



crossroads

NORTH CAROLINA COLLECTION  
THE LIBRARY  
UNIV. OF NORTH CAROLINA  
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27514

# CROSSROADS

## Belmont Abbey College

VOLUME II, ISSUE 3

MARCH 1973

### Dr. Celecia Receives UNESCO Appointment



DR. JUAN CELECIA

A widely travelled rumor has it that an atomic bomb stands about five feet, four inches in height and weighs approximately one hundred and eighty pounds. Belmont Abbey College has just sent one of those

to Paris to start a nuclear reaction at the United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Neither Paris nor the college community will be quite the same until he returns.

Dr. Juan Felix Celecia, professor of biology and department chairman, has left Belmont to become a Programme Specialist with UNESCO. In his new job he will have charge of planning and directing the organizations' activities in ecology and conservation of nature. He will also be a major force in the implementation of the Intergovernmental Program on "Man and the Biosphere."

It is richly deserved accolade for Juan Celecia to be selected for this post from more than a hundred prestigious candidates. His facility in a half-dozen languages and solid scientific background singularly qualify

him for this demanding task, in which he will have to collaborate with a group of international experts in the field.

Juan - who likes to be called John since he became a U.S. citizen last December--is an Argentinian by birth. He exhibits all of the vigor of a hybrid: his father was of Catalonian descent, his mother of English and Dutch extraction. This mixture has produced a remarkable phenomenon which Abbey science students fondly refer to as "Pop" Celecia. In Buenos Aires he attended an English prep school which reinforced his bi-lingual home atmosphere. He passed thence to the tutelage of the LaSalle Brothers, who imparted a distinctly French Lycee formation.

John entered the University of Buenos Aires to study in the School of Agronomy. These were the tense times of the Peron regime, and the capital city and its University were beset with many political pressures and strikes. He eschewed political activism and the heady excitement of street demon-

strations, preferring to immerse himself in his academic courses and lab experiments. As a kind of relief from the rigors of scientific methodology, he became a member of several choral societies. In fact for a while he contemplated a career of singing in grand opera. It was during these frenetic days that he met Lilia Monti, also a student of agronomy; she became Mrs. Celecia in 1958.

In 1955 he was accepted as an exchange student under the International Farm-Youth Program sponsored by the Ford Foundation. He came to this country and lived and studied on farms in Kansas and North Carolina. The following year he returned to Argentina and took a job with the Ministry of Agriculture. He later moved to the Atomic Energy Commission, and then served as an interpreter for the F.A.O. (Food and Agriculture Organization) of the U.N. During these years he still found time to attend sketching classes at art school, to sing with choral groups, and to learn to play the guitar for Lilia.

(See CELECIA, Page 2)

### Foreign Students Honored



The foreign students join Rev. John Bradley, President of BAC, in the Oak Room following the luncheon.

Recently, a luncheon was held at Belmont Abbey College to honor its foreign exchange students. The gathering was hosted by the President of the College, The Rev. John P. Bradley, who is himself a native of Scotland.

Belmont Abbey boasts across-the-sea representation of fifteen countries, with Nigeria having the largest contingent on campus. (Several of the Nigerians having been recruited for the Abbey's Soccer Program).

Walter Theanyi Achumba is the Nigerians playing for the Crusaders and is one of the most gifted of the Abbey players in general. When asked what his first impressions were upon

entering the United States, Achumba replied, "I came in through New York, and never have I seen so many people, going in so many different directions, and seemingly accomplishing so few things."

Anthony Yeung is another of the exchange students who has distinguished himself as a leader on campus. Tony's home is in Kowloon, Hong Kong, and he is a senior chemistry major. Because of his academic achievements, Tony has recently been elected President of the Gamma Iota chapter of Delta Epsilon Sigma Honor Fraternity. He hopes to attend medical school next fall.

Not all of the foreign students at Belmont Abbey are

newcomers to this country. Tadashi Toyoda attended Shelby High School before coming to the Abbey. He is from Japan and has made plans to remain in the United States after completing his studies in economics and business.

Belmont Abbey has always encouraged foreign students and welcomed them to its campus. Their presence gives others the opportunity to broaden their horizons by contact with the many different cultures represented. A cosmopolitan gathering of students from 15 different nations now attend Belmont Abbey College.

Seated l-r are:

Tadashi Toyoda, Japan; Abbas Katirai, Iran; Michael

Chang, China; The Rev. John P. Bradley, President of Belmont Abbey College, Andrew Tucker, Sierra Leone; Laurence Agumadu, Nigeria.

Standing l-r are:

Lee Rhee, Korea; Theanyi Achumba, Nigeria; Abulkasim Soussi, Libya; Richard Schamback, Colombia; Haydar Hadid, Lebanon; Samson Mintyene, Cameroon; Dominic Vadakkekara, India; Zahid Nawaz, India; Neing Ehn Kekulah, Liberia; Godfrey Ettien McKenzie, Bahamas; Anthony Yeung; Hong Kong; Surendra Dhanjirh Patel, India.

Over 200

### Students Visit Abbey

After many months of preparation, over 200 high school students visited the College, during homecoming weekend, Feb. 2 and 4, 1973. Most came by chartered buses from the New Jersey area. However, there were also groups from Raleigh, North Carolina, and Pensacola, Florida.

The purpose of their visit was to see Belmont Abbey firsthand and meet students, faculty, and alumni who were also here for homecoming. It was a unique opportunity for a perspective student to be able to meet with so many of the constituencies of a college prior to making a selection.

Highlights of the weekend

(See STUDENTS, Page 6)