

Scot dana professor speaks; Looks forward to work

By SUSAN SHUFORD

"I suffer," says James McNab forthrightly, "from cultural schizophrenia."

And he has his reasons.

Born on the coast of Scotland and educated in Edinburgh, he has lived three years in France and 10 in Virginia, getting his Ph.D. at Duke University meanwhile. Now, as Dana Professor of French at Guilford College, he is a Tar Heel.

To the above, add a strong ancestral influence — a long line of seamen.

"Two of my brothers earn their livelihood from the sea, a course I nearly chose for myself," he said. "I feel that my ancestry contributes to my own love of travel and my insatiable curiosity concerning other peoples, their cultures and unique accomplishments."

When the young Scotsman had both his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Edinburgh, the lure of living and teaching in France won out over the call of the sea.

While teaching at the University of Nice, James met Elizabeth, who became his wife. Since he is a British subject and she is French, their two children are claimed by both nations.

The mention of his family obviously stirs him. "That's where my values lie," he declared with feeling. "We are a close-knit quartet especially addicted to nature, the outdoors and, of course, travel."

Each summer the bilingual foursome travels to Europe, seeing various countries and visiting their relatives, most of whom are still living on the Continent. All four of them are having a hard time developing any sort of nationalism.

America got its chance to become part of the potpourri of nationalities because of a spur of the moment decision.

"It was purely by chance," James explained, a delightful trace of Scottish accent dominating his English. "I was at a French sky-diving center when a friend mentioned an opening in the foreign language department at Virginia Tech."

He talked over the possibility with friends, who encouraged him to apply, and he decided to come.

After 10 years at VPI, it was Guilford's unique atmosphere, its warmth and friendliness which brought McNab to Greensboro, one more addition to his personal "paradise."

James stresses that he is "skeptical of finding paradise in any one place." For him, "Paradise is a composite of many places — Scotland, France, Virginia, Greensboro."

The latest addition to that composite has him overwhelmed.

"I can't overstress the warmth in every facet of life here," he declared. "It's incredible, yet unobtrusive. Students, colleagues, neighbors. Everyone is so friendly and willing to help."

At Guilford College, the dynamic teacher with an intense personality has found a receptive outlet for his creative energies.

"Right now I'm in a period of adjustment," he explained. "It's not that I don't have enough to do, but too much. I'm discovering! Discovering! Discovering all the time, and I'm having a ball!"

James could have gone to some sleepy college where he could in effect be retired at 30, but he's eager to "scoop up lots of life" and feels that right now Guilford is the place to do it.

There is no doubt but that Guilford is glad McNab feels that way. He signed on at the Quaker institution as a "Dana Professor," a designation bestowed — along with financial consideration — upon outstanding teachers whom the college wishes to attract or to keep.

There also is no doubt that he is well qualified. He is fluent in French, English and German and is well versed in Latin. His doctorate from Duke is in French literature,

and his 10 years at VPI were as foreign language chairman.

A key to bringing the McNab-Guilford courtship to a happy conclusion was "Guilford's desire to achieve excellence in its highest degree."

"I would like to see our foreign language department become the best in the Southeast, in terms of course range, instructional quality, curriculum and facilities," he said with fervor.

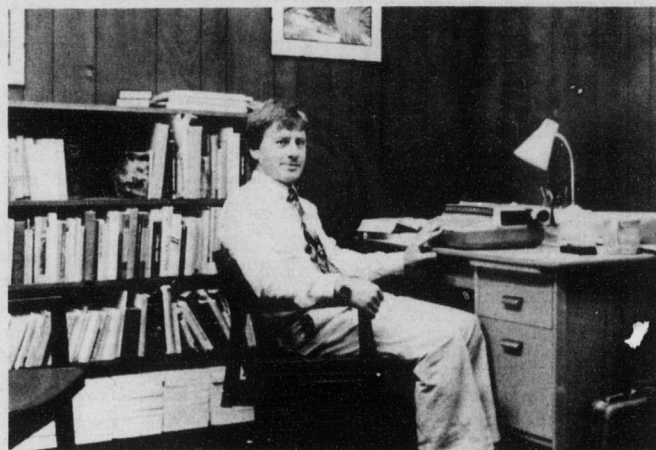
Not that McNab is by any means putting down the school or his fellows. "I like and above all respect my colleagues," he quickly added. "I couldn't imagine a more conscientious group."

Still, in accord with Guilford's constant striving to achieve excellence, he does feel that there is room for improvement.

And he wants to help achieve that excellence in a field whose international possibilities excite him.

That, of course, is languages, one avenue for developing an awareness of other peoples.

"Languages let you come out of yourself and become more aware of others," he commented. "There is a certain hyperacusia common to those who know languages, and I



Dana professor James McNab, chairman of the language department, works in office.

believe it is to some extent very French. I'm convinced of it."

In a time when the United States is becoming more and more dependent on other countries, McNab finds American provincialism — its relative unawareness of other countries — dismal.

"Languages have not been made into any sort of priority in schools, and consequently students remain unaware," he said.

Such an attitude is particularly prevalent in America, he feels, partly because of its geographic location. Another contributing factor, he believes, is American modernism — its lack of awareness of the past in the present.

To McNab, intense communication by persons with the world

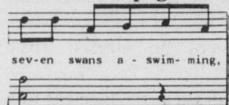
around them is one of life's most important aspects.

"Seeing the viewpoints of others is one way of enriching our own lives," he said. "A lot of people

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Romantic notions are expensive

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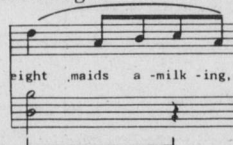
Plastic swans are relatively expensive (as far as plastic birds go); 50¢ apiece. For special effects, put the swans in the sink and give them a push. Don't worry about anything happening to them, this set-up won't fool the average cat about the house.

For those who don't mind breaking a few laws, try swan-knapping at the local zoo. To keep the SPCA from getting angry, buy \$20.00 worth of food and put the swans in metal pools in the back yard. Of course living near the Rubber Rose Ranch would be even cheaper. They could just stay there.

The geese will not be without a lake for more than a day, as one is needed for the seven swans a-swimming. Cost of a man-made, one acre lake is roughly \$10,000.00.

Swans are not easy to get in Greensboro, but they can be bought through the zoo at \$350.00 a pair.

Food, the least of the worries, will be around \$5.00 per month. A small shelter for seven swans will run in the neighborhood of \$100.00.



The barn set bought for these geese can be used for cows and barns. Nine tenths of the cost of the set comes to \$5.40. With this set comes two maids a-milking, so six more have to be bought. Rubber milk maids cost 10¢ each for a grand total of \$6.00.

If there is more money in the family, try hiring eight women from Guilford College to fetch milk from the steel cows in the cafeteria. Wages are a low \$3.00 an hour - total cost is \$192.00.

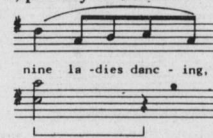
On the eight day, the instructions are ambiguous. There are many things that maid can milk, cats, dogs, elephants, even snakes.

They could also be new mothers, but since cows have been used traditionally, they will be used again

here. This is why the 120 acre farm was bought two days ago. These cows take up a lot of space.

Each beast will cost \$1,000.00 (Holsteins of course). A barn for eight will run about \$10,000.00.

Maids a-milking will cost \$35.00 each day, plus all the milk they can take home (7 gallons per day per cow for 7 years equals 67,694,73 liters). The food will be \$5.85 per cow, per day or \$46.00.



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