



# The Salemite

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This article is the second in the administration series where *The Salemite* asked the administrators what projects and issues are important to them and what they'd like to see in the future.

Dean Virginia Johnson has had a major impact on many of the policies we now take for granted. When Johnson came to Salem, freshman women were only given a one-half vote in SGA elections. That means it took two freshmen votes to equal one upperclassman vote. It took four or five years before Dean Johnson could convince SGA that freshmen should be given a full vote. She says the women's movement helped change opinion so the vote finally passed. She also saw that loosely structured Honor Code policies were changed into concrete student rights; that every opportunity for fairness is taken.

On policy making Johnson says that we must juggle differing expectations of students, faculty, alumnae, and parents when attempting change. She believes that Salem has managed to change without alienating her constituents. Sometimes change has been too slow, "but we've managed to bring along the people that support the institution."

In the future, Dean Johnson plans to address the AIDS issue which is a major

touch with student concerns.

Within the next few weeks, a guide to academic majors will be made available to students.

Dean Farris plans to begin recruiting for peer advisors for next year in the next few weeks. She has said that she'd like to see peer advisors have a more active role with their advisees throughout the academic year rather than the heavy emphasis at Orientation and registration.

Dean Cobb has been learning more about her new job this spring. She has always been concerned about education at Women's Colleges. She states "that everyday she knows she did the right thing in accepting her role at Salem."

The Dean of College is optimistic that Salem will be one of those Women Colleges that will make it into the next century. Her thoughts are that Women Colleges will make it not only on the basis of strong academic traditions, but are going to have to be known for special areas of emphasis. "We must think of ways for helping women become full persons-traditional-age women, older women, faculty women, and women in the community. Salem is a kind of medium for great

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threat to the College community through programming in the dorms. Also she's very interested in increasing leadership opportunities developing a four-year developmental program.

Two of her proudest achievements have been the installation of a chapter of Mortar Board and ODK. ODK was established at Salem in November, 1986, and Mortar Board in May, 1984. She explained that a club had to be in existence for three years for ODK and five years for Moartar Board before Salem could be considered for acceptance. Also, the Arete chapter required a thirty-page application for acceptance. It was a long and involved process, but Dean Johnson believes these societies are extremely vital so that outstanding Salem women receive the recognition they deserve.

"Dean of Fun," Debbie Cates is responsible for: the residence hall's staff, coordinating leadership training, student leaders, serving as a resource person for programming, and scheduling the College calendar. She says there has been an interesting progression in student life over the last few years. She has had a major influence on the development of Campus Activities Council and Big 3+3. Cates says programming is always changing to accommodate changing student interests and expectations.

She sees her job as having a decreasing role in programming as students have an increasing role in planning and executing social events as well as leadership workshops. She's glad to see the trend toward students teaching students. The Leadership Weekend scheduled for March 3-5 is an exciting first where student leaders will hold workshops for fellow students.

Debbie says the real pay-off is seeing students involved. Her goals are to have increased student involvement and to have programming that is of interest and importance to the Salem community which is constantly changing.

Dean Cindy Farris along with Sarah Albritton held informal chats in the dorms with sophomores to discuss concerns they had about academics and declaring a major. It was so well-received that they have decided to have these informal chats

women," she remarks.

At present, Dean Cobb is pursuing specific goals. She supports faculty in "making good things happen in the classroom." Also, she is involved in the current reaccreditation process at Salem which will result in a very large document that analyzes everything from the organizational structure of the College to the paint on the walls. In addition, a five year blueprint is being drawn up to lead Salem into the 1990's. Dean Cobb states that "this huge document will be worth the hardship from the indepth look at Salem College." The Dean is also looking at ways to strengthen the honors program. She considers this program as very important to the College: "Students must be challenged to take these special courses and then graduate after having had four years with this special experience."

The Dean of the College has many projects underway but as she stated, "the wheels of academia move slowly."

Dr. Litzenburg became President of Salem College and Academy in 1982. Although seven years have passed, he states that his original goals remain the same, "to cause Salem College to be passionately committed to its mission of being serious about serious learning in the arts and sciences, and to be equally serious as a community with respect to its commitment to the education of women." All the initiatives he has undertaken over the past seven years have tended to support these central objectives. He has helped deal with various areas on campus from enhancing Salem's commitment to intercollegiate sports to increasing scholarship monies for students.

During his term at Salem College, the institution has upgraded its commitment to the admission of adult women to the student body. He expressed the opinion that Salem in 1989 is a much stronger place as a result of the reaching out to adult women and this group's positive reaction.

Another area of concern was the upgrading of the College plant-its physical surroundings. In 1982, the institution had for a long time paid less attention to the plant. The decline of public spaces were met by the unhappiness of friends of the college with this condition. Dr. Litzenburg

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