

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

(Cont. from Page 2.)

team had a 22-10 record, advanced to the NAIA District 26 playoffs, won the Augusta College tournament, and was a finalist in the WBTV Carolina Classic. Our soccer team finished with a 16-5 record, advanced to the NAIA District 26 finals, and ranked fifteenth in the Southern Poll. The tennis team's record was 13-4. The women's volleyball and golf team were not as successful. With the growth in women's enrollment, further programs in women's athletics need to be introduced.

In 1978-79, Belmont Abbey College was especially blessed with generous volunteers and investors who, together, realized in gifts to the College a total of \$645,364.15, including the following categories:

Annual	\$254,505.29
Centennial	172,963.59
Capital	27,222.77
Endowment	190,436.50
Other	236.00

This magnificent record was realized through the cultivation of major donors and through broadening the base of alumni support. Daily I thank God for these responsible stewards who share with us the good things God has given to them.

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

In the area of business affairs under the direction of

Mrs. Kathy Drumm, the College completed the year netting a surplus budget of approximately \$4,400.00 in a budget of \$3,000,343.00; this is the third consecutive year of surplus of income over expenditures. Another accomplishment was a ten (10%) percent reduction in total short-term liabilities, as well as thirty-six (36%) percent reduction in short-term notes payable; this was accomplished through an increase in gifts and through the cooperation of faculty, administrators, and employees in adhering to proposed budgets. The net surplus in current operating, endowment, and Centennial funds stands at \$661,395.00, a forty-six (46%) percent increase over last year's net surplus. There was an emphasis in the routine maintenance of the physical plant—with some special attention to Saint Leo's Hall which included wall painting, resurfacing of floors, and renovation of rest rooms. One of our problems continues to be controlling the consumption of energy, especially natural gas, due to the nature of our central boiler system and the lack of the thermostatic controls. In addition to significant contributions to our community life, auxiliary services, including dormitories, food service, and bookstore, showed a net profit of \$46,985.00.

In December the business office replaced its manual accounting system with an NCR 8150 computer. At the end of the fiscal year, the machine was processing the accounts payable, general ledger, and budgeting func-

tion. A new office of data processing was established to service the data processing needs of the various departments of the College. The office of student financial aid did an outstanding job counseling our students and their families regarding financial aid matters; nearly seventy-five percent of our tuition dollars comes through some form of aid program.

At the end of the academic year, Mr. J.P. Smith retired after serving nearly twenty-five years with the College as teacher, business manager and treasurer. His many contributions to the business affairs of our College are greatly appreciated.

CONCLUSION

Now you can appreciate the multiple manifestations of the Lord's presence in the success story of Belmont Abbey College 1978-1979. Many persons have contributed to the growing success of our College. I am sincerely grateful to each and every one of you. May your generosity be richly rewarded, both on this earth and in Heaven!

Neil W. Tobin

Father Neil W. Tobin
President

Distribution Management Program Receives \$20,000 Donation From Trustee

Belmont Abbey College's Distribution Management Program has received a \$20,000 gift for use in funding scholarships for students enrolled in the program.

Donor of the gift is Mr. George L. Wrenn, president of Wrenn Brothers Carolina, Inc., Charlotte. Wrenn was instrumental in starting the program in 1974 and continues to play an active role in its development. His overall goal for endowment for scholarships for the program has been set at \$100,000.

Wrenn has been a member of the college's Board of Trustees since 1976, when it became possible for the first time in the history of the college for lay men and women to serve as Trustees. He previously served on the Board of Advisors (1973-76) at the college.

The Distribution Management and Materials Handling Program at Belmont Abbey College is perhaps the only program in the United States which approaches the concept from a management, rather than engineering, perspective. The curriculum includes not only courses in distribution management and materials handling, but also transportation, cost accounting, budgeting, personnel and industrial relations, and business organization and administration.

According to Dr. Bill M. Kirk, P.E., chairman of the Department of Business and Economics at B.A.C. and head of the Distribution Management Program, the four-year program is designed to prepare students to enter the field of distribution as management trainees. Students completing the program are awarded the Bachelor of Science degree.

The program was recently highly praised by the father of a 1979 Distribution Management graduate. His letter is included

in the following article which is reprinted from the second quarter 1979 edition of "Material Handling Distribution," the official journal of the Material Handling Equipment Distributor's Association (MHEDA).

"Efforts by MHEDA and other supporters of the Distribution Management Program at Belmont Abbey College, Belmont, North Carolina, are starting to pay dividends.

"The most recent evidence of this success came in the form of a letter from MHEDA member John M. Prest, Prest Equipment Co., Plymouth, Minnesota, whose son Bob was among the graduates of the Distribution Management Program.

"John Prest writes in part: 'We want to write a letter of appreciation to MHEDA, the Board of Directors and particularly George L. Wrenn for their support of the Distribution Management Program at Belmont Abbey College.

"My wife and I attended graduation ceremonies at Belmont Abbey. It was a thrill to see our son graduate, but what is really exciting is the wonderful education he received in the Distribution Management Program. I cannot express my gratitude adequately to the people who are involved and pushed this program.

"Assuming our industry is important, the greatest single endeavor that MHEDA can entertain is to push the Distribution Management Program at Belmont Abbey. Our industry is based on people and we should do everything we can to help this program. According to the school the people that are successful in this course are the ones that come from families that are directly involved in our industry. Consequently I feel we would be negligent if we did not mount a drive within the MHEDA organization to get as

many young people as possible to apply for admission to the Distribution Management course at Belmont Abbey College.'

"For complete details on Belmont Abbey College and the Distribution Management Program, write: Dr. Bill M. Kirk P.E., Chairman, Department of Economics and Business, Belmont Abbey College, Belmont, North Carolina 28012."

The college is indeed grateful to MHEDA and to George L. Wrenn for their continued support of the Distribution Management Program.

MHEDA is an international organization headquartered in Deerfield, Ill. It is comprised of 700 member companies including distributors, factory-owned branches, manufacturers and associate members. The association, dedicated to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of its member companies, has been extremely supportive of the B.A.C. program from the very beginning.

Dr. Kirk has been quite successful in placing the college's Distribution Management graduates in jobs in their fields. A number of them have been hired by the local companies under which they interned as students.

The full semester internship has proved to be an indispensable part of the program, giving the student a chance to gain first-hand experience in the field. Past graduates have interned for such firms as Wrenn Brothers Carolina, Inc., Homelite, Cummins Carolinas, Inc., Carolina Tractor and Equipment Co. and Gaston County Dyeing Machine Co.

Wrenn's \$20,000 gift will be placed in the college's Endowment Fund. Funds generated by the investment will provide scholarships for students in the Distribution Management program.



St. Leo's Hall is receiving a face lift. Minor renovations include roof repair, interior wall painting, resurfacing of floors, and renovation of rest rooms. Your contributions at work!

Thanks to the Class of 1979

by Fr. John P. Bradley

I cannot remember anything more gratifying, and at the same time more surprising, happening to me than what occurred during the 1979 Commencement Exercises here at the College. As I sat there on the stage watching the familiar ceremonies, an announcement was made that Jimmy Crawford, the president of the 1979 graduating class, would make a special presentation. Jimmy came up on stage and began to remove the covering from an object concealed by a black cloth. I simply could not believe it when on removing the cloth he revealed a portrait of

myself—the graduating class's way, Jimmy said, of honoring me for my service to the College. The portrait had been painted from snapshots; I knew nothing about it till that day.

My surprise was such that I simply could not find the words on that occasion to thank the class of 1979 for such a thoughtful and generous gesture. That is why I decided to write this piece for CROSSROADS—only to let Jimmy Crawford and the class of 1979 know of my deep appreciation. Thank you, very, very much.

Atlanta Alumni Plan Gathering

Atlanta Area alumni, it's time we got together!

And that's just what we're going to do. Wednesday, November 14, is the tentative date. Time and place are to be announced.

Organizers of the get-together are Kevin Kirk, Pat Duffy and C. Thomas Waidner. Further announcements will be forthcoming, but if you would like other details, or would like to help, give Kevin (296-3353 or 658-1414) or C.T. (873-3704) a call.