

A & T Grad Who Led His Class Did It The Hard Way

GREENSBORO — A young man who graduated with highest honors at the A&T College commencement on June 2 entered college the hard way — he never finished high school.

Alexander Gardner, New Bern who recently received the degree in Engineering Physics, considered by many students at the college the most difficult of the programs offered here, was cited Summa Cum Laude. He was the only class member in the degree program to be so honored.

Gardner, a student leader, served as president of the Student Council in the senior year and participated in a wide variety of extracurricular activities all through his college career.

Young Gardner dropped out of the West Street High School in his native New Bern midway the first year because he was tired of school but his age up and joined the U. S. Merchant Marine Service. He later entered the Air Force.

After the military stint, he returned to his hometown and operated a small business there for a couple of years, but was never happy over the progress he was making. A college education was the choice he made to accomplish those dreams of a successful life.

Gardner has said many times that his most difficult problem was

to gain entrance at A&T for he had only a few after that. From the beginning college officials tried to dissuade him from attempting a college program in view of his limited high school training and certainly from pursuing engineering with no high school mathematics or physics. But Gardner refused to accept the advice. He passed the difficult college entrance examination with flying colors, entered A&T in the winter of 1954, and posted the outstanding record.

His ambition is to return to his Alma Mater as an instructor in engineering. Immediately employed as a physicist by the U. S. Navy Yard in Philadelphia he plans to begin study on a part-time basis, this fall at Temple University for an advanced degree in Engineering Physics.

Gardner again has chosen to reach his objective by the "Hard Way", but many of his friends believe that his dogged determination and demonstrated ability will pay off.



TOP SCHOLAR NEVER FINISHED HIGH SCHOOL — Alexander Gardner, New Bern, who graduated Summa Cum Laude in Engineering Physics at A&T College last week, to lead the entire graduating class, never finished high school. He dropped out of school his freshman year, entered military service and later entered A&T College upon a rigid admission examination.

Mrs. Eva G. Belle, Alabama A & M College, Normal, Alabama; President, Charles J. Thurston, King William, Virginia, Vice President, and Joseph Albright, Director of Public Relations for Meharry, was named Executive Director for the organization.

Other members in attendance at the founding meeting were: Mrs. Thomas E. Welch, Norfolk, Va.; Mrs. Annie E. Butts, Tampa, Fla.; Dr. Samuel J. Baskerville, Charleston, W. Va.; Mrs. Bernice G. Hall, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Mary E. Wilam, Jefferson, Texas; Mrs. Althea Warrick, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. E. J. Montez, New Orleans, La.; Dr. R. O. Weathers, Goldsboro, N. C.; Dr. William S. Douglas, Spartanburg, S. C.; Mr. Noah E. Wall, Sr., Birmingham, Ala.; Mrs. Mary J. Moore, New York City, N. Y.; Mr. and Mrs. John de Grasse, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Dr. and Mrs. P. Price Cobbs, Los Angeles, Calif.; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. Beverly, Washington, D. C.

Mrs. E. V. Davis, Houston, Texas; Prof. O. W. Sanders, Vicksburg, Miss.; Mrs. Victoria Peart, Detroit, Mich.; Mrs. Estelle Blanding, Trenton, N. J.; Dr. and Mrs. Richard C. Ellison Sr., Fredericksburg, Va.; Dr. and Mrs. J. A. Bone, Nashville, Tenn.; Miss Olivia C. Jones, Ocala, Fla.; Mrs. E. A. Davis, Nashville, Tenn.; Mrs. Olivia L. Jones, Nashville, Tenn.; Dr. N. H. Jones, Ocala, Fla.; Dr. and Mrs. Fred D. Parrott, Houston, Texas; Mrs. Charles J. Thurston, King William, Va.; Mr. H. A. Dannel, Lynchburg, Va.; Dr. and Mrs. W. J. Rucker, Painesville, Ohio; Mrs. R. E. Battle, Nashville, Tenn.

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Meharry Launches Big Parents' Organization

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Pioneering along with a number of major colleges, Meharry Medical College instituted a parents organization during its recent unexcelled com-

mencement season. Parents of Meharry students from all over America converged on the campus, and participated enthusiastically in the creation of what gives every indication of becoming a powerful operating arm of the Meharry "family".

Officially named the Meharry Parents Organization, the new group will program its activities to enhance the development and welfare of the 23 year old institution now in the process of planning a tremendous expansion.

Pending the adoption of a permanent Constitution, the group set into action an interim organization which will begin immediate cooperation with the school's administration through the Office of Development. One of the important facets of the program involves the utilization of parents as disseminators of information of Meharry activities in their respective residence areas.

"I am deeply pleased at the response we are receiving from our parents in this organization venture," Meharry's President Harold D. West states. "We have been assured of a virtually unanimous parent support. The school is deeply grateful for this significant contribution and we anticipate long years of the friendliest and most effective cooperation in the area."

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Ten St. Augustine's Faculty Members Work For Degrees

Ten Saint Augustine's College Faculty members are working towards higher degrees at various Universities during the summer. Scholarship aid, through Dr. Tolle L. Caution of the American Church Institute was provided to make this study possible. This is a part of the program by the American Church Institute designed to strengthen the faculty of the Institute Colleges.

Studying this summer are: Jesse Clements, physical educa-

tion, University of Illinois; Albert W. Grauer, music, Eastman School of Music; W. W. Johnson, biology, St. Bonaventure University; Gordon West, education, Indiana University; James Wise, art, University of Pennsylvania; C. H. McLendon, education, New York University; Mrs. Ernestine Saun-

ders, French, Columbia University; Richard B. Matthews, mathematics, University of Pittsburgh; Mrs. Lula Robinson, religious education, New York University and Joseph Jones, biology, Ohio State University.

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