



crossroads

CROSSROADS

Belmont Abbey College

VOLUME I - ISSUE 6

SEPTEMBER 1972

Office
of the
Abbot
Nullius



To The Administration, Faculty,
Students, Alumni, and Friends:

What kind of college is Belmont Abbey? Simply stated, we are Christian, Catholic, and Benedictine. To say that we are this kind of college is not to downgrade others or to say that this is the only kind of viable and worthwhile educational institution. We are merely spelling out our own identity -- an identity that is peculiar to us and one which is essential for our being.

It is important that everyone (administration, faculty, students, alumni, and friends) understand clearly and precisely our identity and the philosophy upon which this institution was founded and to which it now firmly adheres. We say this because it is this identity and philosophy which must dictate the milieu in which our educational pursuits are to be carried out.

From experience we firmly believe that such a milieu will enhance the lives of our students and will give them the opportunity to find direction, purpose, and meaning to life. We believe they will have happier lives because of this educational environment.

Our institution is professedly Christian, and we proudly proclaim this. Within this broad spectrum of Christianity we are distinctively Catholic, and we adhere firmly to the Teaching Magisterium of the Church. Christianity and Catholicism help to determine and form the educational milieu of our College. We cannot permit the concept of academic freedom to be so widely and permissively used and abused that the Christian and Catholic environment can be undermined. We will not allow this, as it would violate our sacred trust and heritage.

Our College has been and is open to all persons, irrespective of race, creed, color or religion. We were ecumenical before it was popular. We have traditionally had great academic freedom, but this freedom has been harmonious and compatible with our philosophy.

Today we strongly reaffirm our Christianity and Catholicism, both as to principle and as to action, in determining

See ABBOT, Page 2



Denise Kiser, the Abbey's first official coed, registers for classes with her faculty advisor, Mr. Tobin.

Abbey's First Co-ed

Suzanne Denise Kiser officially became the first co-ed at Belmont Abbey College when she registered for classes August 21. Her route here was somewhat circuitous: She first learned about the Abbey from an alumnus while she was living in Hawaii with her parents.

Born into a U.S. Marine family in Florida, she has traveled and lived in many places. Because her grandparents resided in Gastonia, she attended school there in the sixth and tenth grades. At that time, however, she was unaware of Belmont Abbey College.

When Denise first applied to the Abbey at the end of her junior year at Radford High School in Hawaii, she had no idea she was going to be our first co-ed. The Abbey had not then finally decided to become co-educational. Nevertheless, the college retained her application.

She next thought about attending Sacred Heart but was delighted to learn the Abbey had accepted her as a student and was very honored and pleased to find that she was its first co-ed.

Denise commented that she

had also applied to larger colleges and been accepted, but was most favorably impressed by the Abbey, and believed the advantages of attending a school where there is a good faculty-student relationship far outweighed the attractions of a large institution where one risks becoming a mere number.

She believes that co-education is much more practical and relevant to today's fast-moving culture. She doubts that there will be much of a problem when girls begin living on campus next academic year. She thinks most men and women want some privacy and that they will be able to adjust to co-ed residency.

Preferring the traditional roles of womanhood, Denise thinks the Woman's Liberation Front could be detrimental and restrictive to women rather than liberating. She is, however, in favor of a few basic changes in women's role in society, such as equal pay for comparative jobs.

Very pretty and quietly feminine, Suzanne Denise Kiser is an attractive addition to the student body of formerly all-male Belmont Abbey College.

Fr. Kenneth Geyer Attends Sig Ep Workshop, Leads Discussion

The southeastern region of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity held its annual leadership conference academy at Clemson University and Father Kenneth Geyer was asked to serve on the faculty for the academy. Representatives from thirty chapters in the southeast at-

tended. Having served as chapter counsellor for N.C. Lambda chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon at Belmont Abbey College since its colony days, Father Kenneth was selected to conduct the presentation and lead a discussion of membership education.

New Faculty Members

Seven new faculty members have been appointed to positions in the College, and are taking up their duties here this fall.

Dr. Arthur E. Shelton has become associate professor and Chairman of the Department of Sociology. Dr. Shelton has been teaching in the joint department of sociology at Catawba and Livingstone Colleges in Salisbury, North Carolina. He holds a B.A. from Emory and Henry College, a Bachelor of Divinity from Emory University, and a Ph. D. in sociology of religion from Boston University. He has also done post-doctoral studies in sociology. Professor Shelton is currently engaged in completing a book on criminal law and mental competence.

Joining Belmont Abbey College as assistant professor of political science and acting chairman of the political science department is Robert E. Jones. Professor Jones received his B.S. from St. Louis University and his M.A. from the University of Notre Dame, and expects his Ph.D. this fall from Notre Dame. Prior to coming to the Abbey, he taught at St. Anselm's College in New Hampshire. He is married and has one child.

Donald Cresswell has been appointed director of the library and assistant professor in the history department. Mr. Cresswell holds a B.A. from Belmont Abbey, an M.A. from the University of Cincinnati, and a Master of Philosophy from George Washington University. He expects to receive his Ph.D. this fall from George Washington University. He is presently completing a reference book for the Library of Congress, which will publish it as part of the Library's American Revolution bicentennial program. The book will be printed in 1973 and distributed by the U.S. Government Printing Office.

Appointed as instructor in economics and business is Michael F. Kenny. Kenny, who is returning to academic life from industry, has a B.A. from Holy Cross and an M.A. from Pennsylvania State University.

James M. Tobin comes to Belmont Abbey from Temple University. He possesses a B.A. from St. Vincent's College and an M.A. from Temple University, and expects a Ph.D. from

See FACULTY, Page 5