Professor Theodore L. Nydahl’s teaching career spans a tumultuous period in MSU’s history. He came to the Mankato Teacher’s College in 1928, after which came a time of change, separation, and move for the school. He was the Chairman of the Social Studies Division when the campus was located below the Warren Street hill. In 1957 Armstrong Hall opened and the University became Minnesota State College, shortly after that it converted its divisions into separate colleges. In 1964, Professor Nydahl became the very first Dean of MSU’s College of Arts and Science.

Nydahl taught for 43 years at MSU. One of his special areas of interest was Minnesota History. He retired in 1971 at the age of 68. After his departure from the college the Nydahl Scholarship was established for sophomore and junior History or Social Studies (History) majors who show academic excellence in their field.