

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

I am writing this message while the memories of Graduation 1979 are vivid; in fact, I can still hear the chords of Father Kenneth's magnificent organ recessional echoing in the filled Abbey Church. The campus was at its Springtime best and we welcomed parents, relatives, and friends to share in this festive day.

Belmont Abbey College was proud of the accomplishments of the one hundred thirteen students who received bachelor degrees at its one hundred and first Baccalaureate and Commencement exercises. Graduation means a successful conclusion to four years of collegiate study. As I participated in these events, I imagined all the work and efforts which were expended not only by the graduates, but also by the faculty, administrators, employees. I thought of all the labor on the part of parents and students which helped to realize the finances for a private education. Our many benefactors and loyal supporters shared in the pride of the day as they realized that they had invested in these graduates and had wisely shared the good things that God entrusted to their stewardship.

Each time I attend a graduation, it is an occasion to relive the several Commencements in which I have received degrees. It's a time for me to look back and recapture the enthusiasm and idealism of earlier years—1950, 1954, 1958, 1965, and 1967. And I experience a personal renewal that calls me to a life of deeper service as brother, priest, and administrator. I hope you experience the same.

As I looked at the Class of 1979, each alumnus and alumna of Belmont Abbey College was present to me in a real way. You are an important part of the heritage of our beloved institution. We want you to know that we think of you often. We're proud of our graduates and the quality of life which they enjoy and share throughout the world. We daily ask God to bless you and your families.

At this graduation our College community



Father Neil W. Tobin

recognized four faculty members who reached retirement age this year, Father Anselm Biggs of the Department of History, Father Anthony Cahill of the Department of Physics and Mathematics, Dr. Gilbert Farley of the Department of Business and Economics, and Mr. J.P. Smith, College Treasurer and teacher in the Department of Accounting. Together these men have given a total of one hundred twenty years of service to our College. Dr.

Farley and Mr. Smith are retiring from the College; Father Anselm and Father Anthony will continue to teach in the College. We thank God that He has allowed these talented and dedicated men to touch our lives; we are richer for the experience.

The College community also honored one of its own who has served Belmont Abbey College as both teacher and administrator for many years—Father John Bradley, our Provost and former President. In recognition of his devoted service, the Senior Class commissioned a portrait of Father Bradley and donated it to the College as a class gift. Father Bradley was overwhelmed and so surprised that he was speechless.

The College broke with tradition this year as the traditional Abbeyman of the Year became Abbeywoman of 1979 in the person of Deborah Prince, graduating senior and past President of the Student Association. The award, donated annually by the Alpha Rho Chapter of Phi Kappa Theta fraternity, is given to the person who will most exemplify the ideals of Belmont Abbey College wherever she may go. This year's recipient is particularly appropriate, because Debbie will be representing the College to important constituencies as Admissions Counselor.

Graduation is not only a successful conclusion, but also a new beginning. We especially pray that what we have begun in these graduates may be brought to fruition according to God's plan and His timeline. In the meantime at the College we turn to preparations for the new students who will join us in the fall to continue the Abbey traditions in which all of us are rooted.

Neil W. Tobin
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President

Abbey People On The Move

Abbot Peter N. Stragand, O.S.B., chancellor of the college and abbot of the monastery, was elected secretary-treasurer of the college's Board of Trustees.

Father John Oetgen, O.S.B., professor of English, was elected chairman of the college's Trustees Committee on Student Affairs.

Dr. Bonnie Cone (member of the Board of Trustees), Dr. Patrick Lee (vice president for academic affairs), Dr. George Herndl (chairman of the English Department), and Dr. Frank Murray (chairman of the History Department) represented the college at a conference on "The Humanities and Higher Education." The conference was sponsored by the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation and Duke Endowment at the National Humanities Center in the Research Triangle Park.

Dr. Patrick Lee, vice president for academic affairs, served as program chairman for the tenth annual meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, April 18-21, in Atlanta. Around 500 scholars from this country and abroad attended this meeting devoted to interdisciplinary studies concerning the eighteenth century.

Mrs. Jane Freeman, director of learning resources, attended a meeting of Charlotte Area Educational Consortium librarians on April 25 at Sacred Heart College.

Ms. Pam Allison, assistant professor of recreational studies, made a presentation at the State Physical Educational Leadership Conference on April 26, in Greensboro, N.C. Her presentation was entitled "Curriculum Content - What Should It Be?" The conference was sponsored by the State Department of Public Instruction.

Mrs. Jane Freeman, director of learning resources, represented the college at a meeting of the Charlotte Area Educational Consortium Council on April 26 at Davidson College. Dr. Patrick Lee, vice president for academic affairs, was elected member-at-large of the Executive Committee of the council.

Dr. Bennett Judkins, chairman of the Sociology Department, hosted a dinner meeting of sociologists in the Charlotte Area Educational Consortium on Thursday, April 26, in the Chi Rho House. Some fifteen area sociologists participated in this organizational meeting concerned with increasing cooperation among the sociology departments in the

consortium institutions.

Dr. Patrick Lee, vice president for academic affairs, attended a College Board Workshop on credit by examination and measuring and evaluating language and mathematics skills on April 29-30 in Greensboro, N.C.

Fr. John Bradley was asked to participate in the Greater Charlotte Chamber of Commerce luncheon honoring new businesses who came into the Charlotte area in 1978. Fr. Bradley introduced Richard M. DeVos, president of the Amway Corporation, who made a free enterprise speech. Between 1,000 and 1,200 people attended the luncheon at the Civic Center in Charlotte on April 30.

As she does every year, Madame Marie-Louise Rahier, assistant professor of French, went to the Credif Center in Paris to exchange information and pedagogical means about the implementation of Audio-Visual Credif Methodology in the U.S.A. While abroad, she will also be the speaker at a meeting of alumni and students at her alma mater in Liege, Belgium. The subject: "Experiences Americaines."

Dr. Winslow H. Hartford, associate professor of environmental science, was one

of eight seniors recognized for outstanding community service by the Council on Aging and the Congress of Senior Clubs for Mecklenburg County at their second annual Senior Recognition Luncheon on May 22. Dr. Hartford has also recently published a 40-page article on "Chromium Compounds" in John Wiley's volume six of the **Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology**, and has agreed to do a monthly article for the editorial page of "The Charlotte News."

Ms. Celia Giovenco became assistant director of admissions at Belmont Abbey College, effective June 1. Ms. Giovenco, a '75 graduate of Sacred Heart College, is from Tampa, Fla.

Ms. Debbie Prince, a '79 Abbey graduate, will become an admissions counselor for the college, effective August 1, 1979.

The following have been appointed to chair departments from May 21 through May 31, 1980:

Joseph M. Graham, Accounting
Dr. Elizabeth Baker, Biology
Dr. Bill M. Kirk, Business & Economics
Fr. Arthur Pendleton, OSB, Chemistry

Dr. George C. Herndl, English
Fr. Kenneth Geyer, OSB, Fine Arts & Music
John Hanahan, Jr., Geosciences
Dr. Francis J. Murray, History
Fr. Anthony Cahill, OSB, Mathematics & Physics
Fr. Lawrence Willis, OSB, Modern Foreign Languages
Abbot Walter Coggin, OSB, Philosophy
Dr. Robert E. Jones, Political Science
Dr. Michael P. Reidy, Recreational Studies
Fr. Richard W. Burton, (acting) Religion & Religious Education
Dr. Bennett M. Judkins, Sociology

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