Dr. Peairs taught all the Entomology courses at the University and most students in agriculture were required to take at least one course. In addition, he served as advisor for most of the students in agriculture for more than thirty years.

In addition to his teaching and advisor duties, Dr. Peairs was also responsible for the Entomology research work and for the Extension information which went out to the people of the state. He was also active in campus organizations involving agriculture students.

During his long tenure at West Virginia University, Dr. Peairs was instrumental in publicizing and securing acceptance of methods for the control of many insect pests, including Japanese beetle, codling moth, apple scale, and the Mexican bean beetle.

Dr. Peairs was a member of the American Association of Economic Entomologists the Entomological Society of America, Sigma XI, Phi Kappa Phi, and Alpha Zeta. He was honored for “long meritorious service as Editor of the Journal of Economic Entomology.” He was awarded a life membership in the American Association of Economic Entomologists, and given honorary membership in the Entomological Society of America.

He was active in campus activities. He served on the Athletic Council and was presented a watch by the 1922 football team for his service. He was awarded membership in Mountain (men’s honorary) in recognition of this service to students. He also served as advisor to Mountain and to Alpha Zeta, agriculture honorary.

Dr. Peairs was a person who enjoyed working with people. He did not seek public acclaim, but did his work quietly and without fanfare. He was a brilliant scholar with high standards of personal and professional conduct.