

## 75 Years of Excellence

## By: Shannon Ann Hodgins Staff Writer

One special aspect of school this year at Montreat-Anderson College is the celebration of its 75th year of higher Christian education. Each student, professor, and faculty member should be aware of the fact that they are part of a college whose history encompasses three-quarters of a century. Located in the Blue Ridge Mountains, Montreat-Anderson is a symbol of Christian commitment, and personal growth through education and knowledge.

Although Montreat-Anderson College had a small beginning, it has grown quickly throughout the years. In 1916 Montreat Normal School opened with only 8 students enrolled. The former President of the College, Dr. R. C. Anderson and his wife, Sadie Gaither Anderson were the main supporters of the College in its early years. Through their support, as well as that of many other dedicated persons, the College grew into a junior college and was renamed Montreat College. The need for Christian education increased and in 1945 Montreat College became a four year baccalaureate-degree granting institution.

The following years were a struggle for the college, and in 1959 the Board of Trustees decided that the college should revert to a two-year coeducational institution and be named Montreat-Anderson College. Due to their efforts, as well as those of the faculty and staff, the college achieved full accreditation by state and regional accrediting agencies.

Enrollment gradually increased throughout the years. During 1986, after much prayer and advancement, Montreat-Anderson College again became a four year baccalaureate-degree granting institution. Since that year, the number of seniors and graduates has been steadily increasing.

Today, Montreat-Anderson College is a fully-accredited liberal arts college with a total enrollment of 414 students, 23 full-time and 10 parttime professors. Montreat-Anderson has also embarked on an ambitious program to raise \$10 million dollars inorder to expand its programs. The plan calls for the construction of a new dormitory and a new chapel, a new computer laboratory, and support for existing facilities. In addition to the changes wrought in the seventy-fifth year, the college is presently searching for a new president to replace the current president, Dr. Silas Vaughn, who is retiring.

Celebrations for the College in this special year include many events. The next

event planned will be a Church/College Missions conference, with the main speaker being Charles Davis of Alumni Missionaries. This event is scheduled for November 15-18, 1990. Events for next semester include the Opening Convocation. Spring Spiritual Emphasis Week, The George Darden Concert (Associate Conductor of Metropolitan Opera), the Class of 1991 Commencement, Montreat-Anderson College Day, and the Friends of the Library Celebration.

Support of the College through prayer is one of the most essential needs of the College. Since its beginning in 1916, Montreat-Anderson College has proved the need is definitely evident for a higher Christian education. Hopefully, this need will continue and expand, continuing to provide a purpose and motivation for the College to succeed.